



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, March 24, 2019

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PASTORAL PONDERING

Reflections 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

In 2 Corinthians 4:5, Paul is unwavering in his commitment to proclaim Christ, and to not "lose heart" while doing it. He says, "*What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*" Not ourselves, but Christ. For Paul, and for all Christians, identifying with Christ means you understand that this was never about you. It's all about *Him*. *He's* the hero. *He's* the focus. Paul doesn't want to talk about himself; he wants to talk about Christ.

Kent Hughes writes, "Truly, no man can fancy himself great and at the same time declare that God is great. The proclamation that 'Jesus Christ is Lord' is the province of the humble alone." And a New Testament scholar puts it like this: The job of the Christian "is to make Jesus known, and then to keep out of the way, to make sure we don't get in the light."

It's not about us. No self-promotion, no self-absorption. We've been bought with a price, we are not our own! We belong to Christ, and we now live *in* Christ, and so it is *He* that should shine through us. We're no longer concerned with ourselves, with reputation, status, or whatever...just Christ.

Why? Because *He's* the one who saved us, and because we've seen how incredibly beautiful and glorious, *He is*. Verse 6 says: "*For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*"

Pay attention to that. John MacArthur says, "The God who created physical light in the universe is the same God who must create supernatural light in the soul and usher believers from the kingdom of darkness to His kingdom of light (Colossians 1:13)."

If you're a Christian, God has lit up your heart—He has caused you to see what you could *not* see on your own. *He* caused you to see. This is the great difference between the gospel Paul is presenting and all other religions past and present. All other religions are chiefly about what *you* do, how *you* live...they're about you and your quest for salvation.

But the gospel is about someone else—it's about what *Christ* has done and how *Christ* has lived and died in your place and rose again, all to accomplish salvation for you so you could receive it as a gift. That's why Paul is so direct over and over

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Pastoral Pondering

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again, here and elsewhere, that this is about what *God* has done *to* you and in you to save you. *God* has shone in our hearts; *God* has given the light.

This is the great difference of *do* versus *done*. All other forms of religion are spelled *D-O*, because they tell us we have to perform good works and obey moral and religious laws in order to find God, to achieve forgiveness, nirvana, peace, or whatever. But you'll never be sure you've done enough!

Christianity is spelled *D-O-N-E* because God sent His Son to earth to live the life we should live and die on the cross to pay the debt we should pay for the wrongs we've done. Buddha said, "Strive without ceasing"; Jesus said, "It is finished."

When you understand this, when God lights up your heart and shows you the radiance of Christ and you embrace Him as your life, *then* you become like Paul when he says, "we don't proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ." There is a humility here.

Confidence in the person and work of Christ on your behalf leads to a kind of confident-humility. He's all you need, so you're not afraid anymore of anything or anyone. You're not concerned with pushing your own agenda. Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself *less*. You find joy in getting out of the way so that the light of the glory of Christ can be clearly seen, and you don't want to detract from it in any way.

That is how Paul was able to minister with heart. It's how he was able to endure personal attacks and not *lose* heart. Our focus must be the same if we desire endurance and effectiveness in ministry.

Pastor Bennett Anderson

HELP FOR THE LLAPUSHI FAMILY

Toni and Ita Llapushi and their two children are one of our "adopt a missionary" families. They will be traveling from Albania to visit their supporting churches in the States in a couple of weeks and will be joining New Life for service **Sunday April 28th**, Woohoo! However, traveling for the next 2 months can be exhausting and expensive. Would you consider making a donation to the family in the offering today to help with some of these expenses? Be in prayer for them to have good rest and fellowship with the saints as we seek to come along side and encourage them in the Lord.

Fellowship Tip: Have you committed yourself to the needs and pursuits of the body here at New Life and want to learn more about what it means to become a partner? Talk to one of the elders or pastors and make that desire known, we would be glad to walk you through the few simple steps.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

WORSHIP AND PRAYER NIGHT

Join us for *Worship & Prayer Night*, **Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 pm**. Bring a friend, a song to share, or a prayer request...or all three!

INTERNET CARE/FAMILY SAFETY

Invitation to all. Join us next **Wednesday night, March 27, 6:15 pm** during our normal Immerse time for a conversation about guarding and protecting you and your family from the dangers of internet surfing and technology habits. All children classes will remain the same, however the adult classes will meet in the sanctuary. All adults from New Life are encouraged to be there, even if you usually don't attend Immerse classes.

ST. CROIX VALLEY MEN'S RETREAT

The St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat is set for **Friday and Saturday, April 5 & 6 @ Oak Forest Retreat Center** in Frederic, WI. Grab a brochure on the welcome table and make sure to fill out a registration form. Scholarships are available if needed.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY

The Thursday morning women's Bible study will begin a new study on **April 11th**. It's a nine-week study of 1st Peter, arranged by author and Bible teacher Jen Wilkin, involving both at-home personal study and weekly video segments. The study guide is \$18.00 plus tax. If you'd like to participate, there is a sign-up sheet which you'll find on the Welcome Table this Sunday. Any questions, ask Cory Mattson via email cory79mattson@hotmail.com or call her at 715-417-0945.

VIDEO MINISTRY

This is an opportunity to serve those who are unable to join us in person to worship Jesus Christ and to study God's Word on Sunday morning. New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. You can sit with one of the camera operators to see what is involved, talk to anyone on the team about the ministry, or contact Jim Mabee at 651-470-4172. We'd love to have you on the team!



MOVIE HIGHLIGHTS

Unplanned

Thursday, March 28 @ 7pm at St. Croix Theater, the upcoming movie "*Unplanned*" will be shown for *one night only*. This movie depicts the transformation in the life of Abby Johnson, examining her journey from Planned Parenthood clinic director to becoming a leading advocate for defending the life of the unborn and supporting women who are in crisis. Be sure to pick up a handout at the front table for more information.

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Mar 31 Meal Team #7
Apr 7 Potluck Team #2

Please join us for fellowship and a meal following our service today!

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events @ NLCC:

Mar 27	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Mar 27	Immerse Family Studies 6:15 pm
Mar 28	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Mar 28	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am
Mar 28	ALL GriefShare Folks 6:30 pm Adults and Youth meet separately
Mar 28	Ezekiel Bible Study 7-8:30 pm

March Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 9:8

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." ESV

HEBREWS

JESUS
According to Scripture

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Hebrews 3:1-6

Sermon Notes:

Address: 201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI - Email: info@newlifechristiancommunity.org
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