



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, July 22, 2018

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Pastoral Pondering

Things of the Spirit

About seven years ago I realized that when it came to my salvation, "I can do nothing, but I can't do nothing". In [Romans 8](#) I have found that "thing" that I must "do".

If I am lost in an eternally black desert with only one path that leads from me to safety with no realistic chance of getting out or of survival; and, if there is a great light in the distance; and, if I set myself to look at the light and walk in the direction of the light, is it the light that saves me or me setting my mind on the light that saves me?

Romans 8:2-5 "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."

If you set your mind on the things of the Spirit, **then** you will be set free from death that is a consequence of sin. This means then that the thing we need to do to live according to the Spirit is to set the mind on the things of the Spirit.

It is still all a gift of God like faith, but it is the thing that we have the most control over. It is never a finished thing until our ability to set our mind is finished. We can never do it fully and we can always do it better, so it gives our life a work to do that does not have definite physical result here on earth. I.E. there is no "endpoint" or "achievement" of this. There is no place where we can say that we have arrived. It is an ongoing life in the Spirit that can be seen by others and identified as the Spirit of the Living God in us. There will be a witness, but it will never be a roadmap to salvation. The very fact that it cannot tell another how to live their life is what starts them on the path to "setting their mind" on things above. If they see "good" behaviors and try to imitate them to get salvation they will be confused and lost. If, however they see those behaviors and they then ask, "Why does he do that?" or "Nonbelievers do the same so what

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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makes this of the Spirit?" Those questions are setting their mind on the Spirit. If we do this repetitively while getting our answers from the only true source, The Word of God, our lives will be transformed, and the pattern repeated.

Conversely, saying "If I do this, I will be saved" is setting our minds on ourselves and our well-being. The Bereans were nobler not because they doubted Paul and wanted to prove their accuracy over his, but because they were taking whatever he said and thinking on the things of the Spirit. Questioning is salvation when the answer is always somehow wrapped up in God.

Here in lies a very narrow path to that light across the vast darkness. We can question to gain knowledge, prestige and power. This is a path to damnation. Just one portion of a degree off the path to abundant life. To truly set our mind on the Spirit (if ever we could completely do such a thing) we would not be cognizant of the outcome but only interested in the object of what we are setting are minds on. The Spirit. Jesus. God. So, our answer to the question above is...Yes!!

The practical question then as a human is how do I do this? But this is a question for another pondering....

With you in the Spirit through Jesus Christ,

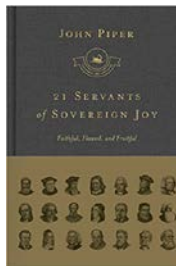
Rene Milner

July Memory Verse

Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (ESV)

Resource Center Book Highlight



Philippians 3:17-21 challenges us to consider the people we look up to, admire, and see as good examples. More than one time in his letters, Paul tells his audience to imitate those who display a life faithful to the gospel. In the book **"21 Servants of Sovereign Joy,"** author John Piper considers the lives of 21 heroes of the faith. These are men who, though flawed, proved to be faithful to the gospel. Not only did they preach the truth of Jesus Christ, their lives were totally transformed by the message of Jesus. All of their ministries bore great fruit. Some of the men Piper considers are - Augustine, John Owen, William Wilberforce, and John Paton. According to Paul, these men have something to teach us about living lives worthy of the gospel. **"21 Servants of Sovereign Joy"** is available for purchase in the Resource Center today!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

welcome

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, please stop by the Resource Center this morning to pick up a **welcome gift** we have for you which includes more information about who we are, what we believe, and what Jesus is doing here at New Life!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Next **Sunday, July 29th at 1:00 pm**, we will be gathering at New Life Christian Community for a Celebration of Life service for our beloved sister Darlene Ficocello. If you have images or items that remind you of her - please feel free to bring them. If you would like to contribute to desert, please contact Barb Manship. May God use our time together in celebration of His work in Darlene's life. Bring a story to share.

YOUTH GATHERING

There is a youth gathering for all high schoolers **August 1st at 6 pm. at Pastor Chandler's house.**

NEW LIFE ANNUAL BAPTISM

Reminder that our baptism service will be **Sunday morning, August 5th at the ARC retreat center.** If the Lord is leading you to be baptized and you are ready to make a public declaration of Faith in Jesus, please make that desire known by meeting with an elder or pastor after service or set up a time during the week.

CALL OUT FOR SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

If you haven't yet, please consider joining us on **Sunday mornings @ 8:30-9:00am** in the large classroom for a time of prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come, as you are able. The goal is that the needs at New Life might be made more known and prayed for and that the saints might have another opportunity to gather on a consistent basis to pray. We serve a gracious God who hears our prayers! Let us make every effort to gather often and pray.

SAVE THE DATE

All are invited to a farewell party for the **Wiley's the evening of Sunday, August 12th.** More details to come.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* •
New Life Connect • *Set Lists* • &
More

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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:

Jul 22	Forge (high school youth) Has Ended for the Summer
Jul 25	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm at NLCC
Jul 26	GriefShare Evening Meeting 6:30 pm NLCC Lg Clsrm No GriefShare in August
Jul 26	Ezekiel Bible Study (Men and Women) 7:00-8:30 pm at NLCC

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Team:

Jul 29	Meal Team #1
Aug 5	POTLUCK Team #2
Aug 12	Meal Team #2

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



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Judges 9:22-57

Sermon Notes: