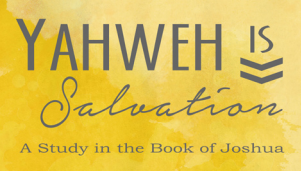


Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be continuing in the Book of Joshua. Our passage for today is Joshua 9:16-27.

Sermon Notes



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, Oct. 25, 2015

Vol. 9, Issue 3

pastoral ponderings

Devotional

I had the opportunity to do the devotional for the Family Worship night this last month. As we have spent the month memorizing 1 Peter 1:3 I had the benefit in diving a little deeper into the verse. I recommend everyone takes the time to do a little more studying of our monthly verses.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In verse 1 Peter is writing “To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.” We know the region as Turkey today. Peter was writing to a group of Christians, mostly gentiles, who were being persecuted for believing in Jesus Christ. These people were suffering and being persecuted for what they believed in, just as they are today. Peter was telling these people that there is nothing more glorious than when we suffer for God and give all the glory to Him.

In studying this verse, I took a look at some of the words that Peter wrote and learned a bit more about what the words meant to the original listeners. I looked at ‘blessed’. I found that the English word ‘blessed’ in Greek is actually two different words – with slightly different meanings. The two different Greek words are eulogetos and makarios.

The Greek word eulogetos in this form is not a blessing for *us* but it is for *God* alone. Eu means good and logos means word so Peter starts this verse out with ‘Good Word’. Normally, when we hear blessings we think of something we have received from God (a loving family, great kids, a wonderful church family). Jesus used the word blessing in the Beatitudes. But that Greek word is makarios. It is similar to eulogetos but instead of a blessing for God, it is blessing that believer’s experience. The blessing Peter uses (eulogetos or good word) in this verse is to express praise to God. It affirms that God alone is worthy to be praised. This blessing is God’s alone.

Another word that interested me in the first phrase was the word ‘and’ between God and Father. Why didn’t Peter just say ‘God the Father’ or ‘God our Father’ - as it is stated in other verses? (God and Father is also used in 2 Corinthians 11:31, Ephesians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:11, and Revelation 1:6v). I have heard it explained that Peter used ‘and’ instead of the other phrases in order to emphasize the close relationship that Jesus now has with the Father. After His suffering and resurrection, Jesus was *Continued --->*

Visitor Card

We’d like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- ☐ First-time Visitor
- ☐ Returning Visitor

Name

Date

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Name

Sermon Date

Scripture Passage

Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below

- ☐ This may be added to our congregation prayer wall.
- ☐ Share this only with the pastors and elders.

Optional:

Name

Email

Phone#

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front immediately following the service.

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pastoral ponderings [cont.]

reunited with the Father and was/is seated at the Father's right hand. Just as we look forward to the day when we will be with Jesus and the Father in heaven, and because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can and will be able to call God, *Father* as well.

As we look further into the passage we see the word 'mercy'. Not only mercy but *great* mercy. Is there any other type of mercy that we receive from God than 'great'? Mercy is purely what God gives us. There is no way to earn it or work for it, or do anything to get it. This unmerited mercy beautifully displays the love and kindness of God. It is only humans that have been awarded God's mercy. He did not show mercy to the angels. In other words, He did not send his Son to the cross to save the angels. No, that grace is ours alone. Jesus had to be crucified for us to enjoy the full extent of God's mercy and it has cost us nothing.

The last part of this verse tells us "he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Born again. Not only born again but born again to a living hope. Because Jesus conquered death on the cross and is now living with God, we have that same incorruptible hope (see the very next verse 1 Peter 1:4). There is no other faith that can proclaim this.

The ESV study bible states the theme of the book as this.

"These who persevere in faith while suffering persecution should be full of hope, for they will certainly enjoy end-time salvation since they are already enjoying God's saving promises here and now through the death and resurrection of Christ. Christians are to endure suffering for the sake of Christ, looking back on Christ's sufferings and forward to the consummation of salvation in his second coming."

By God's mercy and grace, let us persevere through our trials together and look forward to an inheritance that is living and incorruptible!

Blessings, Paul

October Memory Verse

1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Christmas collection week is almost here!

Please see the front table for information on packing a shoebox.

The deadline for bringing your shoebox gifts to church is November 22nd.

Thank you for sharing your love for Christ in this very special way!

Blessings in a Backpack Osceola Food Shelf

The Backpack Program through Osceola Food Shelf is in full swing. The items that New Life is assigned to bring are packets of muffins and pancake mix, (no boxes please since they do take up space.) Please bring your donations to the collection the front entrance of New Life.

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.com

Find Links to:

- Events • Sermons Online
- Set Lists • The Table • & More

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Pastor Chandler:

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Secretary: Cory Mattson

715-417-0945

upcoming [events]

- Oct. 28 GriefShare, 12:30-2pm
@ (green room, the building)
- Oct. 28 IMMERSE, 6:30 pm
@ the building
- Oct. 29 *Men's Bible Study*,
Book of Acts,
6:30 a.m. @ the building
- Oct. 29 Women's Bible Study,
Book of Hebrews,
9:30 am @ the building
- Oct. 29 GriefShare, 6:30-8 pm
@ (green room, the building)



SUNDAY MEAL TEAM News

Potluck Next Sunday!

Please bring your favorite dish to share.



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