



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the Old Testament book,
Joshua 18:1-10

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to the Celebration!



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, February 14, 2016

Vol. 9, Issue 19

Pastoral Pondering

Knowing God

I have been obsessing, really, over the "High Priestly Prayer" of Jesus in John 17 lately. To search out this prayer is to search out the very heart of the God-man Savior, Jesus Christ. This prayer reveals His desire for His church and His supreme desire to glorify the Father. Take this as an encouragement, dive in headfirst and read John 17 with eyes wide-open.

One particular part of the prayer that has received much of my attention as of late is the very beginning. Here's how John records Christ's prayer:

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent'" (John 17:1-3, ESV).

Eternal life in Christ hinges on this idea of knowing God. Perhaps this reality is why J.I. Packer entitled his book on God *Knowing God*. What does Jesus mean, however, when He appeals to knowledge?

Of course there is an element of intellectual knowledge. The day I met Kimmi for the first time I told my mother, "I want to marry her." Before this dream could become a reality I had to get to know her. I had to know what she was about. I had to learn what her passions were. I had to learn her birthday, which took some time. I had to learn her history. I had to learn about her family. This desire to learn facts about Kimmi served to grow me in my relationship with her (my life with her), and showed that I truly did care about her.

However, Jesus is not only appealing to an intellectual knowledge. Knowing God is not simply about knowing truths about God. Knowing God is about more and it results in eternal life.

I was recently reading a book by a mid-19th century theologian named Geerhardus Vos. In his book about Biblical Theology, he makes an interesting statement about John 17. He wrote, "But the concept of "knowledge" here is not to be understood in its Hellenic sense, but in the Semitic sense. According to the former, "to know" means to mirror the reality of a thing in one's consciousness. The Semitic and biblical idea is to have the reality of something practically interwoven with the inner experience of life. Hence "to know" can stand in the Biblical idiom for "to love," "to

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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.

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If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room. Your order will be available for pick-up at the video booth the following week.

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Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card 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 pastor and elders

Optional:

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

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

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

Be sure to tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of each week. You can access the podcast through our website, the Table, or the podcast icon on your Wi-Fi enabled Apple device.

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Feb 17 Afternoon GriefShare Mtg.
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Green Room at NLCC Building

Feb 17 Immerse Family Grp. Studies
6:30 p.m. at NLCC Building

Feb 18 Men's Bible Study
Book of Acts
6:30 a.m. at NLCC Building

Feb 18 Women's Bible Study
Book of Hebrews
9:30 a.m. at NLCC Building

Feb 18 Evening GriefShare Mtg.
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Green Room at NLCC Building

February Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 2:14

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere." (ESV)

Pastoral Pondering

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single out in love" (17).

You see Jesus was not just talking about intellect. What we know to be a true about God must do, at least, two things. One is that it must cause us to cherish, adore, desire, pursue, and savor above all else God Himself because we love Him. We have come to know Him and what we have learned about Him drives out a love for any other idol or false god and supremely places God as the affection for our love.

Secondly, the knowledge we have been given by God, as Vos said, becomes "interwoven" into our lives in an experiential sort of way. This is to say that the knowledge Jesus was speaking affects the way we live our lives. Obviously this affecting is not for earning favor or for achieving salvation. Instead this affecting is a result of loving the God whom we know so well.

What I learned about Kimmi affected the way I perceived her and the way I related to her. I learned that Kimmi loved music and particularly enjoyed a band that I, too, enjoyed. Instead of just keeping this knowledge in my mind, driven by a desire to know her even more, I took her to see this band in concert. The knowledge I had about Kimmi became an experience.

My illustration falls drastically short, but I hope it gives the right idea. My experience with Kimmi, while it was driven by love, was also meant to achieve something. I wanted Kimmi to like me too. I wanted to get a ring around her finger.

Our knowledge of God is a free gift of grace given to us by the Son, Jesus. Only faith in Jesus reveals the eternal-life-giving knowledge of God. Then, the application of that knowledge is not to earn anything. It is purely an expression of love.

Do you want this knowledge? Then you must turn to Jesus Christ and Him alone. Bring nothing with you except faith in Jesus. As a beautiful song puts it, "Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling." Is your knowledge of God increasing your love for Him and altering the way you live?

All glory to God,

Pastor Chandler



Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.

Please stay and join us!

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry - Jim Nelson 651.283.2132 his email: lynjimmnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry - Cara Gilbertson: 715.755.3517 her email: cara.gilbertson@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry - Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799 her email: fugate.sara@gmail.com

Community Outreach - Phil and Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 email: philstratmoen@gmail.com

Finance Administration - Cory Mattson (Finance Secretary): 715.417.0945 her email: cory79mattson@hotmail.com or Pete Manship (Treasurer): 715.755.3330 his email: pete@pbmpkmanship.com

GriefShare Ministry - Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431 her email: conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry - Julie Minell: 715.417.1981 her email: mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach - Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661 her email: lrnilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration - Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453 her email: djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services - Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or 715.755.3330 her email: bmanship55@hotmail.com

Transportation Services - Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418 her email: sofiesydney@yahoo.com or Art Behr: 715.220.6882 his email: behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry - Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172 his email: jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry - Pastor Chandler Wiley: 815.575.6122 his email: pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Happy Valentines Day

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1John 4:7



FMSC (Feed My Starving Children) is approaching FAST!

Once again this year, you will see envelopes for the taking in the entry way of the building. To make it a little easier for all that want to participate in feeding children, there will be a specified amount on the envelopes this year. Once you choose your envelope, PLEASE make your check out to FMSC and return it in the offering box, or to Pam Stratmoen. We have a hefty goal for our church again. We need to raise \$3000 for our contribution.

Also, have you ever experienced the "pack?" This could be the year! Gather a group and commit to coming and packing. It really is fun! If you want to "pack," there will be sign-up sheets on the table as you enter the building.



We are looking for someone to be our Vacation Bible School coordinator for this summer. If you are interested in this position or want to learn more about it, please contact Cara Gilbertson or Pastor Chandler. Thanks!



"Caring and Sharing through Food"

Home & Away Ministries Ctr, 210 Park Ave E, Luck
Tuesday, February 16 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

\$20 cash donation

IMPORTANT: Bring 2 laundry baskets/boxes to carry food.
Please consider collecting food for someone else in need.