

Join Us As We Celebrate Only Jesus



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, January 8, 2022

Vol. 16, Issue 13

Pastoral Pondering

Whiter Than Snow

While experiencing our first Christmas down south, our family soon realized that many Christmas songs mentioning snow only pertained to the upper half of the country. I suppose, we all took it for granted and never realized that there are no songs where someone dreams of a dreary, brown Christmas. Snow is certainly tied to the ideal Christmas season, as the song lyrics can attest. So, what is it about snow that is so wonderful? The beauty, the purity, the soft calm and comfort that it can bring are all wondrous gifts to us. Fourteen books of the Bible mention snow, sometimes in a literal sense, but most often as an analogy. It's this analogy though which might be its greatest gift; *"...though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;"* (Isaiah 1:18).

And yet, what about that word *scarlet*? Yes, the word does mean a bright color of red, but in this biblical form, it's defined as *grossly and glaringly offensive*. That's how God sees our sin, grossly and glaringly offensive to His holiness and perfect righteousness. Sin is the opposite picture of the purity of snow: putrid, vile, polluted, immoral, filthy, corrupt, rancid, warped, rebellious, sick, contentious, evil.

And yet, God became man and entered into our broken world, willingly; to walk amongst those who had no idea just how truly revolting they must have been before the Son of God. Oh the grace of our Lord! *"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,"* (Romans 5:10a). While *enemies*. Let that sink in.

And yet, through the incomprehensible, willing *death* of God's Son. The pure, spotless, blameless, sinless Lamb of God, Who shed His blood, took the punishment due us, the Father's wrath being poured out upon Him, made atonement for us by His sacrifice, *"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."* (Hebrews 9:22), reconciling us to the Father!

And yet, not just atonement and forgiveness of sins, but that He should dwell within His purchased people, His righteousness becoming ours, that we would clearly and rightly behold Him as Savior, Redeemer, King; that we would be filled with thanksgiving, adoration and delight, overflowing in worship, praise and rejoicing in our great and glorious God, rich in mercy and grace!

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Pastoral Pondering

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So as we see the snow fall this winter, let it direct our minds and hearts to the beautiful picture that our sins are forgiven, that we have been cleansed and reconciled because of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."
(Psalm 51:7)

Looking to Jesus, Pastor Jeff



If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship and meal after service today. We would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

Meal Team Ministry

Are you looking for a way to use your talents or time to serve God? Consider joining a Sunday Meal Team. If interested, please, Contact: Barbie Judkins (309) 269-0556, Barb Manship (612) 804-9793 or Rosie Swisher (763) 458-1261



New Life Connect

"...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

New Life Christian Community has a secure online community designed to engage the body of Christ in between Sundays. If you would like to be part of this online community, please send an email (see emails to the right) to one of the pastors. They would be glad to set you up with an account. All you need is an active email address.



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com or you can call her cell at 651-373-1426.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Young Adult Study– 6:30 pm
Tues	Women's Precepts– 6:30-8 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:00 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

January Memory Verse:

Psalms 104:5 (ESV)

"Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!"

January Fellowship Tip:

Often January is a time for new beginnings, make sure to share with someone this month the "new beginning" you have in Christ by sharing your testimony. Share of your coming to saving faith in Jesus, and by his grace, what He is currently doing each day in your life to draw you to treasure Him above all things and to call you pursue making Him known to others.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Jan 8	Team 7 ~ Sloppy Joes/Hotdogs
Jan 15	Team 8 ~ Soup & Salads

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Young Adult Study:** Young Adults, were jumping back into Genesis this **Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30pm** at the home of Brian and Shannon Nelson at 1231 Corey Court in Osceola. Bring an instrument and your bibles. See you then!
- **Immerse:** Immerse classes will be starting back up this week, **Wednesday, January 11th at 6:15pm**. Children's classes up to junior high will resume where they left off and our adult class will be meeting together in the banquet area to begin a study through the book of Joshua. Even if you've missed last semester, feel free to jump on in this spring semester.
- **Shower Ministry:** All New Life women and young girls, please come celebrate the bride-to-be Margo Richter! We will be having a devotion, dessert, games, and showering the bride with gifts. Your gift doesn't have to be big, your presence is present enough.

When: Sunday, January 15 2023, 2-4 pm

Where: New Life Christian Community Church RSVP at: margosweddingshower.rsvpify.com

This is a new ministry to shower brides-to-be and mom's-to-be with fellowship, prayer, and encouragement. This was a wonderful blessing to many young women at my former church and I wanted to share it with the New Life Community. Would you like to help out (occasionally or more)? I would love your help in blessing our young women! Thanks, Jenny Steward Please contact me with any questions or help at: 612-860-6148.

- **Annual Partners Meeting:** Annual Partners Meeting is **Sunday, January 22nd at 12:30pm** following the service. In addition to some of the church business matters of this meeting, partners will be have the opportunity to come forward and give testimony to the work of Jesus in them and amongst this body as they reflect on the past year that we might all join in rejoicing and praising God with one another.
- **Women's Retreat:** Ladies, don't forget to sign up for the Women's retreat **January 27-28th**. A time for ladies and daughters (9th grade and up) to immerse themselves in the Word and fellowship. We are hopeful that as many as are able, would attend! There are fliers in the foyer with details and also a sign up sheet. If there are any questions or if money is an issue, please see Shannon Nelson.



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resourcecenter

Looking for a good book to give as a gift or thinking of starting a bible study? Check out our resource center and ask the resource ministry team for some good suggestions. In addition to good books for both adults and children, there are also music CD's, DVD documentaries, bible concordance, systematic theology books, and much more. Take a look today after service.



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the
New Testament book,
Acts 25:1-12

Sermon Notes: