



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 12, 2020

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PASTORAL PONDERING

Wisdom – The Book of Proverbs

Years ago, I listened to a Pastor tell his flock about the life changing effect the book of Proverbs had on him. He said there are 31 chapters in Proverbs and challenged them to read a chapter a day. In one month, you've completed the whole book, then repeat for the next 12 months. The Pastor said this will transform you as you gain God's wisdom. *Wisdom as defined by scripture is the ability to see people, events, and situations as God sees them not as we see them.* In the book of Proverbs, Solomon reveals the mind of God in matters high and lofty and in common sense, ordinary, and everyday situations.

Lynn and I have challenged our children over the years to actually follow this challenge and read the book of Proverbs over and over and meditate on these powerful truths. I did this years ago, I never made it to 12 times in one year but did complete it 3 times in 3 months. I make it a priority to read Proverbs once or twice every year and to apply these powerful short statements of wisdom to my life. I truly love this book, it's been transformational, as the whole Bible is.

One of the verses that has had an impact on me is Proverbs 9:10. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* This verse teaches that the fear of the Lord is foundational to true wisdom; all other types of learning are worthless unless built upon a knowledge of the Lord Himself. The person who has this wisdom will get to know and love the Lord. There are eighteen references to *"the fear of the Lord"* in Proverbs. As you read and study these verses carefully, you'll get a good understanding of what these important verses mean. If we truly "fear the Lord," we acknowledge from our hearts that He's the Creator, we're the creatures; He's the father, we're His children; He's the Master, we're the servant, He is our Savior; we're redeemed. You come to the point of complete love for Him.

This love drives us to obey His Word out of our deep reverence and awe for Him and what He has done for us. Charles Bridges, a Pastor and Theologian from England in the 1800's quotes on *"the fear of the Lord"*. "It is that affectionate reverence by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father's law. His wrath is so bitter, and His love so sweet; that hence springs an earnest desire to please Him, and - because of the danger of coming short from his own weakness and temptation - a holy watchfulness and fear, that we might not sin against Him"

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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It appears that no topic escaped King Solomon's attention. Matters pertaining to personal conduct, sexual relations, business, wealth, charity, ambition, self-control, discipline, debt, training of children, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, and godliness are among the many topics covered in this rich collection of wise sayings. Proverbs outlines for us the character of the wise: they listen to instruction (1:5); obey what they hear (10:8); store up what they learn (10:14); win others to the Lord (11:30); flee from sin (14:16); watch their tongue (16:23); and are diligent in their daily work (10:5).

We commonly think of wisdom as the ability to use knowledge in the right way, and this is a practical definition. But, in the Bible, wisdom means so much more. True wisdom is a matter of the heart and not the mind alone. It is a spiritual matter. *There is a "wisdom of this world" (1 Corinthians 2:1-8, and James 3:13-18), and there is a divine wisdom from above.* In Proverbs, wisdom is actually pictured as a lovely woman who calls people to follow her into a life of blessing and success. Folly is pictured as a wicked woman who tempts the foolish and leads them to hell. Of course, Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God to the believer (1 Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3).

The book of Proverbs summons us to understand and apply all of God's revealed wisdom for all of life. This rich book of short, pithy wisdom presents a consistent theme: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Can I challenge each of you to make a New Year's resolution to study the book of Proverbs, meditate on it, and let it transform your life?

Your brother in-Christ, Jim Nelson

Welcome

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. In addition, you're invited to join us for our meal after service. We would love to meet and to get to know you, and what better way to meet someone new, than sharing a meal together.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ❖ Considering participating in a **Bible Study**? Another practical way (though not limited to) in which we can meet together other than Sunday Morning is by attending a bible study. Currently there are 4 bible studies, 3 additional classes on Wednesday Immerse Nights, and other various book studies taking place throughout the week. Check out the schedule of events on the calendar in the lobby, the New Life App, or found listed in this newsletter. If you're interested in starting a bible study be sure to take a look at some of the helpful tools in the resource center to get you started.
- ❖ **Sunday Morning Prayer** is something we have **before every service from 8:30-9:00am** in the large classroom. Everyone is encouraged to come. Specific topics to pray for are; ministry teams, missionaries, bible studies, immerse classes, and really anything impressed on our heart. 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.
- ❖ The **Woman's Book Study** group will be meeting **Monday January 20th @ 7:00pm**. The location has been moved to the New Life Building. The next book we will be reading is... "*Even Better than Eden: Nine Ways the Bible's Story Changes Everything about Your Story*" by Nancy Guthrie. Experienced Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie traces 9 themes throughout the Bible, revealing how God's plan for the new creation will be far more glorious than the original. But this new creation glory isn't just reserved for the future. The hope of God's plan for his people transforms everything about our lives today. Read the introduction and first 3 chapters for our meeting on Monday. Contact Sara (715-294-0748) if you need help getting a copy of this book.
- ❖ **Saturday January 25th** we will be holding our **Annual New Life Partners Meeting**. It will be held here at the building at **10:00am** and following the meeting will be a potluck lunch (so bring a dish to pass!). Even if you are not a partner, you are welcomed to come reflect and seek the Lord together in this year to come.
- ❖ Mark the date on your calendar! **Sunday, January 26, at 3:00pm**, we will be joining area churches in our **Annual Walk for Life**. We will meet at St. Joseph's Church (255 10th Ave Osceola) and, following the walk, will enjoy chili and desserts. There is even talk that our very own Pastor Bennett may lead us in some music. Let's be a voice for those who have been silenced and a witness of gentleness and love for those who've been affected by abortion.

Upcoming Sunday Potluck/Meal Teams:

January 19	Meal Team #7
January 26	Meal Team #1
February 2	Potluck Team #1

Fellowship and a meal follow our service today - Please stay and join us!

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Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132

Schedule of Events Week of Jan 12-18

Tues	Men's Bible Study	5:30 am
	Our Place Café - SCF	
Wed	Women's Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wed	Immerse Family Studies	6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study	6:30 am
Thurs	Women's Bible Study	9:30/10 am

January Memory Verse: **1 Corinthians 15:58**

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." ESV

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 telling someone your testimony. Share of your coming to saving faith in Jesus, and by his grace, what He is currently doing in your life to draw you to treasure Him above all things and to call you pursue making Him known to others.

HEBREWS

JESUS
According to Scripture

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,

[Hebrews 11:29-31](#)

Sermon Notes:

201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~ 715.201.2295 ~ Email: info@newlifechristiancommunity.org
Sunday service starts at 9:30 am / Check out New Life online at newlifechristiancommunity.org
Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com