

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 15, 2022

Vol. 16, Issue 14

Pastoral Pondering

Bad Things...Good People?

"When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them."-Isaiah 1:12-14

I am guessing there is a chance that you may be sitting there thinking, "Wow, this is a super uplifting opening. I am not sure I want to continue reading." Please don't be discouraged, rather, continue to read on with patience.

We have all heard someone ask, or have even been guilty of asking the question ourselves, "Why does God let bad things happen to good people?" In a recent conversation with my son, Isaiah, he brought this question up to me. He didn't bring it up as a question he was asking, rather he was using it as an example of the types of things that often cause followers of Christ to wander. The issue with this question, while there are several, is that the assumption is that we, as people, are inherently good. We aren't. In fact, the verses above provide a clear picture of our status with the Lord when we are left to our own accord. When we establish ourselves as our own saviors, we cannot right ourselves with the Lord. Simply put, we are sinners and require a savior. There are no good people.

If that were the end...and our reality stopped there, our existence would remain bleak and we would perish, separated from our heavenly Father. But brothers and sisters, that is not the gospel. The gospel...our inheritance as followers of Christ is one of hope and grace. Jesus, the only good and perfect human, loved us so much that he died and paid the cost for our sins. Apart from God, there is no good. This simply cannot be something that we accept and move on from. God's word tells us in [Philippians 2:12](#) to continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. It also tells us, *"...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."* It isn't some good news, a little bit of good news, but it is the good news.

We must be careful, whether we are experiencing hardships or blessings, not to become bloated with our own self-concept. When we convince ourselves that we are good enough, strong enough, smart enough, rich enough, talented enough, and the list goes on...we deny ourselves what is truly good. We deny ourselves the grace that Christ freely gives, yet for which he so dearly paid.

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord"

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Pastoral Pondering

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Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.”-Philippians 3:20-4:1

Oh that we at New Life would be a body committed to standing firm in the Lord!

-your brother in Christ, Zack Fugate



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. 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.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Pastor Tony Minell | 715.417.1982 |
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| Rene Milner | 715.557.0185 |
| Jim Nelson | 651.283.2132 |
| Jay Swisher | 763.587.3472 |

This Week's Scheduled Events:

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| Tues | Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am |
| 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:

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| Jan 15 | Team 8 ~ Soup & Salads |
| Jan 22 | Team 1 ~ Pizza |

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

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Welcome Baby Swanson:** New Life family, let's praise the Lord together for the birth of Vinadil Faith Swanson, born to Andrew and Jessica Swanson this week! There will be a basket in the entryway fill up with diapers and wipes as a blessing to their family. Also keep your eyes out for a Meal Train to be set up in the next few days.
- **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 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.
- **Hall of Men:** Men young and old make room on your calendars, Hall of Men is picking back up **Sunday, January 29th at 6:30pm**. It is always a time of conviction and encouragement to walk as men of Christ now in our generation as we hear about the lives of men from the past where Jesus was honored and glorified. There is no meal but your welcome to bring a snack to share.


Busy Bags
Available by the Door


nlcc
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 25:13-22

Sermon Notes: