



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 22, 2022

Vol. 16, Issue 15

Pastoral Pondering

Beyond Comprehension

"To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike?" Isaiah 46:5.

The people were again fashioning idols in the prophet Isaiah's day, and the Lord God asked, who compares to Him? Who is His equal? He reminded them a few verses later:

"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'"

Isaiah 46:9-10

Elsewhere in Isaiah, there are many other similar passages.

"Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: 'I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself'" Isaiah 44:24.

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god'" Isaiah 44:6.

This is a God who is Almighty and awesome! There are none that compare to Him. He alone is God.

The idolators in the book of Isaiah apparently didn't understand that. They didn't consider the eternal majesty of the Lord. Instead they carved their wood and worked their metal into gods of their own imagination. Then the creator of that false idol would bow before his own puny creation. The irony...

Even the highest false god that our minds are capable of imagining is infinitely less than Yahweh. He is far, far beyond our ability to even grasp His vastness and glory. His understanding is unsearchable (Isaiah 40:28)! The finite cannot fully comprehend the Infinite.

Who can even begin to know One that is so beyond our comprehension? The Lord goes on to say,

I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory" Isaiah 46:13.

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Pastoral Pondering

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His promised salvation came. He gave Himself. Jesus made a way for those who come to Him to be made righteous. He opened our eyes and gave the Word that we might see Him. Only through the work of Christ might we truly begin to know Him.

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" Colossians 3:1-2.

And so, we are to fix our minds and dwell on the things of Christ, to seek and think on Him. Though we can't comprehend all His Ways, He gives us grace to understand more and more that we might exalt and abide in Him.

There's a familiar quote usually attributed to Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr, that says, "Some people are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good." I wholly disagree. So would the apostle Paul. Far too many are so earthly minded that they are of no eternal or heavenly good. I pray that would not be us, that, instead, we would increasingly know and see our Lord as more wonderful and glorious and holy.

Blessings, Brian Gates

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

Greeting Card Ministry

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

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Young Adult Study– 6:30 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 22	Team 1 ~ Pizza
Jan 29	Team 2 ~ Chili

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

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Annual Partners Meeting:** Stick around for our partners meeting after service **today** as we celebrate the ministry of Jesus Christ at work among us in growing His church over this last year. Meeting **starts at 12:30**. All who are invested here at New Life are welcome to join and participate in sharing testimonies and prayer. Partners especially we need you here as we have items we will be voting on.
- **Tri-County Options:** Tri-County Options for Women will have their annual walk for **life this afternoon at 3:00pm** starting in the parking lot of St. Joseph's in Osceola. Many St. Croix Valley churches gather together and walk the streets of Osceola so as not to let the murder of children that yet takes place in our nation be disregarded. Take advantage of this local opportunity. Grab a few friends and head on over after our partners meeting.
- **Young Adult Study:** Young Adults, we're jumping back into Genesis this **Tuesday, January 24th at 6:30pm** at the home of Travis and Paula Barton: 2489 Beede Lake Trail Saint Croix Falls. Bring an instrument, your bibles, and an eager heart to grow in Christ. See you then!
- **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.



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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 25:23-27

Sermon Notes: