



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 9, 2020

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PASTORAL PONDERING

The Praises (Psalms)

The Psalms, or as it is in Hebrew 'Praises,' is a book that impacts us no matter the situation we may find ourselves in. For generations people have been singing, reading, praying, and meditating on the Psalms. For the last few weeks I have been going through this book and really enjoying dissecting what is being said, and in some cases coming away with a different way of looking at a particular Psalm that has helped me on my study through the book.

The thing I enjoy the most about the Psalms is the raw emotion the authors are writing with. Nothing is held back, whether he is calling out to God in praise, or for God's justice to be done to right a wrong, or to cry out to God because it has felt to the author that everybody has abandoned him. The psalmists are not afraid that God will leave them or turn His back on them if they call out to Him. We must not be afraid either. If we think about the time period most or all of these were written in, any culture other than the Israelites would never have thought about talking to their god in such a way. They believed that if they would make the gods angry bad things would happen to them. But we see it all through the Psalms and more importantly all through the Bible, the people crying out to and having a personal relationship with the one true God by opening their hearts to reveal the true issue at hand.

In the introduction to the Psalms in the ESV bible, it states: *The book of Psalms, or Psalter, has supplied to believers some of their best-loved Bible passages. It is a collection of 150 poems that express a wide variety of emotions, including: love and adoration toward God, sorrow over sin, dependence on God in desperate circumstances, the battle of fear and trust, walking with God even when the way seems dark, thankfulness for God's care, devotion to the word of God, and confidence in the eventual triumph of God's purposes for the world.*

That is what I love about the Psalms. I don't have to be afraid to open my heart up to God in my darkest of hours or rejoice with Him in my greatest praises. My relationship with Him is not a one-way relationship. Even in the Psalms we see hints of Jesus and the relationship that would save us, and throughout His ministry Jesus quoted and meditated on the Psalms so why shouldn't we. God is a Great God.

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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Psalm 89 1-9: *"I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;*

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

² *For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;*

in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

³ *You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;*

I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴ *'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah*

⁵ *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*

your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

⁶ *For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?*

Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

⁷ *a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,*

and awesome above all who are around him?

⁸ *O LORD God of hosts,*

who is mighty as you are, O LORD,

with your faithfulness all around you?

⁹ *You rule the raging of the sea;*

when its waves rise, you still them.

Blessings, Paul Gilbertson

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

- ❖ **Options for Women Open House:** If you are interested in learning more about what the Tri-County Options for Women does, please consider visiting the center on **February 14th from 11:00am - 4:00pm.**
- ❖ **Men's Event:** It's been too long! Mark your calendars again for a Brazilian style meat filled lunch at Rodizio's grill in Maple Grove on **Saturday February 15th.** We'll meet at the New Life Building @ **10:30 am** and drive there together. But of course, much more than the amazing food is the fellowship around the table growing in relationships as men and brothers in Christ.
- ❖ The next **Woman's Book Study** meeting is on **Monday February 17, 7:00 pm** at the New Life Building. We will be discussing Chapters 4 & 5 of 'Even Better Than Eden'.
- ❖ Mark your calendars. The **St Croix Valley Men's Retreat** is set for **Friday and Saturday, April 3rd & 4th @** Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederic, WI. Be on the watch for more information about specific times, cost, and topics. Anticipate being challenged and sharpened in the faith as we study God's word and fellowship together. Be thinking and praying now about who you could invite, neighbors, co-workers, family and friends.
- ❖ **New Life Connect:** Looking for a way to get more connected? We have a private New Life website where prayer requests can be shared, needs can be made known, and where announcements with event details or new bible studies are often highlighted. If you're interested on getting signed up contact Pastor Paul. Also, If you have a smart phone, we have a New Life App you can download where you can listen to past sermons, find event information, receive notifications for things like event reminders and cancellations, view most recent newsletter, and much more.

Upcoming Sunday Potluck/Meal Teams:

February 16	Meal Team #3
February 23	Meal Team #4
March 1	Bring a Dish P#2

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

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Schedule of Events Week of Feb 9-15

Mon	Adult GriefShare 2:00 pm (green rm)
Tues	Men's Bible Study 5:30 am Our Place Café - SCF
Wed	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Wed	Immerse Family Studies 6:15 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Thurs	Women's Bible Study 9:30/10 am
Thurs	GriefShare - Adult /Youth 6:30 pm Adult and Youth meet separately

February Memory Verse: **Philippians 3:8**

"I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ." *ESV*

February Fellowship Tip:

Have you recognized a spiritual gift in someone or even yourself? Consider how you can encourage the use of these gifts Christ has given to His church by His Spirit.

HEBREWS

JESUS
According to Scripture

Today's Passage:

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

[Hebrews 12:14-17](#)

Sermon Notes:

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