



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

VOL. 17, ISSUE 24

"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

Pastoral Pondering

NOT WAVERING AT THE PROMISE OF GOD

"And he (Abraham) believed the LORD, and He counted it to him for righteousness."
(Genesis 15:6)

What does it mean to believe God? While this may seem to be a straightforward question, with a straightforward answer. The answer given to that question and defining belief has eternal implications. What is justifying belief before God? That really is at the forefront of importance when it comes to our relationship with God and how we are reconciled to Him.

Genesis 15:5,6 (NKJV - used throughout) says, *"Then He (God) brought him (Abraham) outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He (God) said to him (Abraham) 'so shall your descendants be.' And he (Abraham) believed in the LORD and He (God) accounted it to him (Abraham) for righteousness."*

The Apostle Paul continues to comment on this in the book of Romans chapter 4:19-22 *"And not being weak in faith (belief), he (Abraham) did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened through faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He (God) promised He (God) was also able to perform. And therefore 'it (belief/faith) was accounted to him as righteousness."*

If we look at the example given by Abraham of saving faith, it includes the negative *"did not consider his own body,"* Abraham could have looked at himself and at his wife and concluded that the promise of offspring from Sarah (his wife) was impossible (which in natural terms it was). The question is and was, do you actually and did Abraham actually believe God. When God speaks through His word do you judge God to be wholly True, or mostly true with some editing needed based on your own judgment? (In which case you stand as the giver of truth). To mostly "believe" the things that God has spoken, is to waver at His word. Saving faith as demonstrated by Abraham is a faith that does *"not waver at the promise of God."* That is to say, God has spoken it and therefore, though I or Abraham may not understand it all, we believe God and will walk in what He has revealed in His word. That is to walk by faith and not by sight. Doing so is not a higher form of spirituality, but the most basic of things in our relationship with the Living God, and that we will not outgrow until the day we see Him face to face, via our death or His return.

In contrast to *"not considering his own body"* and *"not wavering at the promise of God,"* is that of *"being fully convinced that what He (God) promised He (God) was (is) able to perform."* to be fully convinced of what God has spoken is not just a mental affirmation or understanding, (even the demons know the truth of God and

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Pastoral Pondering

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tremble. (James 2:19), but a change of what you believe to be reality which causes action (submission of your life to Gods Word). simply acknowledging that God's Words are true won't justified you. Mental knowledge alone has never saved anyone but placing all of your trust not on your own wisdom, experience, or knowledge, but in God as revealed in His word alone, that is to be "fully convinced" at the promise of God, that is to "not waver" at His promise, that is to not "consider your own body" that is justifying faith, that is biblical "belief". It is to simply take God at His Word regardless of how hard it is to do or understand. It is to be wholly dependent on God, not yourself or anyone else.

Paul goes on in Romans 4:23-25, "*Now it was not written for his sake alone that it (righteousness) was imputed to him (Abraham), but also for us. It (righteousness) shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification.*"

We are saved the same way that Abraham was, by believing the promise of God. Which is now revealed in Jesus Christ. In His substitutionary life, death, resurrection, and the promise of His return. By whom and in whom we are justified by faith alone, in Him alone. And that faith, which is kindled in us by God, continues to grow all the more causing believers to be fully convinced that God who promised is also able and will perform every Word He has spoken. Look unto Christ through His unchanging Word and trust not on your own understanding. Flee to Him for Life, shelter, and all wisdom.

Your brother in Christ, Matt Leko



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 a meal after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Mon	Prayer Night/Barton's– 6:30 pm
Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	Immerse– 6:15 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

March Memory Verse:

Ecclesiastes 12:11 (ESV)

“The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd.”

March Fellowship Tip:

Share a favorite memory verse with someone today. If you don't have one, begin to memorize God's Word and practice reciting it to others.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

March 17	Meal Team 1 ~ Potluck
March 24	Meal Team 2 ~ Salads

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

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **New Baby Boy:** Please join Bennett and Holly Anderson in welcoming their newest addition, baby Jonathan Luther born a little over a week ago! As is our custom a basket in the foyer will be placed to load them up with a nice pile of diapers and wipes for these first few weeks.
- **Preaching Guild:** Those involved in the Preaching Guild, just a reminder, **this evening** we will finish our discussion on what is preaching and dive into sermon preparation. **See you tonight at 6:30pm!**
- **Monday Evening Prayer:** **Monday** night prayer is meeting at the home of the Barton's, address 2489 Beede Lake Trl., St. Croix Falls. You're invited to join us **6:30pm**.
- **Hall of Men:** Date adjustment: Hall of Men will be meeting this month on **Sunday, March 24th 6:30pm** in place of the 31st since Easter falls on this last Sunday. Were excited to hear a presentation from one of our elders on another man of the faith.
- **Good Friday Service:** We will be taking special time to focus on the Cross during our **Good Friday Service** coming up **March 29th @ 6:30pm**. Not that we don't usually focus on the cross but this is a solemn service where, in humility, we remember that it was our sins that our Savior went to the Cross to pay for. We will end this service taking the bread and the cup. As a part of reflection, we encourage each person to fast in some form and be in prayer beginning this evening anticipating Easter morning and His triumph over sin and death. Our **Easter service, March 31st, will begin at 8:00am** breaking our fast and again partaking of the bread and the cup in celebration which then will lead into an Easter Brunch meal. Our regular service begins as usual 9:30am.
- **Easter Breakfast:** Our Easter Morning Breakfast **March 31** will be a potluck meal. YUM! Please consider bringing a dish to pass if you are able. Let us know what type of food you will bring for our Easter Brunch! Look for a sign-up sheet on the welcome table for some coordination in having all food groups present (although some wouldn't mind an abundance of cinnamon rolls and bacon) In addition since this meal takes place right before the 9:30am service any extra help in clean-up is much appreciated.
- **Upcoming Men's Retreat:** Brochures and registration for the 2024 St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat are now available. Coming up **April 12-13** men, young and old, from all over the valley will gather at Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederic for a rich time in receiving the preaching of the Word, engaging the text in group discussions, and enjoying fellowship with one another in Christ. If you have any questions about the retreat or registration just talk to Pastor Paul.



nlcc
resourcecenter

Are you 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. We have many choices, so be sure to take a look today after service.



Jesus

According to Samuel

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

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

1 SAMUEL 20:1-42

SERMON NOTES: