



# 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*

Sun, March 31, 2024

Vol. 17, Issue 26

## Pastoral Ponderings

### Philippians 1 "The day of Jesus Christ"

Twice in the first 11 verses of Philippians chapter 1, Paul mentions the Day of Christ Jesus. Why? Paul writes to a suffering church in Philippi. If Paul and Silas (Acts 16) were beaten and thrown in prison during their time in Philippi, then very likely similar things were happening to the new believers still living in the city. Sure enough Paul acknowledges at the end of Chapter 1 that the believers in Philippi were indeed suffering, *"For it has been granted to you that for the sake for Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have."* 1:29-30.

What reminder does Paul choose to exhort the believers with in the midst of suffering? The coming day of Jesus Christ (verse 6) *"And I am sure of this that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at **the day of Jesus Christ.**"* Their hope in suffering is not tied to their current circumstance immediately changing, nor that they have to carry the burden of finishing the work God started in them, but that God through Christ IS working in them presently and continues His work in them which WILL BE brought to completion on that glorious day of His return. So in the midst of their current sufferings, Paul directs their minds to be eternally focused, in hope, on the surety of the coming **day of Christ**, whereby their sufferings will be over and the work God started in them will be once and for all completed.

The second mention of the day of Christ is in verses 9-10, *"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent and so be pure and blameless **for the day of Christ**, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."* The battle is real and the hatred of the enemy towards Christ and His people is something the believers in Philippi were experiencing in real time. The constant temptation to deny Jesus, lose heart, or begin to doubt God's plan and goodness was a real battle. And Paul loved them, "with the affection of Christ Jesus" (verse 8) wanting to see them not only remain steadfast but also to abound in love, knowledge, discernment, and fruit of righteousness. Again he mentions the **"day of Christ"**. He wants them first to be encouraged in this day to come, but also to be fully ready for that day. This demonstrates that these sufferings are a means of God causing them to actually abound in love, knowledge, discernment, and the fruit of

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## Pastoral Ponderings cont.

righteousness. Throughout much of church history, this is the atmosphere in which we see some of the greatest displays of faith.

Knowing their suffering, Paul is compassionate, holding *“them in his heart”* because they too are, *“partakers with him of grace, both in his imprisonment and in the defenses and confirmation of the gospel.”* (verse 7) Paul sees being partakers of grace as sharing in Christ’s sufferings. This too is a part of God doing a good work in the believer. It’s not usually how we think of grace, but in this instance, living and suffering for the name of Christ is in grace. That’s because this current suffering falls into a bigger picture purpose out of the wise plan of our great God.

It is unavoidable that we will face sufferings for His name’s sake, but in them we take encouragement that the Father is working in each one of us to be made more like His Son, a work which will be completed on the **day of Jesus Christ**. On that day, will we ever regret having been made so much like our Savior? Will we ever wish we could have suffered less and trade the depth and richness of our being drawn closer to Him through it? Never! It’s worth every moment so that God would most glorified and praised in His good work to make us more like His Son.

Today is Easter Sunday, and we celebrate that Christ Jesus has himself accomplished the work of salvation on our behalf. He, being fully God, put on human flesh, was born as a babe, grew and lived among us, fulfilled the righteous requirement of the Law, and was tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. As our high priest he entered the holy of holies with His own precious shed blood that our sins may be atoned for and that the wrath of the Father would be fully satisfied for those sprinkled by His blood. Our Lord has completed this work on the cross (it is finished!). Three days later He rose from the dead, having silencing death’s taunts, having disarmed the principalities and powers of darkness, he provided rescue to those in bondage to sin, transferring those by grace through faith into the kingdom of the beloved Son, Jesus. He has ascended into heaven and is presently seated at the right hand of the Father as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Because this saving work is finished we can look forward to His second coming.

## Ministry Directory

### Building & Grounds Ministry

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### Coffee Ministry

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### Immerse Ministry

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### Resource Center

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### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,  
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### Transportation Services

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### Video Ministry

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## Check out New Life Online

[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

### This Week's Schedule of 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 Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

### Meal Teams

4/7 Meal Team 3

4/14 Meal Team 4

Contact *Barbara Judkins* if interested  
in joining a meal team.

### Fellowship Tip for March

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.

### March Memory Verse

Ecclesiastes 12:11

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

### Pastoral Eldership Team

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982  
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## Pastoral Ponderings cont.

This passage in Philippians renews our weary souls by setting our minds heavenward, reminding us one day soon will be that glorious **day of Christ Jesus!** On that day our sufferings will be over and we will rejoice in the completion of His sanctifying work in us individually and together as His bride the Church, being full and overflowing with His fruit of righteousness all to the glory and praise of God. Let us therefore remain steadfast in faith, hope, and love through suffering and take courage for the return of Christ. Oh, what a day!

Looking towards that day,  
Pastor Paul

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 you and get to know and for you to get to know us more.

## Announcements.

**Last call!!** Make sure to turn in your registration for the 2024 St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat to Pastor Paul today. Monday is the last registration date. You can also register online: [acvscf.breezechms.com/form/cf73d424](http://acvscf.breezechms.com/form/cf73d424). There are scholarship funds available if cost is a hindrance. Boys under 4-12 are discounted with \$10 off the regular price. Weekend schedule of sessions and activities are listed in the brochure.

## Today's Passage



# Jesus

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According to Samuel

Pastor Tony will be teaching from  
the book of Samuel.

Our passage for today is 1 Samuel 21:1-9.

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[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • [nlcc.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:nlcc.dresser@gmail.com)

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at [pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com)