



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

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"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

PARTIAL BEFORE PERFECT

"But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away." 1 Corinthians 13:10

I have been thinking about this piece of a verse from 1 Corinthians lately. It seems like I have spent a lot of my life trying to get it "just right." One would think that if we try hard enough, we can get really close to the real thing. But life is not like that. Something is terribly wrong. This world is not perfect; we seem to be living in "the partial."

Have you ever really thought about what this means? Living in the partial means we see as a dim reflection those things that are really true. We read and yet we miss the point. We argue and debate while standing on a stage of semi solid human understanding, like so much gelatin. There is perfect, and there is truth of this I am sure. What I am not so sure about is our brain's ability to contain the truth of God, even more so, our tongue's ability to relate it. Often, I found myself relaying my most recent God given insight (usually to my unfortunate wife) only to be met with blank stares and confusion. Doesn't she get it? It is like I am speaking in a foreign tongue. It seems so clear to me.

This year has been different, however. Instead of trying to find just the right book or reading plan we decided to read through a small piece of the Bible each day and summarize the chapter together in as few lines as possible. Our goal was not to get the absolute truth, or some never before seen nugget, but, as much as we could, just to read together and with the same mind come to a joint thought on what the passage meant in our lives.

Over the past three months we have summarized three books of the Bible, and it has been some of the most peaceful and glorious times we have ever had. Not searching for the only right answer. Not fighting over who had the right opinion. Just thinking and talking together about what Christ is showing both of us from our different perspectives.

I want to share with you what we have heard from 1 Corinthians this month:

The message is simple. Be unified in Christ who is the wisdom and Power of God crucified for our sins. Folly to the world but a secret, hidden wisdom from God revealed only by the Spirit. Do not follow men, follow Him. The body will have fallen men, some will need to be removed but only with wisdom full of mercy and grace. Live in peace together as you are called. Not trying to make something of yourself and not creating a stumbling block for others. Live a disciplined life for the sake of the Gospel, avoiding idolatry and doing all for the glory of God. Submit to God's authority not for self-interest but for the interest of others. The Spirit has given different gifts to each of us to be used exclusively for the building up of the Body, but none of these gifts can work without Love. Love is what binds them together and it is what makes them profitable. Without love our gifts of wisdom, or prophecy or

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Pastoral Pondering

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teaching or anything are only so much noise and waste. In love use your gift solely for the sake of building up others in the Body and not for puffing up yourself. Above all remember the Gospel according to the scriptures, Christ died for your sins, was buried, and raised, seen by many witnesses and as Master over even death proved the resurrection and removed the fear of death. Therefore, just as we are all subject to death in the flesh because of Adam even so we are alive in the Spirit because of Christ, and this transforms our perishable mortal bodies to imperishable immortal bodies no longer subject to the sting of death resulting from the power of sin using a perfect law against our weak flesh. This releases us to abound with fruit in the work of the LORD and share this abundance in love with one another.

My point in all of this is not to claim some sort of wisdom or knowledge. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Most of you will read the above thoughts and think, "Well that is not quite right" or "I already know this." But the contents are not the point. Working together with one passion (which is really what one mind means) to see more of Jesus, is all that matters. Before, I was trying to get the perfect picture. We will not get that till we stand face to face with Jesus. Then the partial will disappear. In the meantime, start small. Read a bit, pray a bit, and meditate a bit. With those around you, do something that you can do every day. And do it with love and understanding. If it expands, then great. If not just be content listening each day to your Savior. Don't stress over it, soon enough you will be staring Perfection in the face.

Rene Milner



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.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837
Daniel Lipp 612.229.2893
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740
anajoy87@gmail.com

Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Immerse Ministry

Mindy Havlish: 715.494.0410
havlishm@gmail.com

Meal Train Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681
kristin@kageinnovation.com

Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
lrmilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djhalm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556
bjdamell@hotmail.com

Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.557.1890
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com	
Pastor Jeff Warren	715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com	
Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Brian Nelson	651.323.4253
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

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 Wrap-up/Party– 6:15
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)

April Memory Verse:

Proverbs 23:17-18 (ESV)

"Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off."

April Fellowship Tip:

Spring is often a time where we get the itch to do a project around the home or get creative in the kitchen. Consider asking a brother or sister to join you and use everyday life activities as a way to build deeper relationships with one another bringing Jesus into each conversation.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

April 21 Meal Team 5 ~ Breakfast
April 28 Meal Team 7 ~ SloppyJoe/Hotdogs

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

Check Out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **New Life Preaching Guild:** Meets **tonight at 6:30pm**. For those attending remember to bring your notes from last week and be ready to discuss Mark chapter 1 as we begin to prepare sermon outlines for preaching our first two sections Chapter 1:1-3 and 1:4-9.
- **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**.
- **Girls Covenant Study:** Tori Barton invites 15 - 20-year-old girls to a precept study on Covenants. This study starts **Tuesday, April 23 10:00 am - noon** at the church building. Please sign up on welcome counter.
- **Immerse Prayer and Sharing Night:** We just wrapped up another year of "Immersing" ourselves in the Word of God together young and old so **this Wednesday, April 24** is our Immerse prayer and sharing night. It's been a great year and we want to take one last night to celebrate what God has done through these studies. Students, teachers, attenders of the studies are encouraged to come forward and share something they learned, or how they saw the Lord move in our hearts. This will lead us to a time of prayer giving thanks to our great God as well as asking for this labor and study to bear good fruit continually in us all. We'll close the night off with fellowship and ice cream!
- **Llapushi Visit:** New Life Family, Toni Llapushi will be in our neck of the woods **Saturday, April 27th**. He is not in the area long so I am hosting a gathering at my house (406 Smith Ave. Osceola) at **6:00pm**. We'll meet for a time of prayer, fellowship and hearing an update from Toni or perhaps for some a chance to connect with him for the first time. We'll have some light snacks and refreshments. Pastor Paul.
- **Hall of Men:** Join us next **Sunday, April 28, 6:30pm** at the building. We've been hearing presentations on the life of men from history who have held to Christ and proclaimed Him to the end being encouraged by their example of faith and the grace of God to sustain them. This night we'll shift a little from our typical pattern and hear a sermon presented that was preached many years ago by one of the men we've already studied. If you're wondering what sermon and from what man...well you'll just have to come and find out. See you there!



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 22:3-23

SERMON NOTES: