



# 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

Join Us As We  
Celebrate Only  
Jesus

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023  
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## Pastoral Pondering ~

### WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE HONEST HERETIC?

You know the one I'm talking about. The heretical teacher that is honest about their lies, their false views of Christ, salvation, God's word, or some other pivotal point of theology. Oh, those were the good old days when even heretics were honest.

You may have surmised that I'm being sarcastic, and you'd be right. There never were the "good old days" when heretics were honest about their perversions. Instead in church history you see repeatedly a purposeful superficial aligning with those that are right in belief and practice to gain a platform from which they can twist the truth. [Jude](#) says they have "*crept in unnoticed*" vs.4 (NKJV.) Paul says to the Ephesian Elders that "*from among yourselves men will rise up speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after themselves.*" ~Acts 20:30. Jesus describes false prophets as those "*who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*" ~Matthew 7:15. They are not outside of the visible fellowship but from within, in which lies the danger. Thankfully God didn't leave us men or institutions to be our guide, but He gave us His written unchanging Word, that we may not be deceived but rather know the truth.

#### **Sufficiency of Scripture and its cousin, the perspicuity or clarity of scripture.**

This really is the center of the battle with all false teaching and false teachers. If we really do believe that God's word is enough and understandable to the common man, then we must trust ourselves to the Word of God, and not our own subjective experience or to the trickery of eloquent men (no matter how plausible their arguments may seem or how outstanding their credentials.) This is where the eastern Orthodox church and the Catholic church went astray, with the exultation of church councils, traditions, and in the Catholics case, the pope's decrees to be equal to God's word. In a contemporary context, a deficient view of God's word is also the source of the "old earth theory" of creation and the redefining of "gender roles" i.e., egalitarianism, the acceptance of the "social justice movement" and other issues like them are an attempt to be more palatable to society, but in the process the Word of God is degraded, and fallen man is pandered to instead of being called to repentance. All these things are symptoms of a low view of scripture. Your view of scripture really is the most pivotal point that sets the trajectory for all doctrine, worldview, and practice, With eternal implications. The exclusivity, and the authority of the Word of God is paramount, if you are to follow the narrow road that Jesus set before us. To know who Jesus is, what He has done, and requires of us, there is only one source, His revealed Word.

The root of the sufficiency of scripture really lies in the question of authority. Does God alone have the authority to command his people? Is Christ the head of the church? Or has that role been given to other men? Most people

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## Pastoral Pondering

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don't think of it this way, but the question of who head of the church is the question, and its misidentification plagued the Church from the time of Constantine (when he called the first ecumenical council) to the church of England where the king is considered head of the church, to this present day, including individual "Christians" and "teachers" who see fit to effectively edit God's word to suit their own appetites. The reality is Jesus is The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He has all authority in heaven and on earth. Jesus is Lord of the church and therefore alone has the authority to issue it commands.

We need to fix our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. And not just any "Jesus." Not the Jesus from tradition, or mystical experiences or the Jesus of our imagination or others, but rather The Bible, as the saying goes, "Jesus is foretold in the Old Testament, revealed in the Gospels, and explained in the Epistles". God's word alone is to be that which illuminates and defines what it means to travel on the narrow path which leads to life.

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

Busy Bags  
Available by the Door

nlcc  
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.

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### Building & Grounds Ministry

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### Coffee Ministry

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### Sunday Meal Services

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### Transportation Services

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### Video Ministry

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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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
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)

### May Memory Verse:

Psalms 138:8 (ESV)

“The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures  
forever. Do not forsake the work of your  
hands.”

### May Fellowship Tip:

Have you begun a prayer/discipleship relationship with someone from New Life? If not, prayerfully consider whom you can be regularly meeting with for the purpose of growth and sharpening as disciples of Jesus.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

- May 21 Team 5 ~ Breakfast
- May 28 Team 6 ~ Casseroles

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

Check out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

- **Another birth at New Life!** Let's celebrate with Zach and Heather Hite as they welcome their second earlier this week, Jeremiah John Hite. Consider serving them by placing a package of diapers or wipes in the basket next to the welcome counter.
- **Hall of Men:** Hall of Men will be meeting next **Sunday, May 28th at 6:30 pm** at the building. We'll be hearing a presentation about Christ's work in another man of the faith in history. See you there!
- **2023 Graduates:** A reminder. If your son or daughter is graduating this spring, please let us know who as we would like to bless them with a simple gift and to invite them forward during a service to recognize and send them off in prayer. Make sure to fill out the sign-up sheet on the welcome table with names and contact info. We will recognize our graduates **Sunday, June 4th**.
- **Baby Bottle Fundraiser:** Please consider supporting our local Options for Women | TRI-COUNTY. During this time of year they drop off a basket of empty plastic baby bottles to local churches for individuals or families to take home and fill with change or dollars which started Mother's Day and then **collect after Sunday Service on Father's Day, June 18th**. This fundraiser usually brings in half of the total operating expenses for the year, so it's a really important fundraiser! Your support will help provide free pregnancy tests, counseling, ultrasound services, clothing, and baby supplies for the mothers who are most in need from our community. Consider picking up a bottle after service today.
- **Upcoming Summer Events:** Here are 2 summer events to make sure are on your calendars: On **Friday, July 7th** we are welcoming back the Paul Family Bluegrass Band to fill our building full of banjo twanging, foot stomping, backwoods North of 8 bluegrass tunes. If you haven't met them, there a wonderful family who loves Jesus and loves to bless churches with their music.  
Also, **Sunday, July 23rd** will be our Annual Baptism Sunday Service. This is held at the ARC in Osceola. If you are a follower of Christ and haven't yet made that confession publicly through baptism or if you just have questions about what baptism is please reach out to any of the elders/pastors. There will be a baptism sign-up sheet on the welcome table.
- **5-Day Club Volunteers:** As in past years, this summer, CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) would like to put on a 5-day club at the New Life building. They do all the lesson prep and teaching and do a wonderful job presenting the gospel to our kiddos. It's set up for ages 5-12 and an open invitation for our children and any children in the community.  
To host we need a few volunteers to help with getting the building open and lights on, registering children upon arrival, praying with the students, and distributing snacks after club each day. If you are interested in volunteering just reach out to Pastor Paul. Dates have not yet been determined.
- **Girls Bible Study:** Calling all 'young adult' age girls! Does your life effectively show the difference that genuine faith should make in a person's life? Let's study the book of Ephesians so that we can 'walk the walk we talk'. This six-week study will be starting early to mid-June at the building. Call/text Linda Sandmann with questions 651-307-4142. Lesson books are approximately \$10. **Please sign up by today** with your available times and then I'll set a date to start.



# Jesus

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According to Samuel

**TODAY'S PASSAGE:**

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

**1 SAMUEL 3:1-21**

SERMON NOTES: