



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 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

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

(Matthew 13:44, ESV)

Can you imagine the excitement this man had in finding that treasure? It was worth more than everything he owned. He sold all he owned in order to buy the field to gain its treasure.

Treasure is something that inspires people. We enjoy books and movies about treasures that people eagerly seek. Some treasures are gotten through great effort, but some are gotten illegally.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have a great treasure—many treasures, actually. I would like to focus on one that we possess but, sadly, we often take for granted. Responding to the treasure that way suggests we do not realize its great value.

Though this is not the primary meaning of the verse, the word of God itself is a treasure of unfathomable value. What believer would disagree with that? But how many times have we read from God's word and walked away empty, unchanged, and unimpressed? It's almost as if we had not read it at all. I hate to confess that this happens far more often than I would like to admit. Of course, I make my daily "through the Bible" reading an exception because the purpose of re-reading seven chapters a day is largely to refresh my memory of the basic content. But is that a valid exception to make?

Reading the Bible should impact us.

I made that statement a standalone paragraph to make it stand out. Even reading "just for content" should be done with a view to allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to us. Sometimes that "speaking" is simply to draw us to return to the passage in order to dig in more deeply. It is in that deeper digging that the Holy Spirit breathes life into our reading.

The idea of deeper digging should bring us back to the verse. How did the man find the treasure? There was no sign, no map, no metal detector, and nothing to see. In order to find, the man had to be looking for... He did not even know what he was looking for. In fact, he did not even know he was looking for something. He was just there. But why was he there? Until he found the treasure, even he had no clue.

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Pastoral Pondering

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Let me stretch the imagery a bit and suggest that the man was there because *the Lord brought him there to find the treasure*. That reminds me of my routine, often fruitless, daily reading. I do not know what I am looking for until I find it. I am there reading because the Lord brought me there. He may have something for me to find, but He may not—at least for that particular day. Not finding anything exciting on most days is what makes the *finding* exciting, hoped for, and fulfilling. That is what makes coming back faithfully every day worthwhile.

Keep reading. Keep waiting for the Lord to show you what He wants you to find. Ask Him to open your eyes. When you find what He wants you to find, realize that it is a treasure He put there for you to find. And rejoice. And come back the next day for more.

Remember: in order to find the treasure, you must be “in the field.” Keep going there and there will be days when the treasure will surprise you.

Jay Swisher: Elder, Brother, and Friend

New Life Directory

If you would like to be included in our directory or have additions or changes, please send your information to:
nlccdirectory@gmail.com

Busy Bags

Available by the Door

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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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– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

May Memory Verse:

Psalms 46:1 (ESV)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

May Fellowship Tip:

Are you an avid outdoor person? Next time you go fishing, hiking, running, gardening, etc. invite someone to join you and consider how you might spur them on in Christ.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

May 26	Meal Team 3 ~ Italian
June 2	Meal Team 4 ~ Rice & Beans

Summer Schedule begins, No meal on June 9th
Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check Out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Hall Of Men:** No Hall of Men this Sunday as it is Memorial Weekend. See you back on the last Sunday of June!
- **TRI-COUNTY Options for Women:** 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 starting Mother's Day and then collect them after Sunday Service on Father's Day. 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. You can pick-up a bottle after service today from the welcome counter.
- **2024 Graduates:** Are you graduating this year? We want to celebrate with you! Please let us know when and where a celebration will occur. Just swing over to the welcome table and jot down your name, party information and a mailing address for cards. Thank you!
- **Topical Study on Marriage:** Looking to invest in your marriage, perhaps pursuing future marriage, or just want to learn how to better support marriages in the church? If so, you are invited to join an 8-week topical study using the book Gospel-Shaped Marriage. Location is at the Linzmeier home in Osceola on **Thursday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm starting on June 13th**. Childcare will be provided. Space is limited, so please contact Pastor Paul or Amy to sign up and to receive your book.
- **Important Summer Dates: Sunday, June 23rd** after service head over to Dresser Park for a picnic. Bring picnic blankets, chairs, and lawn games. We'll be grilling up some brats and hot dogs for all!
Saturday evening, July 27th we're welcoming back the Paul Family Bluegrass Band for a night of smoked meat sandwiches followed by some good ol boot stomping, hand clapping, head bobbing, backwoods twang. Feel free to invite friends.
Sunday, August 4th is our annual Baptism service being held at the ARC in Osceola. If you have not been baptized and you're interested in now being baptized as a public proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, please reach out to any one of the pastor/elders. Make sure to sign up at the welcome table.
Friday, September 6th through Saturday the 7th is a Men's campout on the St. Croix River. Don't forget your Ham Radio!
Friday, September 27th and Saturday, 28th the Young Adult Genesis Study is having its first gathering camping out at Wood Lake Retreat Center! It's a steal of a deal for \$54/person for 1 night stay and 3 meals. Looking forward to extended time fellowshiping around the Word of God and growing to know our Lord more together. If you're interested be sure to sign up at the welcome table.



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 24:8-22

SERMON NOTES: