



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

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Pastoral Ponderings

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord..." Hebrews 12:5b-6/Proverbs 3:11-12

Discipline. Just saying the word can give us all sorts of uncomfortable feelings. Maybe we have received harsh discipline by some or have seen the lack of discipline and its awful results. However wrong way we have seen this lived out, the discipline of the Lord is different because it's perfect. Parents, even on their best days, discipline imperfectly and it results in good for their children. God disciplines perfectly at all times, so how much more good does it do to those who receive it!

God knows our frame and the thoughts and intentions of our heart. The problem is we don't know ourselves well enough unless God shows us. His

Word teaches us and our own life often reveals our tendency is to wander, grow lax, avoid pain, and live for ourselves. In other words, our tendency is to walk in the flesh not the Spirit. As the hymn goes, "Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love." It's true. Apart from God's gracious intervention, we are sheep who are always going astray. So God, as our perfect and loving heavenly Father, keeps us, protects us, and trains us through loving discipline.

How do you know when you're experiencing discipline? Well, you might be finding yourself asking God "why" of your circumstances. Our flesh repulses at God's discipline like buckthorn angered when being uprooted, responding by sending up 100 new shoots! Our flesh does not want to submit to God's will and looks for the first and easiest way out of the discipline in order to be comfortable again. In our life, when all seems to be going well and comfortable, there is no complaint, no question toward God and His ways. It's when life is hard that we're tempted to present a complaint to God, asking for an explanation to justify the difficulty we're facing. After all, we think, God doesn't really want me to experience pain; it's not loving. However, God's discipline is loving and always good and He does so to those whom He dearly loves.

Certainly one small pondering can barely touch this subject but hopefully some of these points can encourage us to view God's discipline from His perspective.

Now, one struggle we face is thinking that God's discipline is judgment. We may think that in the moment somehow His steadfast love has been removed or that our identity in Him is less secure today than it was yesterday. Not so brothers and sisters, *"Therefore there is now NO condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1. There are countless examples of judgment where God's kindness and patience did not result in people responding in faith but led to further hardening of heart ending in judgment (ie. The flood, Pharaoh, Sodom and Gomorrah, etc.)

But to God's children whom He loves, those IN Christ whom He has chosen, He does not judge, but rather disciplines for good since the judgment we deserved has already been satisfied in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

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Consider the broader context in Hebrews 12:5-11

“And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Here’s a few points from the text. God’s discipline is seen as:

- Evidence you are loved and received by Him (vs. 6)
- Something ALL of His children receive (vs. 6,8)
- Evidence you are a legitimate sons (inheritors of the promise) (vs.8)
- Given to share in His holiness (vs. 10)
- Painful in some way (vs.11)
- Always producing peaceful fruit of righteousness for those trained by it (vs.11)

Beloved child of God, don’t not grow weary when reproved by Him, for you are being made holy!

But as this thought closes in Hebrews chapter 12:28-29, our response through discipline ought to be thanksgiving and worship, *“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”* Praise God that because of Christ we are not consumed by fire but rather refined by fire so that, *“the tested genuineness of our faith, more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* 1 Peter 1:7

By faith we are called to submit to and not despise God’s discipline through which He keeps us from wandering, keeps us from walking the wide road to death, keeps our faith, hope, and love upon Him so that on the last day we are, as the Church, the beautiful radiant bride that the Father has prepared for His Son, able to enter and enjoy to the fullest measure the promised everlasting inheritance of rest.

“Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.” Though this is true let us respond to God’s good discipline with this, *“Here’s my heart Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.”* ~Pastor Paul

Ministry Directory

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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
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Check out New Life Online 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
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

June 30 No Meal Service
July 7 Meal Team 6

**Summer Schedule-meals only on 1st & 3rd
Sundays* Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in
being on a meal team or a helper.*

Fellowship Tip for June

Have you committed yourself to invest in the work of gospel ministry here at New Life and want to learn more about what it means to become a Partner?

Take a moment and talk to one of the elders/pastors and they would be glad to begin that process with you.

June Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 4:9 (ESV) "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children"

Pastoral Eldership Team

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Announcements.

Abolition Outreach: Matthew 25:37-40, Please join us in serving the "least of these" at Planned Parenthood in St. Paul on the 2nd Saturday of July (and every month). Lord willing, people from New Life will be out from 8:00-11:00 am to minister to mothers and fathers seeking to murder their children. As always, we will celebrate the sweet fellowship that comes from ministering in the trenches with those in Christ.

Baby Shower: Ladies don't forget there is a baby shower for Margo Steward this afternoon @ 2pm here at the New Life Building.

Hall of Men tonight 6:30pm!! We'll look at another man of the faith from of old taking encouragement from the grace of God seen in His life spurring on us men to keep looking and holding to Jesus in our own generation.

5-Day Club: This summer CEF is putting on a 5-day club at the New Life building Monday July 15th through the 19th meeting from 1:15pm-2:45pm each day. It's set up for ages 5-12. Your free to bring/invite friends and neighbors too! If you are interested in volunteering to help reach out to Carie Wright.

New Life Partners: please make sure to attend this upcoming meeting Sunday July 14th @ 12pm. One important practical item is a vote for the approval of a replacement of our building's roof for this fall (which is 15 years past life expectancy). Matt and Brian will give an update as to what God has been orchestrating in these last months at Zion Church and ways the New Life body can continue praying and/or prayerfully participate with them and their families. Even if you're not a partner your presence is welcomed as we seek the Lord's guidance together as one body and join in celebrating His grace towards us in Christ.

Save the Date: 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, please reach out to any one of the pastor/elders. Make sure to sign up at the welcome table.

Today's Passage



Jesus

According to Samuel

Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Samuel.

Our passage for today is 1 Samuel 28:1-7.

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newlifechristiancommunity.org

Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com