



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

Sunday, August 23, 2020

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PASTORAL PONDERING

INTO THE LIGHT

Romans 6:3-4 ³"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

As Pastor Tony discussed baptism last Sunday, it was not a New Testament thing. We have seen in our Sunday morning studies of the Israelites going down into the water and then coming out of the water. The first time was in Exodus when God led Moses to the Red Sea only to have the Egyptians on their heels. God provided a way to escape the slavery they were in by parting the sea and allowing the people to walk to safety. The second time was in Joshua when after 40 years of wandering the wilderness, God led the Israelites to the Jordan to cross and take the promise land. God divided the waters to allow the people to cross on dry ground. Both times God provided a way to help the people because they were not able to do it on their own.

You may ask, what does this have to do with people getting baptized last Sunday? Well for a lot of us, we have wandered the wilderness looking for a light or we have been enslaved by the world around us. Last Sunday, we got to celebrate family members realizing they cannot escape the world on their own and have come to Jesus for help.

To hear each person's testimony that led them down the road to their decision to be baptized warms the heart. In some cases, to hear darkness shattered by the light of Jesus or the innocence of one's heart come to the realization that Jesus now resides there. To hear these decisions made publicly and ask the rest of us to walk with them in Christ Jesus is a great feeling. It is such a joy to watch as people are standing in the water one minute, then go under and rise out of the water. Seeing the light in their eyes and witness the fire in their hearts is a time for great joy and celebration. I am reminded all over again of the sacrifice of the cross and the ultimate joy we will have when we will rise from the grave.

Thank you to all who were baptized for sharing with us a little bit of your journey and allowing us to be part of your love for Christ Jesus.

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Colossians 2:12 ¹² *"Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead."*

I come to the river with heaviness within,
with darkness in my soul of sin

I fall to my knees from the weight of it all,
for everyone to behold my great fall

As I wade into the darkness praying to Him,
what I can do seems so slim

I will fall back and let it all go,
under the water remembering what he did so
long ago

Out of the water feeling so free,
knowing what happened when he was on that
tree

Cleansed by the water for all to see,
let His light shine from me

God's Blessing,
Paul Gilbertson

Thank you Paul Gilbertson!

Philippians 1:3, *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

We want to say a special thank you to our brother Paul Gilbertson who has chosen to step down from his role of eldership in order to invest more in other ministry priorities that God has called him to at this time. Paul has faithfully served on the New Life elder board for around a decade. He has seen the faithfulness of God time and time again in his years serving as an elder at New Life and frequently brought that perspective in our elder meetings. Paul, we praise God for you and have great respect and love for you and your family and your continued partnership in the Gospel here at New Life.

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Wed	Young Adult Study- 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Study 1John-6:30 pm

August Memory Verse: Job 42:2

"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be
thwarted." ESV

August Fellowship Tip:

Be sure to be reaching out to your New Life family often! Get creative in ways to bear one another's burdens and encouraging one another daily. Consider phone calls, video chats, writing letters, sending cards, etc..

Busy Bag Users:

We love being able to supply Busy Bags for your children during service. As a courtesy to the Busy Bag ministry, at the end of the service, please put your Busy Bags back where you picked them up. This will be very helpful. Thank you!

➤ **New Life's Wednesday Immerse** classes are coming around the corner fast. If you are interested in volunteering as a teacher or teachers assistant please reach out to Pastor Paul soon. We are still looking for teachers from nursery age up to 4th grade as well as teacher assistants for 5th through 8th grade. Classes start **Wednesday September 9th and meet from 6:15-7:30 pm**. There will be classes for all ages, so the whole family is invited!! An immerse class schedule and calendar will be coming out in the weeks ahead.

➤ **Women's Book Study:** Ladies of New Life, Sara Gallagher is kindly opening her home again for a women's book study. This group will begin meeting every third Monday of the month **starting Monday, September 21st at 7:00pm**. If you are interested in attending and would like to know more, feel free to reach out to Sara, 715-294-0748.

➤ **New Life Ministry:** Interested in serving on a New Life Ministry Team but don't know much about the current ministries?? Well, you're in Luck, (actually you're in Dresser) on **Sunday August 30th** we will have a Ministry Team Fair after Service. We will have the large classroom across from the kitchen set up to display all the various ministry teams at New Life. There you will get to hear more about each ministry and ways to serve as well as the opportunity to meet the team leaders. We are grateful for the many gifts God has appointed to each member of the body of Christ. May these ministries represented at the fair as well as the ones already happening organically be used unto the Glory of Christ and for the building up of the saints in love.

Attention Last Year Immerse Students

If you were a student in our Immerse classes and filled out a workbook last year, they have been placed on the Welcome Table for you to pick up and take home.

Hosea

The Call to Return to the Savior

Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,
HOSEA 7:3-7

Sermon Notes: