

Join Us As We Celebrate Only Jesus



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, September 18, 2022

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Pastoral Pondering

The Gift Of God's Glory

This week I have been thoroughly blessed by our local body. I have the privilege of serving on the elder board and part of that service this week has been to fill in for Pastor/Elder Tony Minell for the Thursday Men's group. I felt like one of those pictures of a toddler trying on the shoes of their parent. It is good. It is good when God asks us to stretch beyond our comfort zone. I love that group of men and the time together, but it is one thing to sit and listen and throw out random thoughts (something I am particularly adept at) and quite another thing to try and walk through an assigned passage with mature Christian men and make it organized, meaningful, and an accurate representation of the Truth. Add to this the fact that I did not realize it was my Thursday morning until Wednesday at about 7pm and it seems just a little too much outside the comfort zone. Nonetheless, God is faithful and all He asks is a willing heart.

Exodus 34:29-35 "When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him."

What a quizzical passage! Why two trips up the mountain? Why were the prior two sets of discussions between God and Moses so different? Were the commands written on the two sets of tablets the same or different? Was it just the ten commandments on the stones? What about all the other commands of the previous 14 chapters? How did all the commands of God get written legibly on two stone tablets that fit in the palm of Moses' hand? Why did Moses' face shine this time? Why were the people afraid to come near Moses? Why did he put a veil over his face after he talked with the people? And that is just a partial list. Having been through medical school, I knew that I could put something together between 7 pm and 6 am but I was not at all sure it would make any

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Pastoral Pondering

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sense. So, I did what any true man would do faced with such a huge task. I asked my wife to help me. Now I know you might be a little appalled. What?! A woman giving me insight to share with a men's group? Rest assured I never told the guys. But seriously that is what I have been pondering this week.

In the end the group went through the text like we always do. Combing the scripture, going on rabbit trails, sharpening each other, and ending with new glimpses of our God and our Savior. And I loved it. This group is a huge blessing. The knowledge and love of Jesus is palpable every Thursday morning. But this was only a small part of the blessing I received this week. The larger portion was the time spent with my wife. We often read scripture together, do studies or books of the Bible together, and share insights we have gleaned, but this was different. Sitting together in what seemed at the time a tense moment asking God together for His insight and actually listening to each other and the wisdom that comes from God through your spouse, in a time of need, was glorious. As we talked, we saw Jesus so clearly in that Old Testament passage. We saw the two different attempts to convey the will of God to man from the mountain. One the commands that we often read as prescriptive "Do Nots" and the other the unavoidable intention of a loving Father bent on Glorifying Himself in the process of rescuing Adam's hell bound race. Perhaps this is the reflection that shines in Moses' face as the glory of what God is doing begins to dawn on his countenance.

I listened as my wife recounted another related passage she remembered from Corinthians. Now it made sense. For us now the Son has fully dawned and we have revelation and access that Moses could only glimpse at.

2 Corinthians 3:15 -18 "Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift but even more for His Glory!!

Rene Milner



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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Women's Precepts– 6:30-8 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	Immerse– 6:15-7:30 pm
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)

September Memory Verse:

Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

September Fellowship Tip:

There are many ways we use gifts of the Spirit; one of those ways can be in serving on a New Life Ministry Team. If you haven't yet, take a look at those listed in the newsletter.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Sept 18 Team 4 ~ Rice & Beans
Sept 25 Team 5 ~ Breakfast

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

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **SPECIAL CARE OF NEW PARKING LOT PAVING:** For the next month, please be careful to only turn your steering wheel when your vehicle is moving (a good practice any time, for that matter.) Turning the steering wheel of a stationary vehicle can seriously harm asphalt; we need to protect our investment!
- **Video Ministry:** If anyone is looking for an opportunity to serve your brothers and sisters who are unable to attend services the video ministry is in need of a switcher and a camera operator. If interested or wanting more info please contact Jim Mabee @ 651-470-4172 or talk to someone on the team.
- **Immerse:** Our Wednesday Night Discipleship classes started last week **September 14th, meeting each Wednesday from 6:15-7:30pm.** Please consider joining in each week throughout the school year. We call it Immerse as we desire to Immerse ourselves in the study of the Word as a whole family mid-week. There are children classes from age 0-8th grade and the adults and young adults will be all together in one class. The children will continue in solid curriculums that help to support parents in gospel centered conversations in the home and our adults will spend the first half of the year studying though the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. We hope you consider coming seeing these times as a way to invest in the lives of this body that we might all together be mutually built up in the Lord through the study and fellowship over His Word.
- **Hall of Men:** Men, it's coming back again...yes you guessed it, Hall of Men **Sunday, September 25th at 6:30 pm.** Men young and old come as we rehearse the core confessions of our faith and look at the testimony of Jesus in the life of another man of faith from the past.

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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.

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. We would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

Today's Passage:
Jim Nelson's message is from the
New Testament book,
Romans 8:1-4

Sermon Notes: