

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

Sun, September 26, 2020

Vol. 13, Issue 50

Pastoral Ponderings

As the weather changes the warm scent of burning wood (can a scent be warm?) fills the cool morning air. Wood-heated homes are warming up. That scent immediately transports me to a new (and old) season. Memories of this season begin to flood back, and the dreams of new memories are awakened.

The potency of scent is so evocative, so powerful, that though we are months away from it, Christmas memories flood my mind. Those songs we know so well are dusted and taken off the shelf. “O Come, All Ye Faithful” begins playing in my mind. My mind’s chorus begins “The First Noel.”

Like scents, these songs, along with countless other songs that we know so well, transport us to memories of years gone by. In the same way, when singing some of the great hymns of the faith, I find myself reliving the memories formed when those songs became “my” songs. Songs are meant to do this.

Part of their purpose, as we observe throughout God’s Word, is to transport the singer to a past moment – wherein the Lord did a mighty deed.

The first of these Scriptural odes was composed by Adam in Genesis 2. The Lord creates for Adam a helper “fit” for him – and, it was love at first sight! Adam sings (and I think he danced!), “This, at last is bone of my bone...!” Forever we can sing and remember the way the Lord blessed Adam with a helpmeet perfect for him (husbands – sing this song over your beloved helpmeet!).

Immediately after the Lord brought His people through the Red Sea, Moses and the people of Israel sang the song recorded in Exodus 15:1-18. The purpose was for subsequent generations to remember what the Lord had done!

In Scripture, song after song is recorded for the purpose of remembering His story. History’s scent is captured in the rhythm, tune and words of what should be our favorite songs.

It is no wonder then, that in Scripture, the Lord regularly commands us to “sing a new song” to the Lord. This refrain (which is fittingly a song in and of itself) occurs in Isaiah, Revelation and throughout the Psalms.

What is most surprising to *me* about this repeated call to “sing the Lord a new song” is its assumption. A regular call to all subsequent generations to sing a new song to the

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Pastoral Ponderings Cont.

Lord assumes that the Lord will always be doing a new work. If the songs of the past are a testament to what God has done, the call to sing new songs assumes that God is and will be at work today.

In other words, we can only obey God's command to sing a new song if we believe that God is at work today. If God is not currently at work, the old ballads would suffice. But Scripture's premise is that God is always at work – and therefore, always worthy of a new song!

Do you believe this?

If we were to look at today's circumstances we may be tempted to *not* sing a *new* song. We might be tempted to limit our Spotify playlist to something like “the best of funeral dirges of days gone by.”

But like the setting of Psalm 96 (please read/sing it), we live in a time when the world needs to know that God is still doing a marvelous work! For even today, He is gloriously worthy of praise!

To sing a new song today is akin to letting the world know that His mercies are new *even* today! He is worthy of a new song even when it does not look like anything positive is happening – He is worthy! For the Christian to sing a new song today is to proclaim that we are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Jesus is actually doing a work in each of us *today* – a work that He will continue until the day of completion. He is changing each of us. The leopard's spots are changing. That is miraculous. That is a subject worthy of a thousand songs every day.

We must resist the belief that He is only worthy of a new song when we like what He is doing. The command to sing God a new song understands His worthiness in all circumstances.

God is doing a new work today, and for that, I publicly rejoice. Let His song be heard among the nations as this new season in which we find ourselves carries a myriad of new scents. And may the scents of this new season fill our storehouses of future memories.

Jesus is at work and in Him, I rejoice.

Blessings,
Pastor Tony Minell

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Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to: • Events • Sermons Online
• Set Lists • New Life Connect • & More

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Tues Men's Bible Study-6:30 am

Wed Immerse Studies-6:15 pm

Thurs Men's Bible Study-6:30 am

Thurs Ladies Study-Matthew-10 am

Thurs Ladies Study- 6:30 pm

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

October 4 Meal Team #6

October 18 Meal Team #1

November 1 Meal Team #2

Fellowship Tip for September:

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

September Memory Verse

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him" James 1:12"

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Announcements

Hall of Men is back! Men young and old, Today @ 6:30 pm!!! Come and learn about the lineage of faith as it has been displayed through men throughout Church history. Come prepared for a comradery and fellowship that is centered on the core confessions of our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Have you wanted to join in a bible study? There is lots going on! Check out the schedule of events on the calendar in the lobby, the New Life App, or found listed in the newsletter to find current studies taking place. If you're interested in starting and facilitating a bible study be sure to take a look at some of the helpful tools in the resource center to get you started.

Visiting? 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. Also plan to stick around after service and continue to fellowship with us in conversations.

A reminder for Sundays and Wednesday nights: Please emphasize to your children that running is not allowed inside the building. We've had some accidents & near-misses the past few weeks. Thanks!

Reach out to a missionary family: Take a moment this week to reach out to one of our missionary families at New Life. You can find information on the Missionary board in the back of the sanctuary or on the New Life website under the Community tab then click Adopt a Missionary or under the Ministry Tab and then click on Overseas Missions. You don't even need to have previously met them (and this would be a start) A simple card or email letting them know you are praying for them and care about them goes further than you can imagine.

Today's Passage

Hosea

The Call to Return to the Savior

Pastor Tony will be teaching
from the book of Hosea.
Our passage for today is
Hosea 9:10-17.

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

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