



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, December 25, 2022

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Pastoral Ponderings

Merry Christmas – The Good News of Christ Jesus.

I recently became aware of a few surveys completed by Pew Research and others which indicated that 45 to 65% of so called evangelical Christians are convinced that Jesus is not the only way to heaven. I think my heart stop beating for a while, I was shocked and then disappointed. I needed to remind myself that we live in a post-modern world where tolerance dominates everything and everybody has a right to his or her opinion; there’s no universal truth and no absolutes. John Piper has an appropriate quote; “The question for the church in every generation is: “Will we submit gladly to the authority of Scripture?” Satan tempted Adam and Eve with this statement, “Did God really say”. He continues to use this lie every-day with us.

But, the Bible clearly teaches us that there is only one way to be saved, only one way to heaven – Jesus Christ who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6. No one comes to relationship with God, no one comes into the presence of God, and no one gets to heaven, except through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no salvation apart from what Jesus achieved in his death and resurrection.

You may ask; why is there only one way to heaven? Pastor Tim Challies makes this point; “The answer is far simpler than we may think. Far more logical, too. There is only one way into heaven because there is only one way out of heaven”. We are all descendants of one man. This first man Adam was our representative. He stood before God as the head of the human race and was able to choose whether we would be at peace with God or at war, whether we would submit to God or rebel against his rule. He chose war. He chose rebellion. And he made this choice not only on his behalf, but on behalf of all who would follow in his line. When he went to war, we went to war.

Each of us has been born in that state of rebellion, with a sinful nature that is inherited from our birth parents and, ultimately, from our first parents. All are born under the dominion of sin, with a nature inclined toward sin, with a desire to commit sin, and, therefore, with hands, feet, minds, and mouths that actually do sin. The psalmist says it well “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does well, not even one.

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

Yet it is on the heels of this bad news that we find such **good news**. Because we are all in the same condition, we all need the same salvation. Because damnation came through one representative, salvation can come through a second. And sure enough, just as all fell in Adam, **all can be made alive in Christ Jesus**. Just as Adam stood before God and was rebellious on our behalf, Jesus stood before God and was obedient on our behalf.

Ultimately, there is only one way into relationship with God because there is only one way out of relationship with God – sin. There is only one way to heaven because there's only one way to hell – rebellion. There is only one way to be saved because there is only one kind of person who needs to be saved – sinful rebels like you and me. The only path to heaven leads through the only Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Romans 3:21-24, it is crystal clear that the redemption that is in Christ Jesus is given by God as the solution for the universal problem of sin. The thought that there are other saviors or other ways of getting right with God besides what is presented in scripture is an imagination of man, not a revelation of God.

Let us resolve never to deny that Christ is the only way to the Father, and let us pray for strength to confess this truth no matter the pressure to say salvation is available through other means as well.

Let's hold on dearly to the saving gospel of Christ Jesus, let's preach this gospel to ourselves every day, and shared it often with others.

Your Brother In Christ,
Jim Nelson

Meal Team Ministry

Are you looking for a way to use your talents or time to serve God?

Consider joining a Sunday Meal Team. If interested, please,

Contact: Barbie Judkins (309) 269-0556,

Barb Manship (612) 804-9793 or Rosie Swisher (763) 458-1261

Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837
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Coffee Ministry

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Meal Relief Ministry

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Missions Outreach

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Music Ministry

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Resource Center

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Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,
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Transportation Services

Art Behr, 715-557-1890
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Week's Schedule of Events

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Women's Precepts– 6:30-8 pm
Tues	Young Adult Study– 6:30 pm
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	No Immerse
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)

Meal Teams

- 1/1 Pot Luck
- 1/8 Meal Team 7 (sloppy joes)

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in joining a meal team.

Fellowship Tip for December

As we enter this season of Advent, share with someone a tradition you have that helps you stay centered on Jesus during this busy time.

December Memory Verse

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Pastoral Eldership Team

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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Cory Mattson, Secretary	715.417.0945
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Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

Announcements

Save the Date: New Life Partners make sure to add to your calendars our Annual Partners Meeting Sunday January 22nd @ 12:30pm. Items that will be voted on include the 2023 Budget, Colleen Firkus filling the Treasurer position, Phil Rice being added to audit committee, and the elder board would like to recognize Brian Nelson as a new elder. If you haven't gotten to meet these brothers and sisters we encourage you to take a moment and connect with them before the meeting in Jan.

Did you know New Life has an App? Yes, even a church body in small town Dresser has an app (we're not north of 8 yet. If you have a smart phone, make sure to download it. Here you can watch service live, listen to past sermons, find event information, read past blogs, receive phone notifications for event reminders and cancellations, view the most recent newsletter, give to the ministry, and much more. Just search in your app store "New Life Christian Community" and you will see the characteristic turquoise cross with white circles.

Are you interested in becoming a partner of New Life Christian Community? Some call it membership, but we call it partnership. We partner together in the ministry of Jesus side by side for His Glory. Being a partner also means you are an active participant in our partner meetings where congregants are voted on to fill certain offices/roles in the body, where the budget is voted on, where matters of the New Life family are shared are brought before the Lord in prayer, and where we celebrate Jesus and His grace in and through us. If you desire to become a partner, be sure to spend some time getting to know the leadership and our statement of faith and observe the functions of the body, then begin by initiating a conversation with any of the elders and each would be more than happy to begin that with you.

Today's Passage



ACTS

Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Acts.
Our passage for today is Acts 24:22-27.

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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