



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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Ministry Highlight-Advent in our Homes

It's that time of year when the world's devices can easily bait us away from the all-important simple scene in Bethlehem towards that frantic flight to get the best deals on gifts and gadgets. Have you found yourself succumbing to the pull of the world?

The great irony is that sometimes even the good things that are added to our schedule are not helpful in really remembering the simple birth of our King. There are Christmas parties to plan, secret-santa gifts to get, and family trips to organize. The very parties, gifts and pilgrimages that are meant to celebrate the coming of the King tend to overshadow the brightest light that ever came into the world.

Consider a few of individual's lives around 2017 years ago (give or take 4 years).

According to Luke 2:8-18 there was a group of shepherds whose lives would be interrupted by the same season that interrupts us. It was night. As normal as the sunset they had witnessed a few hours earlier was, the night was far from usual. Instead their normal routine was interrupted by one of the scariest moments of their lives. The angel that appeared to them was a sight to behold. More than that, to have the glory of the Lord surround them is absolutely stunning! Luke writes, "an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear" (Luke 2:9). It was this same glory in which Moses was allowed to stand (hide) on several earth altering occasions (e.g. see Exodus 24:17-18).

At that moment and at hearing the words of the Angel of the Lord, these shepherds could not constrain themselves to their normal routine. They got up and went to meet this new child. We are not told what happened to their sheep. The point being, meeting the "Savior...Christ the Lord" was all that mattered to them.

Consider that faithful man, Simeon, and that faithful woman, Anna, in Luke 12:25-38. Imagine if Simeon had found himself overrun by the hustle and bustle of life in Jerusalem. What if he had thought, "I'm too tired to go to the temple today..." He would have missed what Luke calls, "the consolation of Israel" – Simeon may have missed the coming of the One that his entire Bible had told him would come.

In like manner, had Anna been bound up with the things of this world, she may have missed the opportunity to proclaim the "redemption of Jerusalem!"

Not to mention the interruption Christ's birth had on Mary and Joseph. Their lives would never be the same. Nor do we have time to consider the Wise Men from the east. This journey to meet "the king of the Jews" (Matt 2:2) would have taken them

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Ministry Highlight Cont.

months. This was a suspension of life to simply visit a baby who had been born. Moreover, the gifts that they had brought Him may have had a significant impact upon their livelihood. These were not white elephant gifts. They were gifts that would impress the wealthiest of kings.

Their wisdom is illustrated in their abandonment of everyday life for the pursuit of a baby born in Bethlehem.

It is not wrong that our everyday life has been interrupted by this time of year, however, the content of our interruption must be entirely wrapped up in Jesus Christ – the Consolation of Israel, the Redemption of Jerusalem, the Glory of the Lord. He deserves all of our attention.

As such, we are asking that each of you consider allowing your everyday routine to be disrupted by a daily advent reading. You should be getting, with this newsletter, a half page Advent reading guide for the first 25 days of December.

Each day there are a few passages marked out to read (some short and others a bit longer). Our purpose in giving you this advent reading is not to add craziness to the routine of life, nor is it to simply be another “religious ceremony.” Our purpose is to give the other interruptions of this time of year their proper context – the fulfillment of all time – namely, Jesus Christ.

Please take some time each day to let your life be interrupted by Jesus Christ. Read these texts privately and/or publicly. Let them shape the content of our conversations within the home and without the home. As we consider these passages, ask yourself how the coming of Christ impacts our understanding of and implications of these texts.

Given our desperate need for a savior, let us together, consider the advent of the coming of our great and awesome Savior.

Indeed, Christ's interruption should quickly become the tone of the rest of our lives. May He disrupt our lives until only He remains.

Blessings, Pastor Tony

Fellowship Tip:

If you see someone serving this morning, consider speaking a word of encouragement to them because their work is a great blessing to the body.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Video Ministry: This is an opportunity to serve those who are unable to join us in person to worship Jesus Christ and to study God's Word on Sunday morning. New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. You can sit with one of the camera operators to see what is involved, talk to anyone on the team about the ministry, or contact Jim Mabee @ 651-470-4172. We'd love to have you on the team.

Sing and Share: Sunday evening December 16th: As we enter this season of celebrating the incarnation, let's gather together to lift our voices in joy-filled song. Also during this evening we will have an open mic to give opportunity for all who would like to share things such as the wondrous works of the Lord in your life, how Christ has drawn your gaze towards Him more this year, or share a certain text from the Word that has served you this year. This is a great opportunity to encourage and spur on your brothers and sisters in Christ to keep trusting and looking to Jesus. Join us @ 6:30 pm at the building and with a warm cup of hot cocoa or coffee in hand, let us rejoice that our Savior has come!

Christmas Eve Service: Monday December 24th, Join us for the Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm at the building. We will gather to sing, pray, and share in a short devotional. Though there will be many gifts given this month, one of the great gifts we receive being in Christ is true fellowship with Him and one another as it says in 1 John 1:3, "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." So please consider who you could invite: family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers that they too may receive Him as Lord and Savior and have true fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to: • Events • Sermons Online •
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This Week's Schedule of Events:

12.5 Women's Bible Study @ 12:30 am
12.5 Immerse @ 6:15 pm
12.6 Men's Bible study @ 6:30 am
12.6 Women's Bible study @ 9:30 am
12.6 Grief Share @ 6:30 pm
12.6 Ezekiel Study @ 7:00 pm
(All meet at the building)

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Dec. 9th Meal Team 1
Dec. 16th Meal Team 2
Dec. 23rd Meal Team 3

December Memory Verse

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Today's Passage

JUDGES
Our Desperate Need for the King

Pastor Tony will be teaching from the
Book of Judges.
Our passage for today is Judges 19:16-30.

New Life has an Instagram account! Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Sign up in the entry way to be added to New Life Connect

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