



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, January 20, 2019

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PASTORAL PONDERING

Down, But Not Out

*"But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. **This will be your opportunity to bear witness.**"-Luke 21: 12-13*

Around every corner in the world today there are empty promises, trials, false witnesses, self-help digests, and idolatrous temptations. As Jesus' words above teach us, there is a cost for worshiping His name. At the core of His words, however, hope is found as He IS hope in and of itself. Teaching the concept of perseverance to my children as they have grown over the years has been one of the most difficult challenges I have faced as a father. It is not because we have not faced trials, as we surely have had many. But I find it challenging to help them understand that perseverance pays off...that finding joy and hope in trials produces a harvest.

Each of my children have decided to pursue athletics in some way shape or form, be it basketball, baseball, cross country, or wrestling. What I have come to appreciate about the fact that they play sports are all of the amazing opportunities that come about to discuss this very concept. Some of them have faced trials with teammates, with their own limitations athletically, with tough losses, and with experiences of self-inflation and self-righteousness.

It was a recent event, however, that the Lord provided an incredible example of perseverance for my youngest son during a wrestling tournament. At the end of the first period, he found himself down 0-5. In the second period, he happened to take his opponent down and the period ended with a score of 2-5. As they headed into the 3rd period, Uriah had 60 seconds to find a way to make up three points to have a chance. What I noticed about my son, however, was that his focus seemed different than in years past. Historically, he would have been emotional, not able to think clearly, and panic would have started to settle in and overwhelm him. This time, he was laser- focused and listening. He chose the down position so that he could get a point for an escape and then try to tie things up by taking his opponent down. That is not how things went, however. In quick order, Uriah reversed his opponent and the score was 4-5 with 35 seconds left as the time was stopped on account of them sliding off of the wrestling mat. At that point, Uriah could either let his opponent go, giving him a point for an escape making the score 4-6, which would have allowed him to try for another take down to tie it up.

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Pastoral Pondering

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Or, he could work to turn his opponent over to try and get back points or win with a pin. Ultimately, he ended up holding his opponent down, flipping him over, and getting three back points to win the match with a score of 7-5. As a father, I was so excited for my son...not because of the fact that he had won, but because of his perseverance. How much more, then, is our heavenly Father excited or glorified when we persevere through trials for the sake of His name, trusting in his strength to get us through. You see, I took the opportunity to talk with my son Uriah about giving thanks to the Lord for giving him the perseverance to overcome. Why, you might ask...because the glory is the Lord's! It is He who overcomes, and He is where strength comes from during times of trial.

"Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives." -Luke 21:14-19

Brothers and sisters in Christ, pray with me that we will all be eagerly calling upon the Lord during the trials we may face, lest we find ourselves bloated with self-righteousness and self-worship. The battle has already been won; victory was established through Christ's death and resurrection, for we are truly loved by a great and awesome God!

Your brother in Christ, Zack Fugate

January Memory Verse

John 14:6

"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ESV

Starting today we will be delaying our meal about 10 minutes after church service ends. This will allow our Sunday meal team members to attend church service start to finish. Look for the meal teams to open the French doors to begin passing through the line. Thank you to all who serve in this ministry!

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.

Fellowship Tip: Want to build a deeper relationship with one another? Consider serving in a ministry team. Ministry Team Leader information can be found in the newsletter.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SANCTITY OF LIFE PRAYER

Set aside Tuesday evening, **January 22nd**, 7:00-8:30 pm for prayer at the New Life building. The effects of doing what "is right in our own eyes" regarding Human Life are chilling. Approximately 885,000 abortions took place in the US in 2016, (https://abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/.) That statistic from just one year implies that we are a country full of severely wounded women and men. Countries in the EU have legalized the euthanasia of children. 400,000 frozen embryos are in storage in the US. May the Lord have mercy on us, awaken us, direct us, heal us, and make us a people that stand with Him, the Author of all life, in these days.

2019 MEN AND WOMENS RETREAT

Please don't forget to check out the retreat taking place right here in the valley. Do you hear my voice? Do you know my name? The 2019 Conference "He Seeks, the God of the Bible" is taking place at Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederic, WI on **January 25th - 27th**. Space is limited. The conference is open to Men and Women. For details please see the flier on the welcome table in the entrance or text Rene Germain at (715) 417-4363.

CEF

CEF's **CYIA Winter Retreat** for teens is **February 1st-3rd**. Teens, register for a weekend of snow games, board games, worship, food, fellowship, teaching on God's Word and more. For more info: 715-263-4344 or stcroixvalley@cefwi.org. To register (**due January 28th**) go to www.winterretreat.cefwi.org

CEF will also be holding teacher training at Alliance Church of the Valley **February 9th** from 9:00-noon. Topics will include *Adverse Childhood Experiences training*. Open to babysitters, Immerse teachers, school teachers, parents...Call 715-263-4344 to register.

SHOP AND SWAP

Mark your calendars for the SCV MOPS vendor fair and clothing swap fundraiser happening at Hope Church in Osceola, Wisconsin, on **Saturday, February 23rd**. If you are a vendor or have crafts and would like to participate (or know someone who would!), please register by January 25th. Contact stcroixvalleymops@gmail.com for an application. If you would like to help volunteer at the event, please contact Lorraine Anderson. Thank you so much for your support of our local SCV MOPS group where we strive to "encourage and equip moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with the local church" (MOPS International).

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Just a reminder that the Backpack Program continues to need your support. Please consider bringing in pouches of brownie mix and muffin mix for our local kids in school.

Upcoming Potluck/Meal Teams:

Jan 27 Meal Team #7
Feb 3 Potluck Team #1

Please join us for fellowship and a meal following our service today!

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Jim Nelson	651.283.2132

This Week's Schedule of Events @ NLCC:

Jan 22 Prayer Vigil 7:00-9:00 pm
Jan 23 Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm
Jan 23 Immerse Family Studies 6:15 pm
Jan 24 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am
Jan 24 Women's Bible Study 9:30 am
Jan 24 ALL GriefShare Folks 6:30 pm
Adults and Youth meet separately
Jan 24 Ezekiel Bible Study 7-8:30 pm

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

• Events • Sermons Online • New Life Connect • Set Lists • & More

Today's Passage:
(THE SUSPENCE CONTINUES...)

Sermon Notes: