



# 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, March 15, 2020

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## PASTORAL PONDERING

### *Corona*

I was thinking about this pondering and trying to decide what things as of late have occupied my consciousness. As I tried to think about pertinent spirit filled topics and pay attention to my regular scripture reading, I was continually interrupted by one chain of thoughts. As much as I have recently tried to forget it, the topic kept coming back to me in various forms. Hard as I would try to "fix my mind on things above" this intrusive thought continued. Why was I dwelling on this "non-spiritual" thought? So, in the end I have decided to write this pondering on this "non-spiritual" topic. ***How to handle the Corona (CoVid-19) virus.***

Unless you have been hiding under a rock for the last couple of months, you have probably heard a ton of "information" about this particular Pandemic. It seems like there is often one of two responses to this. Bury your head in the sand or run wild with your hair on fire. What is the Christian's response to our current predicament? What impact should this have on us?

For those of us who are believers, should anything appear different? I would argue it should. As the world shuts down its businesses and turns it back on its neighbors, should we follow suit? I would argue we don't. Here's why. This is not a surprise to us. Disease has been a part of our fallen world since just after the beginning and we know why. Disease often leads to death. The world (and particularly America) has turned to science as the answer to, and savior from disease and death. We know that is wrong. The world fears death and to a large part that is the reason they fear disease. We know that we cannot truly die and so much of the reason for concern is removed. Of course, we would be foolish to run headlong into trouble, but neither should we faint back from doing what it is He calls us to do. We should wash our hands, but we should not shrink back from lending a hand to those in need or a hug to those who are broken. We should stay home if we are sick, but we should not forsake meeting together and building each other up. More and more as we see the day approaching. We should travel only as necessary but realize that the only truly safe place to be is in the center of His will. We should not lean on our own understanding but trust the LORD with all our heart and He will direct us. This situation should not make us afraid but while we are afraid, we should cast our cares on Him because He cares for us. There is nothing that escapes Him, and this very situation has been known to Him since the beginning. And as strange as it may seem this thing is part of all things and it will work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. How is it that God would have us work in this

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## PASTORAL PONDERING

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situation? Love one another. Reach out to the lost. Trust in Him with all our heart. Which is what we should be doing at all times and in all places. If this particular time and place is unusual to us, then perhaps we need to ask ourselves how we have been doing these things up to now? I don't want to be particularly harsh but as believers, we are called to work at everything as if working for the LORD. If it is a stretch for us to carry on business as usual, we need to ask ourselves if we are usually doing His business.

Only God and I are able to tell that about my life. As always it is only through Him and usually on my knees that I can discern the true cause of my actions or my worries. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!

As we stumble through in this uncertain time may every thought of our heart, every word of our mouth and every action that we take bring glory to Him and Him alone.

TGBTG (To God Be The Glory),

Rene Milner

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## Oh, Those Bugs!

New Life family, as you are all aware, there have been many 'bugs' going around lately (aside from Corona): coughs, runny noses, and all the sorts. Since we are a close-knit church family (Praise the Lord for our fellowship), we can more easily pass on these bugs. There has also been a lot of community chatter and new reports of specific bugs to be aware of. As you consider attending Bible studies, classes, and services, we ask that you simply do what would be normally practiced during these "cold seasons." Wash hands often and, when appropriate, stay home, rest, and get better.

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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. In addition, you're invited to join us for our meal after service. We would love to meet and to get to know you, and what better way to meet someone new, than sharing a meal together.

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Kid Choir!** Pastor Bennett is looking for a bunch of kids (ages 5ish - 12ish?) to start an occasional "kid choir" for Sunday services. We'll practice the next few weeks in one of the classrooms after the service. Let him know if you're interested.
- ❖ **Woman's Book Study** is meeting this **Monday evening, March 16th**. We're going through the book, *Even Better than Eden*, by Nancy Guthrie. Feel free to jump in even if you haven't been reading the book. We **meet at the building @ 7:00pm**. If you have any questions or want to purchase the book make sure to talk to Sara Gallagher.
- ❖ **Movie Showing:** Tri-County Options for Women is sponsoring a showing of the movie *Unplanned* this week on Friday evening. New Life will be hosting this free showing at the building **March 20th starting @ 6:30pm**. Feel free to invite others to attend. You can find a flyer for the event on the welcome table.
- ❖ Mark your calendars. The **St Croix Valley Men's Retreat** is set for **Friday and Saturday, April 3rd & 4th @ Oak Forest Retreat Center** in Frederic, WI. Brochures and registration are on the welcome table. Anticipate being challenged and sharpened in the faith as we study God's word and fellowship together. Be thinking and praying now about who you could invite, neighbors, co-workers, family and friends. Contact Pastor Paul if you have questions.
- ❖ Consider and pray about who you can invite to our upcoming **Good Friday (April 10<sup>th</sup>)** and **Easter Service (April 12<sup>th</sup>)**. On the welcome table you will find invite cards that you can hand to your neighbors, co-workers, or friends.
- ❖ **Saturday April 18th**, we will be having a **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** for our trip to Albania to bless and encourage one of our missionary families, the Llapushi's. Breakfast begins at **9:00am**. During this time, you can hear more about the trip and goals and join with us in praying for the ministry in Albania and for the team going. If you're interested in helping make and serve the pancakes or have a griddle please reach out to Nate Gustafson.
- ❖ Kelli Carlson is facilitating an **'Open Clean Night'** from **6:30pm-8:30pm** at the building **every Thursday evening** for anyone wanting to volunteer and serve in keeping our building clean. Tasks would include basic cleaning, sweeping, mopping, dusting, etc. Many hands make light work. If you're interested or know of someone that is in need of volunteer hours please contact Kelli for more information.

### Upcoming Sunday Bring-a-dish/Meal Teams:

March 22	Meal Team #7
March 29	Meal Team #1
April 5	Bring-a-Dish (P#2)

**Fellowship and a meal follow our service today - Please stay and join us!**

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### Schedule of Events Week of March 15-21

Tues	<b>Men's Bible Study</b> 5:30 am
	Our Place Café - SCF
Wed	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> 12:30 pm
Wed	<b>Immerse Family Studies</b> 6:15 pm
Thurs	<b>Men's Bible Study</b> 6:30 am
Thurs	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30/10 am
Thurs	<b>GriefShare - Adult /Youth</b> 6:30 pm
	Adult and Youth meet separately

**March Memory Verse:** **Ephesians 4:31-32**  
*"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."* ESV

### *March Fellowship Tip:*

Take a moment this week and reach out to one of our missionaries. You and/or your family would be such a blessing by just sending an email, card, making a phone call, or a Skype chat.



Today's Passage:

Pastor Paul's message is from the New Testament book,

[Titus 2:11-15](#)

Sermon Notes: