



# 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, March 29, 2020

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## Ministry Highlight

### **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God**

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"* ~Matthew 5:8. To see God, is a Hebrew term for standing before God. (Psalm 11:7,) *"For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see His face."* As students of God's Word, we come to understand that the subject of purity of heart can be traced from Genesis to Revelation.

The Beatitudes are a wonderful description of those who are in the kingdom. As you read the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-12, you see that these verses are progressive, following logically one after another, and they form something of an outline for the whole Sermon on the Mount, Matthew chapters 5-7. While each beatitude stands on its own, each is linked progressively to the one following it. Like pearls in a necklace they are strung together; each building on the previous one. And, you'll see that Jesus is concerned about the condition of our heart in a big way!

Let's take a look at the historical context for the Beatitudes. When Jesus began His ministry, Israel was in a desperate condition, political, economically and spiritually. For hundreds of years, Israel was under oppression from foreign conquerors. But their biggest issue was their spiritual condition. The Pharisees had taken Judaism into a legalistic and ritualistic religious system. They were more concerned about the external view of their religion vs. their inward heart condition toward God. And, Jesus wasted no time highlighting this critical point.

In Scripture the heart represents the inner person, our motives, attitudes, thinking process and particularly our will. In other words, the heart is the control center of our mind, emotion, and will. This is why scripture spends so much time focusing on the condition of our heart.

Here's just a small sampling of verses; Proverb 4:23, *"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."* In Psalms 51, David cries out to the Lord, *"Create in me a clean heart."* Jeremiah declared, *"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick."* ~Jeremiah 17:9. There are many more verses in scripture that talk about our heart. This would be a great word study for you this week, now that we are more or less locked in our homes due to the coronavirus.

I'm particularly fond of this quote from Charles Spurgeon "True religion is heart-work. We may wash the outside of the cup and the platter as long as we please, but

*Continued-->*

## Ministry Directory

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## Pastoral Ponderings cont.

if the inward parts be filthy, we are filthy altogether in the sight of God, for our hearts are more truly ourselves than our hands are; the very life of our being lies in the inner nature, and hence the imperative need of purity within.”

Here are some thoughts as we walk daily for purity of heart:

First, we must realize that we are unable to live a single pure and holy moment without the Lord’s guidance and power.

Second, we must stay in God’s Word. It is impossible to stay in God’s will apart from His Word.

Third, it is essential to be controlled by and walking in the will and way of the Holy Spirit.

Fourth, we must pray. We cannot stay in God’s will or understand and obey His Word unless we stay near Him.

Let us seek to keep our hearts pure that we might see God in our lives today. As we strive for purity each and every day with God’s help, we find a degree of happiness and joy that is hard to explain. A pure heart means a single focused heart, not divided between God and this world. When our hearts are purified at salvation we begin to live in the presence of God. We begin to see and to comprehend Him with our new spiritual eyes. Purity of heart cleanses the eye of the soul so that God becomes very visible. And just as impurity of heart separates men from God, only purity of heart through Jesus Christ will reconcile men to God.

When we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are given positional purity, God imputes to us Christ’s own righteousness, what amazing grace!

With the backdrop of this horrible coronavirus spreading around the world, what joy it is knowing Christ is with us and we can rest fully in Him.

Your brother in-Christ,  
Jim Nelson

## Announcements

**New Life Directory:** If you haven't already, please take a moment to send an email to Julie Minell ([mrs.minell@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs.minell@yahoo.com)) with updates to your contact information for the 2020 New Life Directory. We're compiling names, address, phone numbers and email addresses. If you have a picture of you/family please attach it to the email. Unlike previous directories where we took formal pictures, we're simply asking you to send whatever formal or informal picture you have. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Sunday Music:** Pastor Bennett has put together this Sunday's music in a Spotify music playlist. Take some time to listen to the music that we would have sung corporately this weekend. Though we are apart physically, we are together in the Spirit (Colossians 2:5). You can find the link posted on Connect and also you can access it through the New Life App under "Sunday's Worship Setlist"

**New Life Connect:** If you have not been added to New Life Connect, please call or email one of the pastors to sign you up. This is a safe a secure way to post prayer requests, share encouragements, attach links to helpful articles you read, and so much more. Also, If you have a smart phone, make sure to download our New Life App where you can listen to past sermons, read our blog, receive notifications, view the most recent newsletter, and much more.

**Giving:** You may have been accustomed to giving financially through the offering box at the building and now are wondering how else you can be giving. There are a few other great ways to keep supporting the ministry financially at this time. You can give online thorough the website under the "Giving" tab and also through the app under "Give Cheerfully". Just follow the prompts on the screen to set up a one-time or recurring gift amount. You can also mail a gift in the form of a check to the New Life Address @ 201 State Road 35 North Dresser, WI 54009.

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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### Check out New Life Online

[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

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

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**All of New Life's weekly events are cancelled until further notice.**

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### Fellowship Tip for March:

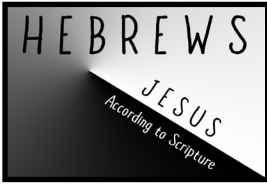
Take a moment this week and reach out to one of our missionaries. You and/or your family would be such a blessing by just sending an email, card, making a phone call, or a Skype chat.

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### March Memory Verse

"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." Eph. 4:31-32

## Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be teaching from the book of Hebrews. Our passage for today is Hebrews 13:17-19.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • [nlcc.dresser@gmail.com](mailto:nlcc.dresser@gmail.com)

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at [pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com)