



# 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, April 19, 2020

Vol. 13, Issue 27

## PASTORAL PONDERING

### GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Double-dose on the "Lord's Prayer" study from last week! Today I would like to explore the prayer, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*"

The Christian worldview sees that *all things* belong to God, and therefore all things we have, and need are graciously given to us by God. When we pray, "*Give us this day our daily bread,*" we are asking and trusting God to give us everything we need for *today*. We live life one step at a time, which is why Jesus tells us to not be so anxious about the issues of the future, but rather to trust him in the here and now—present tense.

What is *daily bread*? In a word, everything. "Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body," says Martin Luther.

We ask and trust that God will *provide* for us—He'll take care of us and give us what we need. But this all leads to a difficult question: Why, then, is there deprivation? Why is there poverty? If we can trust God to take care of us the way Jesus talks about in **Matthew 6**, then why are there so many people who look like they are *not* getting everything they need? These questions may become more potent as we carry on through this COVID-19 crisis.

It would be cruel and unbiblical to say that deprivation comes from lack of faith. Faith is a crucial aspect of the Christian life, but it is not a push-button to access God. Faith is not like a coin to put into a vending machine. Prosperity-gospel believers beware.

The short answer to the question 'why deprivation?' is that we live in a fallen world, and one of the consequences of the fall is deficiency in every area—including food, clothing, and shelter. The gospel remedies all of these deficiencies but in God's timing and in His way. An old African American spiritual says, "*God don't come when you want him to, but he's always right on time.*" A Christian must recognize that God knows better than we do.

The Bible is all about redemption, and this redemption we receive in Christ is very springboard for Christians to be involved in God's redemptive work in this world.

When Paul was pleading to the Corinthians to give generously for the cause of the needy Christians in Jerusalem, he made the argument that *all of us* were once poor, but are now rich in God's grace. And because of this we all ought to be generous to others in need. How were we made rich in grace? By the sacrifice of Jesus.

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2 Corinthians 8:9: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."*

This means that putting forth efforts to help those in need around us is not just a way for us to obey God's command; rather it should be a direct result of embracing what Jesus has already done for us. We become rich by the poverty of Jesus—rich in the way that transcends material wealth.

Our view of wealth is often so narrow—we cannot see past this world. But the riches we have in Christ include *and* transcend this world—we have the promised reality of a new heaven and new earth where we will spend eternity in perfect peace and joy, where our ultimate possession is our Savior Himself.

Everything else we have in this world, all the 'daily bread' we receive, we see merely as good gifts from our heavenly Father. They do not rule us, and we can live without them as long as our ultimate wealth is found in Christ. When we see how generous *He* was with us, we are empowered to live lives of generosity for those around us.

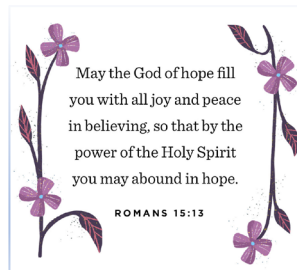
Pastor Bennett

### ONLINE RESOURCES:

Pastor Tony not too long ago brought our attention to an online site that was a great resource for obtaining some literary finds for your quarantine consumption.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/free-discounted-books-quarantine/>

One of the things I found useful was the "ESV Bible Verse Cards for Covid" located at this site. I have posted several of these cards on my refrigerator for my family to soak in each affirmation of God's promises during these troubling times. If you are not able to find this pdf document, just email me at [djholm@lakeland.ws](mailto:djholm@lakeland.ws) and I will send you a copy. A couple examples are shown below:



Blessings, Dawn Holm

### MINISTRY DIRECTORY:

Building & Grounds Ministry  
Jim Judkins 715.338.8837  
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[robinmattson27@gmail.com](mailto:robinmattson27@gmail.com)

Immerse Ministry  
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Danielle Panik: 715.554.2214  
[dhischer@gmail.com](mailto:dhischer@gmail.com)

Missions Outreach  
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[lrnilner@gmail.com](mailto:lrnilner@gmail.com)

Music Ministry  
Pastor Bennett Anderson: 920.395.8548  
[bennett.lyle86@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.lyle86@gmail.com)

Newsletter Administration  
Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453  
[djholm@lakeland.ws](mailto:djholm@lakeland.ws)

Resource Center  
Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945  
[cory79mattson@hotmail.com](mailto:cory79mattson@hotmail.com)

Sunday Meal Services  
Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or  
715.755.3330  
[barb@pbmpkmanship.com](mailto:barb@pbmpkmanship.com)

Transportation Services  
Art Behr: 715.220.6882  
[behrden1@charter.net](mailto:behrden1@charter.net)

Video Ministry  
Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
[jmabee@centurytel.net](mailto:jmabee@centurytel.net)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS >

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

ALL OF NEW LIFE'S WEEKLY  
EVENTS ARE CANCELLED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

### April Memory Verse:

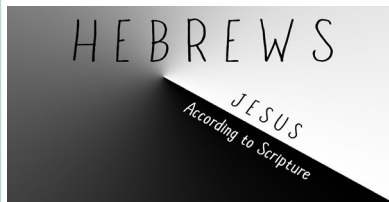
Galatians 5:24-25

"And those who belong to  
Christ Jesus have crucified  
the flesh with its passions and  
desires. If we live by the  
Spirit, let us also keep in step  
with the Spirit." ESV

### *April Fellowship Tip:*

Be sure to be reaching out to  
your New Life family often! Get  
creative in ways to bear one  
another's burdens and  
encouraging one another daily.  
Consider phone calls, video  
chats, writing letters, sending  
cards. etc.

- ❖ During the **Livestream of the Service** as you are listening and thinking through the sermon text, we encourage you to take those questions to our chat room or make comments on our Sunday Service Post on New Life Connect and discuss the text together. Shortly after the service the sermon will be uploaded and available anytime thereafter to view.
- ❖ **Help Pastor Bennett** get his master's degree! Part of Pastor Bennett's degree requirements is working towards a number of supervised counseling hours. So, if you or anyone you know could benefit from some FREE biblical counseling, reach out to Bennett soon. You will be helped and equipped by God's Word, and Bennett will be that much closer to graduation!
- ❖ 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 at 201 State Road 35 North, Dresser, WI 54009.
- ❖ Have you checked out the pastor/elder **Morning Chat** videos? Each morning (except Sundays) one of the pastors or elders posts a short video chat. The videos range in topic and length and are done to be a blessing, for building up, and to keep the conversations and fellowship going as much as were able during this time. You can find these videos on our Facebook page, on the website ([newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)), on the New Life phone App, and you can find it as a post on Connect. If you need help navigating these sites or would like a DVD with these videos, please reach out to any of the pastors.
- ❖ Have you ever contacted someone from New Life asking for the contact information of someone else from New Life? I have. The **Directory Submissions** have slowed down a bit, but I know there are many of you out there who have not made a submission. Mind taking a minute and sending me your name, phone numbers, address, email addresses? A picture would be helpful as well. Please send them to: [mrs.minell@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs.minell@yahoo.com) The short minute it takes to send me that email today will help ease the frustration and trouble others will have later when they want to contact you. Many thanks!  
Julie Minell



Today's Passage:

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

**HEBREWS 13:22-25**

Sermon Notes: **(Last Sunday in Hebrews!)**