



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, September 13, 2020

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PASTORAL PONDERING

CHAOS

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:1-2

2020 has been an interesting year! Covid 19, universal quarantine, social unrest, protesting, rioting, looting, a Presidential impeachment, and an upcoming election. You can't watch TV including sports and avoid the obvious craziness going on in this country. I think the word that comes to mind is chaos.

The definition of chaos is a state of extreme confusion and disorder. The word chaos derives from a Greek word meaning "chasm" or "void", which makes sense, given that chaos also refers to the formless state of matter before creation. In the creation story we can see that chaos was amoral, it wasn't good or bad prior to creation. It is also interesting to note that water is often spoken as being synonymous with chaos. This is evident in the Great Flood, the crossing of the Red Sea and Jesus calming the storm and waves.

This year it would be easy to find oneself depressed, anxious, fearful and hopeless which are common results of ongoing exposure to chaos, but I want to give you words of hope from the esteemed author Deepak Chopra who said "All great change is preceded by chaos." Although Deepak Chopra is known as a New Age leader, I believe in this sense he is correct.

Creation started with a formless void or "chaos" and Jesus the creator made the heavens and the earth. He created Light to separate the darkness and man and woman, "and God saw that it was good." Order came from chaos. Things went well until man rebelled from God in the Garden of Eden thereby causing chaos once again to return, but this chaos was no longer amoral it became associated with evil and separation from God and ultimately death.

With the original sin, chaos continued to grow, with murder and mayhem becoming common. Brother killed his brother, incest, drunkenness, and wars ensued.

Throughout Scripture God has used chaos for good. God used the chaos of the Great Flood to restore order through Noah and his family. God also used the Red Sea to lead His people to freedom from the slavery they had endured. Ultimately,

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we see that God used the cross and the ultimate chaos, the death of His own Son Jesus Christ to return order for you and me.

In his book, From Chaos to Cosmos: Creation to New Creation, by Sidney Greidanus, the author sums up the chaos of this world by stating, “Thankfully, the God who conquered chaos by saying “Let light shine out of darkness” is able to shine in our dark, sinful hearts, bringing new creation life through the same Holy Spirit who brooded over the dark, chaotic waters in the beginning.”

Although 2020 seems to be particularly chaotic as another school year starts (masks and all), we need to remember we are new creations no longer burdened by the chaos of our sin. We are redeemed once and for all due to the chaos of the cross! We need to share this message to the world that is consumed by hate and violence. As my friend’s sign on his lawn in Osceola proclaims “Jesus 2020” let this be our ongoing message!

Blessings, Greg Mattson

Fall GriefShare Season Begins

Starting September 17th, a journey from mourning to joy! Do you or someone you know need help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend? Often friends and family want to help you, but don't know how. That's the reason for GriefShare. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief. We understand how you feel because we've been in the same place. We will walk with you on the long path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

Each meeting during the 13 weeks will have a video, discussion and personal workbook. There is never any pressure to speak. Confidentiality is respected. No fee.

Join us here at New Life Christian Community in Dresser on **Thursday evening, September 17th at 6:30 p.m.** Someone will greet you at the front door! (Beginning any week is ok). Adults and Youth will meet in different rooms. **For more information please contact NLCC pastors at 715.201.2295 or Robin Mattson at 715.566.1945. www.griefshare.org

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Wed	Immerse Studies-6:15 pm
Wed	Young Adult Study- 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Study-Mattflew-10 am
Thurs	Ladies Study- 6:30 pm

September Memory Verse:

James 1:12

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him." ESV

September Fellowship Tip:

Have you begun a prayer/discipleship relationship with someone from New Life? If not, prayerfully consider whom you can be regularly meeting with for the purpose of growth and sharpening as disciples of Jesus.

Busy Bag Users:

We love being able to supply Busy Bags for your children during service. As a courtesy to the Busy Bag ministry, please put your Busy Bags back where you picked them up following today's service. This will be very helpful. Thank you!

➤ **Ladies Thursday Studies:** Thursday morning *Matthew Study* from 10-Noon will **resume on September 17th**. Also, Thursday evening study currently meets 6:30-8pm at the building. For this study we will be starting an 18-week workbook, *Precept Upon Precept study on Colossians/Philemon*. Books to be ordered soon, contact Shanda Leko 651-465-3154 for more information.

➤ **Women's Book Study:** Ladies of New Life, Sara Gallagher is kindly opening her home again for a women's book study. This group will begin meeting every third Monday of the month starting **Monday, September 21st at 7:00 pm**. If you are interested in attending and would like to know more, feel free to reach out to Sara, 715-294-0748.

➤ **Hall of Men is Back!** Men young and old, starting **Sunday, September 27th at 6:30 pm** and continuing to meet the last Sunday of each month, come and learn about the lineage of faith as it has been displayed through men throughout Church history. Come prepared for a comradery and fellowship that is centered on the core confessions of our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

➤ **Every Man's Battle:** This is a men's fellowship and accountability group that starts **Wednesday, October 14th, 6:00-7:30 am**. The mission of this group is not to focus on a particular sin but to point men towards Christ, with a specific focus on building one another up in Him and battling together in the fight against lust - in all its forms. This group will involve candid discussion, study, and prayer. Men, young and old must know, they are not alone in this fight. *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* James 5:16. Contact Marc Vanderhoof with questions 802-779-2793.

Hosea

The Call to Return to the Savior

Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,
HOSEA 8:9-14

Sermon Notes: