



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 11, 2021

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PASTORAL PONDERING

REJOICE ALWAYS

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." ~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Something hit me while reading the previous verses a few years ago. I knew that rejoicing, praying and giving thanks are things we should be doing, but it struck me that they are God's *will* for us in Christ Jesus. This is what He would have in store for us every day of our lives!

These verses give us three simple commands: rejoice, pray, give thanks. The Apostle Paul also states the reason why we are to do these things: this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

But what if the opposite of this was His will for us? What if we were told to, "always be discontent, negative and dissatisfied; never look to God, talk with Him or trust Him completely; complain, grumble and be bitter in most situations"? Unfortunately, this is often where we tend to reside throughout our day. I need to be reminded that this is *not* the will of God for us. I need to be reminded to Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks! And remember, these are not mere suggestions by God.

There are also two explanations of timing (always, without ceasing) and specific circumstances in which we must give thanks: all of them. But again, we often live our lives diluting the timing of these commands; "I'll rejoice *when* I feel like it, so maybe tomorrow; I'm praying to God because I need an answer from Him in the next five minutes! but I tend to forget to pray when everything is going fine; if something good happens to me I'll thank God, but that's pretty rare." Always. Without ceasing. In all circumstances.

Obedying these commands doesn't just come from self-will or choosing to have a chipper attitude. These actions are an overflow of the *heart*. And we need *God* to change our hearts. This occurs as the grace of the gospel grows deep in us as God sanctifies us to look more like His Son. Therefore, preach the gospel to yourself every day and be amazed that Jesus Christ shed His blood for you! We also need God's help to see beyond our feelings, attitudes and circumstances, knowing that it is He Who is Lord over our lives.

This does *not* mean we try to ignore the brokenness of this world; this does *not* mean we are to just "put on a happy face"; this does *not* mean we should shut-down the feelings and emotions that well up within us. Paul stated

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PASTORAL PONDERING

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that he himself was, “...*sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;*” (2 Corinthians 6:10a). Often, the hurt of this world can brutally weigh us down. We live amongst a fallen world. But, *amidst* the hardships of our lives, God still calls us to rejoice, pray and give thanks. In my own life, I’ve seen how putting these three commands into practice renews my mind, lifts my soul and refocuses me onto Jesus, my Lord and Savior.

Let us approach Him as needy, helpless children (daily!) knowing that, *in* Christ Jesus, we can always rejoice, we can pray without end and give thanks in any situation. His ways are *always* for our good and for His glory.

Pastor Jeff Warren



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. We encourage you to stay after service for fellowship so that we can get to know one another.



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com or call her cell at 651-373-1426.

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am

Tues Young Adult Study- 6:30 pm

Wed Every Man's Battle- 6:00 am

Wed Immerse Studies- 6:15 pm

Thurs Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am

Thurs Ladies Study- 10:00 am

Thurs Ladies Bible Study- 12:00 pm

Thurs Ladies Study- 6:30 pm

Thurs GriefShare-6:30 pm

(Adults & Youth meet separately)

April Memory Verse:

Deuteronomy 32:2-4

"May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he." ESV

April Fellowship Tip:

Are you an avid outdoor person? Next time you go fishing, hiking, running, gardening, etc. invite someone to join you and consider how you might use the opportunity to spur them on in Christ.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

April 18 Meal Team #7

May 2 Meal Team #1

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested being on a meal team.

Check out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

➤ **Young Adult Bible Study:** Young adults! Our next Bible Study is this **Tuesday, April 13th 6:30 pm**. We will be meeting at the New Life building. Bring your Bible and if your musical, feel free to bring an instrument! Be ready to continue on in our study of Genesis. We also welcome the presence of the older ages in order to engage with and invest in our young people as spiritual mothers and fathers and mature brothers and sisters in Christ.

➤ **"Roe Vs. Wade" - Free Movie Playing:** Tri-County Options for Women is putting on this showing of the new movie "Roe Vs. Wade" before it's arrival in theaters. Hear the story behind the most famous and controversial court case in US history. This is a free event offered to the public and hosted at the New Life building, **6:30 pm Friday, April 16th**. PLEASE CALL 715.755.2229 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

➤ **Marriage Foundation Study:** Marriage is a wonderful gift from God that points us to Jesus and the love He has for His bride. But it isn't easy, and we often carry misplaced expectations. We would love for you to join us as we seek to love our spouses in the way God would have us by redirecting our perspectives on God's purposes and design in a marriage with its foundation on Christ.

What: An 8-week group discussion through Paul David Tripp's book "What Did You Expect?"

When: Thursday evenings at 6:00 **starting May 13** and going through July 1

Where: The Linzmeier Home in Osceola

Who: Anyone! Whether you are single, have been married for 2 years or 50 years, we trust that God will use this to make you more like Jesus and to love those around you better.

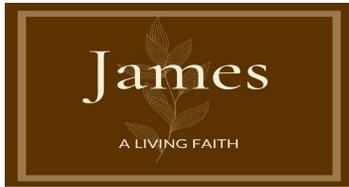
Childcare will be provided. Please note that you will be expected to read roughly 30 pages/week outside of the study (preferably as a couple).

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Paul (pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com). Space is limited, so don't procrastinate! Once you are signed up, we will get a copy of the book to you with additional details.

New Life Connect

Looking for a way to get more connected? We have a private site (New Life Connect) where prayer requests can be shared, needs can be made known, and where announcements with event details or new bible studies are often highlighted. If you're interested on getting signed up all you need is an email address. Just contact Pastor Paul to get signed up.

Also, if you have a smart phone, make sure to download our New Life App. Here you can listen to past sermons, find event information, read past blogs, receive notifications for things like event reminders and cancellations, view the most recent newsletter, and much more.



Today's Passage:
Pastor Paul's message is from the
New Testament book,
JAMES 1:13-18

Sermon Notes: