



# 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, November 15, 2020

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## PASTORAL PONDERING

### "HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD"

Jeremiah 9:23-24 *"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."* (KJV)

When pleading with the Lord three times to remove the thorn from Paul's flesh. The Lord answered Paul.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *"And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

"When I am weak, I am strong" Paul declares. How can this be? And why take pleasure or glory in infirmities? The natural response to weakness and infirmity is to cover it up. So that you may appear boast worthy, if at least not weak and vulnerable. But Paul boasting in his weakness is affirming that in himself there is nothing boast worthy, no strength or wisdom but that he is wholly dependent on Christ for his strength and therefore boasts in Jesus strength. Paul came to the end of himself and gloried in Jesus, knowing that apart from Jesus he could do nothing. And so, it is for the rest of humanity.

When the king of Assyria was boasting of what he had accomplished in conquest. God replied with these words.

Isaiah 10:15 *"Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood!"*

Through Isaiah God shows just how ridiculous it is to boast in accomplishments and abilities when you are but an ax, saw, or rod. A tool has no right to boast. It

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did not come to be on its own accord and cannot accomplish its intended work apart from the one who animates it. You cannot escape the truth that every person is dependent on God for all their strengths, skills, their very existence. Who first gave to the Lord? Whom does He owe? The answer of course is no one. But rather the Lord is the one who gave both life and abilities and has caused the rain to fall on the fields of the just and the unjust. So, if we are recipients of grace then where is there room for boasting? We did not create or sustain ourselves and we could not save ourselves. As Jonathan Edwards famously said, *"You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary."* But rather our boast is to be in Jesus our Creator, Sustainer, and Savior who rescues us from sin and its wages. Taking the wages upon Himself on the cross, dying in our stead and raising again, victorious over the grave.

1 Corinthians 1:22-31 *"For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."*

Your brother in Christ,  
Matt Leko

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY:

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle-6:00 am
Wed	Immerse Studies-6:15 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study-6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study-12:00 pm
Thurs	Ladies Study-Mattfnew-10 am
Thurs	Ladies Study- 6:30 pm

### November Memory Verse:

Ephesians 5:18-20

"...but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." ESV

### November Fellowship Tip:

Have you committed yourself to invest in the work of gospel ministry here at New Life and want to learn more about what it means to become a partner? Take a moment and talk to one of the elders or pastors after service and they would be glad to begin that conversation with you.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

**November 15 Meal Team #3**  
**December 6 Meal Team #4**

*For the immediate future, meals will be served on the 1st and 3rd of each month. As the teams grow and volunteer base increases, we can move to sharing a meal every Sunday. Contact Barbara Judkins if interested.*

- **Wednesday Night Immerse Classes:** For the week of Thanksgiving: Reminder that there will be no Immerse Classes on Wednesday the 25th, and all events on Thanksgiving (Thursday the 26th) will not be meeting.
- **Sunday Meal and Fellowship:** All are encouraged to stay after service today and enjoy an extended time of fellowship over a meal. There is always a need for volunteers to join the meal teams to make and serve the food as well as clean-up afterwards. If you would like to serve in any fashion to help continue make these meals possible please reach out to Barbara Judkins. You can find her contact information in the Ministry Directory of the newsletter.
- **Volunteers Needed:** Current or new Building & Grounds members to take responsibility for two separate functions: 1) Lighting: Monitor lighting throughout the building and replace bulbs, as required. 2) Rodent Control: Monitor traps. Monitor & fill bait stations. Please contact Jim Judkins.

welcome

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 you and get to know and for you to get to know us more, and what better way to meet someone new than sharing a meal together.



Available by the doors

Greeting Card Ministry

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](mailto:lynnjimnelson@gmail.com) or call her cell at 651-373-1426.

# Hosea

The Call to Return to the Savior

Today's Passage:  
Pastor Tony's message is from the  
Old Testament book,  
**HOSEA 13:1-3**

Sermon Notes: