



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, August 31, 2025

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Pastoral Ponderings

True Wisdom from Above

James 3:17-18; *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. (18) And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

James is known as the "show me" book. If you think you are religious, show it by your speech. If you think you have faith, show it by your actions. If you think you have wisdom, show it by your conduct.

Verse 17 teaches us that true wisdom is free from self-interest and strife. This verse lists eight traits or characteristics of true wisdom. The first is purity. People with true wisdom are pure in that they have put aside the vices of a self-seeking nature. This trait provides the secure foundation for all that follows.

The next five traits show the attitude of true wisdom toward other people. Peace-loving means it demonstrates a desire to promote peace between struggling factions. Considerate refers to being reasonable to the demands of others. Submissive indicates a willingness to learn from others by being open to reason. Full of mercy is revealed by offering compassion to those in distress. Full of good fruit is shown by kind actions and helpful deeds to others.

The final two traits describe the essential nature of true wisdom in itself. It is impartial, without prejudice and unwavering in its commitments. True wisdom is sincere, genuine, and open in its approaches to others. Jesus particularly showed his genuineness in his dialogues with Pilate (Please read John 18:33-37)

Verse 18 concludes with a description of the effects of true wisdom. **True wisdom results in a harvest of righteousness, that is, a conformity to God's will.** True wisdom also lets one experience peace, the enjoyment of harmonious relationships between human beings.

As James continually emphasizes, the person who professes to be a Christian proves it by his works in his daily living. The faith that says but does not do is really barren unbelief. Scripture is not suggesting that works merit salvation, but that true faith will not fail to produce the fruit of good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). **This beautifully explains Biblical Justification, (saved by grace through faith in Christ alone) and progressive sanctification (now, being In-Christ, we produce good fruit as we are transformed increasingly into His image).**

As believers, we will possess the Lord's wisdom. And that wisdom will manifest itself in righteous, selfless, and peaceful living. We have the revelation of God's wisdom in Scripture and the teacher and interpreter of God's wisdom in the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

False wisdom belongs to the world, the flesh, and the devil – the three great enemies of the believer (Ephesians 2:1-3). You can always tell when a church or a family follows false wisdom: you will find jealousy, division, selfishness, and confusion. Instead of humbly depending on the Spirit and the Word of God.

The Christian life is a life of sowing and reaping. The Christian who obeys God's wisdom sows' righteousness, not sin; he sows peace, not war. The life we live enables the Lord to bring righteousness and peace into the lives of others. It is a serious thing to be a troublemaker in God's family. One of the sins that God hates is that of sowing "discord among the brethren" (read Proverbs 6:16-19)

Wisdom is not something simply to be, but rather something to be demonstrated by conduct and actions. However, genuine faith is not something believers can accomplish on their own; wisdom for right living comes from God. And that wisdom from God results in actions that are pure, peaceable, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy, producing good fruit, impartial, and sincere. Worldly wisdom, on the other hand, seeks self-glory and personal gain.

May we, as the body of Christ, walk every day in God's wisdom.

Your brother in – Christ, Jim Nelson

Announcements.

Immerse is starting soon! Wednesday Sept. 10th is our first night. We meet during the school calendar year every Wednesday @ 6:15pm-7:30pm. Immerse is discipleship for the whole family. Christ commands us to make disciples by teaching the Word of Christ which is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. This is our goal Wednesday nights as it is whenever we gather together as the body, to make disciples as Christ is proclaimed from His Word. We currently need 2 more teachers 4th/5th) and (1st/2nd) grade classes. Couples are encouraged to teach a class together as well. Our adult class will be an interactive study through Proverbs this year letting the fear of the Lord shape us in all matters of the wisdom of our great God as His word is impressed upon every corner of our life. Whether you have a volunteer role or you plan on attending the adult class, please be praying for the Spirit of God to work in each of us and pray about ways the Lord would work in you to use the time to disciple others.

Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins, 715.338.8837
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Coffee Ministry

Ana Smith, 715.566.3740
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Finance Administration

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GriefShare Ministry

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Immerse Ministry

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Music Ministry

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Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm, 715.472.8453
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Resource Center

Cory Mattson, 715.417.0945
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Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins,
309.269.0556
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Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
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Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Week's Schedule of Events

Tues Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am
Thurs Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am
Thurs Ladies Bible Study- 10:30 am
Thurs Ladies Bible Study- Noon
Thurs GriefShare- 6:30 pm
Thurs Men's Bible Study- 6:30 pm

Meal Teams

Aug 31 No Meal

Sept. 7 Meal Team 7-Sloppy Joes/Hot Dogs

*Contact Barbara Judkins if interested
in being on a meal team or a helper.*

Fellowship Tip for August

As public professions of Faith in Jesus are fresh in our mind from our baptism service, we recognize that Jesus calls all believers to always be ready to give an answer to the hope we have in Christ. Who can you share with today about that hope and the continued work of Christ in you?

August Memory Verse

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12

Pastoral Eldership Team

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Jay Swisher 763.587.3472

Announcements Cont.

Building Need: There is an ongoing need for someone to oversee the well-being of our security system. This almost exclusively involves replacing batteries in sensors (generally averages less than 1 every 3 months). Occasionally it might involve contacting ADT to resolve system faults (it's rare that this happens). Is the Lord prompting you to minister in this way? If so, contact Jim Judkins, 715-338-8837 (text is fine).

New Life Cookbook: Hey New Life Family! We've got a lot of good cooks in our family which, we all know from Sunday lunches and special occasion potlucks. We really need more recipes! They don't have to be originals -- really, how many of us actually create original recipes? Submitting them is easy. In a pinch, take a picture of your recipe (if it's easy to read) and email that, or type it out if you have time. Recipes can be emailed to Evelyn Mattson (eviejacobson4@gmail.com), Rosi Swisher (grandma.rosi@gmail.com), Anna Abraham (abrafam21@gmail.com) or Cory Mattson (cory79mattson@hotmail.com). We'd like to have them all by September 1st. Thank you for helping to make this cookbook possible!

Young Adults @ Wood Lake: Inviting all young adults to join us again for a night and day out at Wood Lake in Grantsburg, WI on Friday evening September 26th through Saturday afternoon the 27th. Looking forward to spending unrushed time together studying the Word, worshiping our Lord, growing in relationship together and encouraging one another to look to Jesus more and more. Cost is \$64 per person for all the meals and a night in the cabins. Registration is online. Just go the New Life Website and click on the menu option "Young Adults September Wood Lake Camp". If you have any questions just reach out to Pastor Paul.

Hall of Men tonight at 5:30pm. Bring your favorite dish of protein to pass. Since there is a meal lets plan to start at 5:30pm. This month we have a well loved pastor from out of town who we respect and value giving the presentation. You won't want to miss this one!

Today's Passage



Jesus

According to Samuel

Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Samuel.

Our passage for today is 2 Samuel 23:1-7.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com

Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com