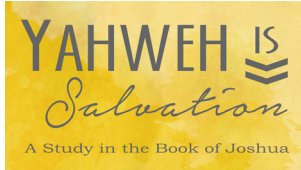


Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be continuing in the Book of Joshua. Our passage for today is Joshua 2:1-24.

Sermon Notes



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, May 31, 2015

Vol. 8, Issue 34

Pastoral Ponderings

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4

I think trials are something that everyone can relate to. I have often heard it said by non-believers that trials are proof that God doesn't exist or a loving God would never allow this kind of thing to happen to me, but is that what God's word tells us?

James begins by stating that we are to look at all our trials with joy. That word is not one that I would associate with "trials". Words like worry, anxiety, fear and trepidation would be natural words that I would place with trials, not joy. Merriam Webster defines "joy" as a feeling of great happiness and Wikipedia describes it as an emotion in response to a pleasant observation. Can you imagine being told that you have lost your job of 20 years and now are faced with a house payment and feeding your family without an income and being overwhelmed with a feeling of great happiness. Today many of our brothers and sisters in Jesus are being persecuted due to their faith. We are not to be worried or anxious but are to be joyful.

Why are we asked to be joyful or overcome with happiness during trials? God's word tells us that it's in the times of trials that our faith is tested which over time will produce steadfastness. Holman's Bible dictionary defines steadfastness as enduring patiently. Again that is very difficult to do in human terms. I think most people when faced with trials will be more apt to complain than to stand steadfast. Scripture is full of both examples. The Israelites complained when faced with a lack of food and water after God miraculously brought them out of Egypt and slavery. Job on the other hand remained steadfast in his faith when faced with ongoing trials and a wife who was less than supportive.

Another thing I want to point out is that James makes it clear that one trial isn't going to produce the needed response. It is clear that the word is "trials" which is plural. I don't know about you, but I wish this wasn't the case. It would certainly be a lot easier if we learned after one trial but Genesis, Exodus and Joshua ---->

Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-time Visitor
 Returning Visitor

Name

Date

Email

Phone#

How to access the sermon archives:

To download sermons for **free**, go to newlifechristiancommunity.com

For a CD or DVD (\$2 charge), please fill out the form below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Your order will be available for pick up at the video booth the following week.

Name

Sermon Date

Scripture Passage

Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall.
- Share this only with the pastors and elders.

Optional:

Name

Email

Phone#

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front immediately following the service.

Ministry Directory

Building & Grounds Ministry:
Jim Nelson, 651-283-2132
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry:
Cara Gilbertson, 715-755-3517
cara.gilbertson@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry:
Sara Fugate, 715-379-8799
fugate.sara@gmail.com

Community Outreach:
Phil & Pam Stratmoen,
715-491-5779
philstratmoen@gmail.com,
stratmoenp@gmail.com

Grief Share Ministry:
Connie Bayle, 715.557.1431
email: conjohi1@gmail.com

Hospitality/Meal Ministry:
Pam Stratmoen, 715-491-5779
stratmoenp@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry:
Julie Minell, 715-417-1981
mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach:
Mindy Havlish, 715-755-2766
havlishm@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration:
Dawn Holm, 715-472-8453
dholm@lakeland.ws

Transportation Services:
Contact: Eve Bjork, 715-497-641
sofiesydney@yahoo.com
and Art Behr, 715-220-6882
behrden1@charter.net

Treasurer:
Pete Manship, 715-755-3330
pete@pbmpkmanship.com

Video Ministry
Jenna Peterson, 715-417-1357
jennapeterson54@gmail.com

Youth Group Ministry:
Pastor Chandler Wiley,
815-575-6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

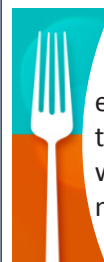
Pastoral Ponderings cont.

continues to demonstrate that humans have a short memory span, one that isn't helped by all the medications in the world.

So how are we supposed to be joyful and have a steadfast faith in light of trials? Oh, that's easy, we are to try harder and follow the law. No, that's clearly not what James is saying. It is the unwavering faith or steadfastness which will lead to perfection, lacking nothing. Are we able to have unwavering faith on our own? Absolutely not, we are not able to do anything on our own which would lead to perfection or, using another word, to holiness. Faith in Jesus and his dwelling within us is the only way we can be joyful and remain steadfast in the face of trials

So then, when as followers of Jesus we are faced with trials, we are to face them with joy as Paul did while he was in jail, understanding that we are being refined more into the image of a Jesus with each trial. In the end, we will be perfect, lacking in nothing. Now that is something over which to be thankful!! My prayer for New Life is that when trials arise in the future, individually and corporately, we can be joyful and remain steadfast.

In Christ, Greg



Due to ongoing construction this summer, we will only be serving a meal every other Sunday. We will not be serving today. We encourage you to fellowship with someone from church by sharing a meal at each other's home or at a local restaurant or have a picnic at the park.

Upcoming Events

- June 3 Beach Fellowship @ Sand Lake.
- June 4 Men's Bible Study, The Book of Acts, 6:30 a.m. @ the building

May Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:1-3:

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures."



Wednesday evenings at Sand Lake begin this Wednesday. Everyone is invited. You may come any time after 5:30 and park in Roger and Sandy's driveway (1131 190th Street (County Road Y) — Dresser).

✝ Tapestries OF LIFE Missions Ministry Update

The mission trip to Tapestries of Life has been postponed to summer 2016.

The Missions team is planning a garage sale for this July to help raise funds for the trip next summer. We are in need of gently used items (no clothing, please). If you have items you would like to donate, please see Mindy Havlish. Thank you!



Options for Women-Tri-County is a non-profit pregnancy center located in Osceola, WI, providing free services to anyone facing a crisis pregnancy.

You can help by participating in our Baby Bottle Program.

We are asking that bottles be returned to New Life by June 23rd. A basket full of baby bottles has been placed on a table as you enter the building. Once you have filled your bottle it can be returned to that same basket. Donations are tax deductible and we appreciate and thank you for your generosity. As always, embracing this cause through individual prayer is invaluable. If there are any questions, please contact Sandy Erickson

Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.com

Find Links to:
• Events • Sermons Online
• Set Lists • The Table • & More

Pastor Tony:
galatiansii20@yahoo.com

Pastor Chandler:
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Secretary: Cory Mattson
715-417-0945

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715-417-1982
AP, Chandler Wiley	815-575-6122
Zachary Fugate	715-379-2918
Paul Gilbertson	715-755-3517
Dale Mattson	715-566-2302
Greg Mattson	715-417-2444
Rene Milner	715-483-0185
Andy Peterson	715-417-2253
Mike Schwab	651-329-7528
Phil Stratmoen	715-483-9847