



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony will be speaking to us today from
Joshua 5:2-9

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to the Celebration!



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, July 19, 2015

Vol. 8, Issue 41

Pastoral Ponderings

Joy in Proclaiming Christ, Not the World

"And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete" (1 John 1:1-4 ESV).

1 John is a letter that the church needs to be considering at the present moment. There are drastic culture shifts taking place right in front of our eyes. The line between the world and the church is being drawn more boldly than in recent years. While some churches try to keep the line of truth blurred, Gospel believing and teaching churches are aware of the separation that is taking place. John speaks directly to the issues we face today. When we read the letter we feel as if John was writing directly to us.

Our memory verse for the month rattles us down to the core of who we are as followers of Jesus. The verse states, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him"* (1 John 2:15 ESV). We either love the world or love the Father. There is no in-between.

For now, let's look at the opening of this particularly applicable letter noticing three quick observations. Where does John begin his letter that opposes the world? Take a moment and read 1 John 1:1-4.

First, John begins with a personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. John is going to confront the love of the world not according to his own strength, but according to the power of the One who was from (we might say before) the beginning. Jesus existed from the beginning. The One who has no vanishing point in the past and no vanishing point in the future is the One that occupies every ounce of John's energy and writing.

I wish I could go into depth about each phrase that begins this letter, because we would learn so much. Currently, however, space prevents such a study. Let me sum up the best I can what John is saying when he says, *"we've heard, seen, looked upon, and touched."* John is telling the reader how well he knows Jesus and how much Jesus has taken control of his life. The power that began all things is the power that John has heard from. Jesus has spoken into John's heart and given John eternal life by allowing John to know Him. John has seen the power of Jesus on display. He has witnessed the miracles of Jesus, seen the compassion of Jesus, seen the image of God in Jesus, and observed the very glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. He has fallen at the feet of this glory and looked upon the only God from God. John has given his life to sacrificial worship to Jesus. Finally, John is so close to Jesus he has touched Jesus. He's felt the resurrected Christ with a warm embrace and has been convicted without any shadow of a doubt that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John knows Jesus personally. It is from this starting point that John can boldly address the situations of the sin cursed world.

Second, John has realized that a better way, God's way of doing things, has been presented.

Continued next page...

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- First-Time Visitor
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How to access the sermon archives:

If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card 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.

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Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card 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 pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

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

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
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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

This Week's Calendar:

Jul 21 New Life Softball
7:00 p.m. at Alliance
Jul 22 GriefShare Meeting
12:30-2:00 p.m. at NLCC building
Jul 23 Men's Bible Study
The Book of Acts
6:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Jul 23 Young Men's Bible Study
Moral Revolution (for 13-18 YRS)
6:00 p.m. at NLCC building

Sunday Nursery: (Infants - Preschool)

Jul 19 Sara F, Carly P, Jocelyn F
Jul 26 Cindy D, Lillian H, Rebbecca R

Please stay after today's service and join us for a meal and fellowship.

Checkout New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

Our website is full of information about who we are, what we believe, and up-to-date information about what's going on at New Life. Find Links to:

• Events • Sermons Online • Set Lists • The Table • & More

July Memory Verse: 1John 2:15-17

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." (ESV)

Pastoral Ponderings

continued...

The answer to the love of the world, the way of the world, and the ideals of the world has finally been manifested.

"...Concerning the word of life--the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us" (1 John 1:1a-2).

The world's way has led to death. John was dead, but the Father has manifested eternal life in the Son Jesus. God's way to salvation has been made known. His order for His new creation has been revealed. His desire for His children has been made clear. It's all in Jesus, the manifested answer from God.

John counters the world with a personal knowledge of the cure to the deadly sickness of loving the world. John has fellowship with God and Christ instead of fellowship with the world (1 John 1:3).

Third, John is filled with joy. Notice how making the manifested Savior known in the face of the pulling and misleading world brings John complete joy. Instead of conforming to the ways and patterns of the world, John finds his greatest joy in showing God's way to life.

John's great desire is to lead people away from death and into glorious life. The only means by which life is given is through God's only Son Jesus Christ. Declaring that news brings joy even when the world is pulling hard against this truth.

So, in a culture that has clearly taken a stand against God's way how do we stand for Jesus?

Like John, we must know Jesus intimately. The church must hear from Him, clearly see Him, worship Him, and touch Him. Through His Word, by His Spirit, and in the fellowship of the saints we must taste and see that He is good. We must speak about what He has done so that others can clearly see and bring glory to the Father. We must reach out and touch His wounded hands and know that Jesus is alive.

If we choose to stand for the love of the Father we must truly believe that Jesus is the only answer. There is no other way to the Father. God has manifested His answer in the Son Jesus. That's our message. Period.

Finally, following Christ and proclaiming His truth should be a joyful adventure. When we know Jesus personally as the truth from God then proclaiming that truth brings complete joy.

In Christ, Pastor Chandler

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

August 16th will be our annual baptism service. If you are interested in possibly being baptized, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the welcome table.



Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry
contact Jim Nelson 651.283.2132 his email: lynnjimmelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry
contact Cara Gilbertson:
715.755.3517 her email:
cara.gilbertson@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry
contact Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799
her email: fugate.sara@gmail.com

Community Outreach contact Phil and Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779
email: philstratmoen@gmail.com

Finance Administration - Cory Mattson (Finance Secretary):
715.417.0945 her email:
cory79mattson@hotmail.com or
Pete Manship (Treasurer):
715.755.3330 his email:
pete@pbmpkmanship.com

GriefShare Ministry - Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431 her email:
conjoh1@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry contact Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 her email:
stratmoenp@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry contact Julie Minell: 715.417.1981 her email:
mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach contact is Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661 her email:
lrnilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration
contact Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
her email: djholm@lakeland.ws

Transportation Services contact Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418 her email:
sofiesydney@yahoo.com or Art Behr:
715.220.6882 his email:
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry contact Jenna Peterson: 715.417.1357 her email:
jennapeterson54@gmail.com

Youth Group Ministry contact Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122 his email:
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Events to take Note of:



COME JOIN US!

New Life's softball team meets every Tuesday this summer at Alliance Church in St. Croix Falls. Come to play (even if you haven't before) or to cheer on your team at 7pm.



BEACH FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday evenings at Sand Lake. Everyone is invited. Come any time after 5:30 p.m. and park in Roger and Sandy's driveway (1131 190th Street County Road Y - Dresser).



"Caring and Sharing through Food"
Home & Away Ministries Ctr, 210 Park Ave E, Luck
Tuesday, July 21st 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

\$20 cash donation

IMPORTANT: Bring 2 laundry baskets/boxes to carry food.



RELAY FOR LIFE

This Polk/Burnett event will be held on Saturday, August 8th from 4 to 11 p.m. at the Polk County Fairgrounds. The Stratmoen's will be walking to raise money that stays locally to help people in our community.

If you would like to donate toward this cause, please see Pam or Phil Stratmoen. Please make your tax deductible donation to American Cancer Society.

They would love to have you join their team at Central Bank if you're interested in walking too. Just let Pam Stratmoen know! She will also have Luminaries for sale shortly that you can purchase and decorate in memory or honor of those you know who have struggled/or are struggling with a form of cancer. If you will not be able to get them to the event, as long as you have them back to Pam prior to the event, she will be sure to have them displayed and lit during this beautiful commemorative time.



VBS HELP!

Vacation Bible School will be here soon and we are still in need of volunteers! We are looking for high school and adult helpers. Dates and times are August 2, 3, and 4th from 5:30-8:15. VBS will be held from 6-8. We need people to lead groups of children (basically love them, walk with them to their station, supervise, and encourage conversation about the topics being taught (by Pastors and song leaders, not you). It's easy! If you are able to help, please let Cara Gilbertson know.