



# New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We  
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024

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"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

## Pastoral Pondering

### BLESSEDNESS

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." ~Matthew 5:10*

This is the final blessing pronounced by Jesus in what is known by many as the "beatitudes." That word "beatitude" simply means "blessedness." The word "blessed" here can also be translated "happy" with the understanding that it is a happiness that transcends our moment-by-moment experiences of life. Instead, blessedness is to be understood as an eternal and abiding happiness, contentment or joy based on that which transcends our current experience but is rooted and grounded in eternal reality.

That said, to lay some groundwork, Jesus says to the multitude listening to Him then, and now to you and me today "blessed are those who are persecuted." If there were ever a time when there seems to be a paradox (a seeming contradiction) this would be one of them. Jesus further expands on what that persecution may look like in [vs 11](#). That is to be *"reviled, persecuted, and spoken evil of."* Now I don't know about you but if I'm reviled, persecuted and spoken evil of, I don't feel in that moment especially happy or "blessed." Yet Jesus goes on in [vs 12](#) to tell those who experience such things to *"rejoice and be exceedingly glad."* How can Jesus say such things? Even to the point of commanding rejoicing during persecution, when we know that very persecution may bring about emotional and for some physical pain even unto death. How is that Jesus can call this a "blessed" condition?

Well, the answer lies in what was purposely left of this writing until now (I hope you've noticed). That is, I have selectively been quoting Jesus' words (as recorded by Matthew) but not all of them, because Jesus used *Qualifying* words in this section of scripture that bring definition to the text that isn't only helpful but is altogether necessary. Without the qualifiers such as "for righteousness' sake" or "falsely for My (Jesus) sake" we end up with our own imaginations defining what the state of "blessed" persecution is (usually one of self-justification).

The persecution Jesus is talking about is by definition and cause inseparable from our union with Christ. If we look back just a few verses to [vs 6](#) we see the same "blessed" people are those who are *"hungering and thirsting (starving and parched) for righteousness"* of which it is promised that they will be filled (to overflowing). That word **righteousness** is the same word that is in our text we are talking about. That overflowing righteousness with which Christ fills us doesn't simply remain hidden in us, or between us and God, but rather inescapably spills out into every facet of our lives. Transforming us, molding us, shaping us (our actions and attitudes) into the image of the one who has purchased us, that is Jesus Christ. So, when Jesus says, *"blessed are you when you are persecuted"*

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## Pastoral Pondering

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*for righteousness' sake*" He is not saying blessed are you when you sin (and bear consequences), or do something stupid, or are being persecuted for politics sake, but instead what qualifies as blessedness is very narrow in scope. It is for "**righteousness' sake**" and that is spelled out in no uncertain terms when Jesus continues to say, "*Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*" It is the falseness of the accusation that is one of the qualifiers in this blessing. In plain and simple terms Jesus pronounces Eternal happiness on those who give no offence of their own but rather are maligned and persecuted on account of Christ and His commands. And so, Christ and what He has commanded of us (to cease from sin, to walk in righteousness, to be heralds of the good news and by implication the bad news of the just judgment of God) becomes the stone of stumbling and the Rock of offence. When we are persecuted for walking after Christ and not being ashamed of Jesus, then we are to "rejoice and be exceedingly glad (why?) for great is your reward in heaven" and "for yours is the kingdom of heaven." And not only great is our reward but Jesus goes on to explain that we are following the same pattern of those who faithfully walked before us. "For they persecuted the prophets who were before you." And more than that Jesus doesn't call us to do anything that He himself didn't do, but rather we are to with great and abiding joy, follow our master who "*when reviled did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously*" ~1 Peter 2:23

Looking unto the Captain of our salvation, and to the Eternal Kingdom.

Your brother in Christ, Matt Leko

*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. Please join us for fellowship and a meal after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

  
**Busy Bags**  
Available by the Door

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837  
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### Coffee Ministry

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### Music Ministry

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### Missions Outreach

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### Resource Center

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### Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556  
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### Transportation Services

Art Behr: 715.557.1890  
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### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
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Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
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Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
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Matt Leko	651.465.3154
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Brian Nelson	651.323.4253
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Mon	Prayer Night/Barton's– 6:30 pm
Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

### June Memory Verse:

Deuteronomy 4:9 (ESV)

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to you children and your children's children..."

### June 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/pastors and they would be glad to begin that process with you.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

June 23 Picnic ~ Dresser Park  
June 30 No Meal Service

\*Summer Schedule~meals only on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays\*  
Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check Out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

- **Picnic in the Park:** Join us just after service today for a picnic in Dresser park just a few blocks across the street. Enjoy some grilled brats and fellowship out on the lush green park lawn.
- **Preaching Guild:** Preaching Guild is meeting **this Sunday, June 23rd at 6:30pm.**
- **Upcoming Showers:** Reminder for New Life ladies:  
**Bridal shower** for Carley Peikert engaged to Ben Wilson, **today Sunday, June 23rd at 2pm** at the New Life Building.  
**Baby shower** for Margo Steward married to Ben Steward, **Sunday, June 30th at 2pm** at the New Life Building.  
If you have any questions, would like to help provide food or if you know of a mommy or bride to be within our church body please reach out to Kristin Stephan 651-235-1681 or [kristin@kageinnovation.com](mailto:kristin@kageinnovation.com)
- **Mid-Year Partners Meeting:** Mid-Year New Life Partners Meeting: **Sunday, July 14th at Noon.** New Life Partners please make sure to attend this upcoming meeting. One important practical item is a vote for the approval of a replacement of our building's roof for this fall (which is 15 years past life expectancy). Much diligent research has been done and a good option has been found and will be presented.  
Also, Matt and Brian will give an update as to what God has been orchestrating in these last months at Zion Church and ways the New Life body can continue praying and/or prayerfully participate with them and their families. Even if you're not a partner your presence is welcomed as we seek the Lord's guidance together as one body and join in celebrating His grace towards us in Christ.
- **CEF:** This summer CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) is putting on a 5-day club at the New Life building **Monday, July 15th through Friday, the 19th** meeting from **1:15pm-2:45pm** each day. It's set up for ages 5-12. Your free to bring/invite friends and neighbors too!  
If you are interested in volunteering to help with registering children upon arrival, praying with the students, and distributing snacks after club each day, just reach out to Carie Wright. These 5 days will be Jesus centered and full of Gospel truths, spread the word!
- **Annual Baptism Service: Sunday, August 4th** is our annual Baptism service being held at the ARC in Osceola. If you have not been baptized and you're interested in now being baptized as a public proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, please reach out to any one of the pastor/elders. Make sure to sign up at the welcome table.
- **Openings for Connectorship in Missions:** I want to say thank you to all the persons who have participated as Connectors to our Missionaries so far. We have openings for anyone who would like to serve as a Connector between the congregation and the Missionary on the Board of Missions. The board is there to make known these missionaries serving our Lord, in both prayer and financial support but also in the field and at home. We are here to encourage them but also you all in the church as we work together in the body of Christ. If you are interested in learning more please leave your name here, or with Pastor Paul or myself, Lorraine Milner. Thank you for considering further support of our missionaries.



# Jesus

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According to Samuel

**TODAY'S PASSAGE:**

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
Old Testament book,

**1 SAMUEL 27:1-12**

SERMON NOTES: