

Join us as we celebrate only Jesus!



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, April 26, 2026

Vol. 19, Issue 30

Pastoral Ponderings

"Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored."
Proverbs 27:18

We've been studying the Proverbs on Wednesday evenings at Immerse. The season is almost over and our discussions will soon end, but the chewing on these wonderful proverbs will continue for a lifetime. Proverbs 27:18 initially stuck out to me because it mentioned tending a fruit tree, which I greatly enjoy doing. It's easy to understand how diligent, hard work to care for a tree will, at the end of the season, reap a reward of good fruit to enjoy. It's easy to understand the opposite as well. If one does not care to tend to their fruit tree, they will find that it will not be healthy and not likely bear much fruit; the reward will be lost.

Likewise, the second half seems pretty straight forward. Whoever guards (or keeps) his master will be honored. Simply, he has the master's will in mind, thinking, "What service would keep the will of my master? What would honor and respect my master? This one will be rewarded with honor bestowed by that master. Similarly, the opposite will occur if the servant neglects to keep the will of the master. Dishonor will be his reward.

Both statements' patterns are similar of tending/keeping (very comparable to what Adam was commanded to do in the garden) which in turn leads to rewards of fruit and honor. Fruit is a good reward and honor is the greater.

But what if that fruit tree is stubborn and no matter how well you care for it, there is little or no fruit? What if the master you serve, no matter how faithfully and respectfully, not only doesn't show you honor, but he treats you unjustly. Does that nullify the hope of this proverb?

The reality about many of the proverbs is that these truths should happen this way; this is how God made things to work, but they don't always work out, at least in an earthly sense. The reason is, through man, sin entered God's creation, and because of that things don't always work the way they are supposed to. So then, is there any hope in our toil on the earth? Yes, but only in and through Christ, the

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

new Adam, the perfect man in whose kingdom there is no corruption and who promises to His own an inheritance imperishable, undefiled and kept in heaven for us. (see 1 Peter 1:4-5) None of our labor in the Lord and none of our obedience in the Lord is in vain because Jesus conquered sin, death, and corruption, proven in his resurrection. Now *“All the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”* (2 Corinthians 1:20) .

There is a sure hope in the all toil and service of this life as we do so unto the Lord and In Christ. We may receive earthly rewards in part now, but later, heavenly rewards in full when Christ returns and makes all things new and right. The blessings of fruit are so good, but what can compare to the honor bestowed on us as bondservants of Christ when our master Jesus speaks these words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”* Mathew 25:23.

Looking to Jesus,
Paul

NLCC Resource Center

Looking for a good book to give as a gift or thinking of starting a bible study? Check out our resource center and ask the resource ministry team for some good suggestions. In addition to good books for both adults and children, there are also music CD's, DVD documentaries, bible concordance, systematic theology books, and much more. Take a look today after service.

Meal Team Ministry

Are you looking for a way to use your talents or time to serve God? Consider joining a Sunday Meal Team. If interested, please, Contact:

Barbie Judkins (309) 269-0556,
Barb Manship (612) 804-9793
or Rosie Swisher (763) 458-1261

Ministry Directory

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Sunday Meal Services

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Video Ministry

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

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. His Mercy is More
2. Good and Gracious King
3. Jesus Paid it All
4. The Goodness of Jesus
5. Christ Our Hope In Life and Death

This Week's Schedule of Events

Tues Young Ladies Study – 7:15 pm
Wed Immerse – 6:15 pm
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 Ladies Bible Study – 6:30 pm
Thurs Men's Bible Study – 6:30 pm

Meal Teams

April 26 Meal Team 8 - Soup
May 3 Meal Team 1 - Pizza

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

Fellowship Tip for April

Spring is often a time where we get the itch to do a project around the home or get creative in the kitchen. Consider asking a brother or sister to join you and use everyday life activities as a way to build deeper relationships with one another bringing Jesus into each conversation.

April Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Pastoral Eldership Team

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Sam Umlauf 612.791.2132

Announcements

Hall of Men: Be sure to join us tonight for Hall of Men - at 6:30pm. Tonight's presentation is one that you don't want to miss!

Meat Fellowship: Men! Be sure to sign up for the Men's Meat Fellowship - the sign up is on the welcome table.

When: Saturday May 9th, 11am-3pm

Where: Deland Richter's home: 1641 200 Ave. New Richmond WI

Cost: \$30 per adult, \$15 under age 10

(Let us know if cost is an issue for you. Don't let that stop you from attending!)

Look forward to a devotional in the Word, and fellowship with brothers over a meat heavy meal. Guys welcome to bring a board game. Hoops and ping pong on site.

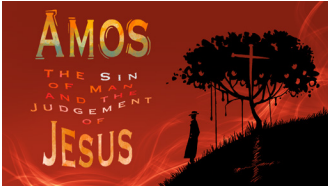
Numbers needed of those who plan to attend. Please jot your name down at the welcome counter.

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.

Busy Bags
Available by the doors

Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Amos.
Our passage for today is Amos 1:2-2:6.

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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