



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We Celebrate
Only Jesus

"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, NOVEMBER 16, 2025
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Pastoral Pondering

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1 Peter 2:9 – Part Four

Perhaps this goes without saying, but since there is a rotating group of Elders who contribute to the Newsletter, you may not have noticed that for the last year or so, I have been writing about one verse (more or less) – **1 Peter 2:9**. It has been an absolute delight to mediate on this incredibly rich verse. Well, it's my turn again to submit an article for your edification, and so, I am going to continue to dig into this wondrous verse.

Here is what **1 Peter 2:9** says, ***"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."***

In these articles I have been walking through Peter's two-word descriptions of his listeners (and **us** – if you are one of the Lord's "elect exiles" - 1:1 – those he calls "born again" in 1:3). In each article we have focused on one of these sets of words found in the first half of this verse.

With each descriptor, we learn more and more about who these born again elect exiles are. The pairs that we've looked at over the course of the last year have been, respectively, a ***"chosen race"***, a ***"royal priesthood"***, and a ***"holy nation."*** Today, we come to Peter's final description. Interestingly, here Peter breaks from his two-word pattern and uses three Greek words as his final description. Unfortunately, English requires more words than the mere three it does in Greek to convey the same meaning. Here are those three Greek words translated into English,

"A people for His own possession."

So, where has the student of the Word heard such a sentiment? Where did God talk of creating a people for Himself? We hear echoes of it from the very beginning of His word – a thread that runs through the entire narrative of His story. God regularly breaks into the darkness of history and reminds Israel and humanity of a day coming when "You will be my people, and I will be your God."

In some form or another this sentiment is found in every single book of the Old Testament. But Israel's drama is their inability to maintain their end of their relationship to God. Conversely, the true fulfillment of these words of God are found, in some form or another, in every book of the New Testament.

Peter is no exception.

As such, we see in Peter – that He is speaking of the long-expected hope fulfilled in an absolutely glorious and intimate relationship - an exclusive relationship - "A people for His own possession." Those to whom Peter writes are finally exclusively the Lord's and He is exclusively theirs. We might say it this way – this people is captivated by the Lord. He is their-all and they are His. The relationship of Eden is restored.

Their lives are lived for the purposes of the Lord who captivates them. For those of whom this is true - we serve His purposes. But our service to Him is not one-sided in the least. Far from

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Pastoral Pondering

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interpreting Peter (or the rest of Scripture) as though it describes an unhealthy controlling relationship - we must hear these words according to the honor they demand. For God has literally purchased us by His own blood. Our service to Him flows from a life of thanksgiving to Him.

Far too often those looking in, from the outside, view Christianity as though it were a religion about a people who mindlessly follow a petty, selfish, angry and distant God. They may even point to Peter's words here as proving their point. 'See! Look! God treats Christians as though they were a 'thing' to be owned by Him!' But this sentiment misses the point entirely. History actually paints the opposite picture. *Humanity* is filled with petty, angry, self-loving (that is what selfishness is) and prideful creatures that seek to hide themselves from God. In response, our great God laid down His life - paying the penalty for our hatred toward Him - that we might be His once again. To put it in the Biblical metaphor of a relationship - the bride price has been paid and that bride price was His very life. No greater love has the world known that that of this sacrifice.

In this last description, Peter's audience is unveiled as a bride purchased by the greatest act of love the world has known.

I implore you, by the mercies of God, for those who would be, allow yourself to be purchased by the Groom. He is worthy of an exclusive life lived unto Him - and to Him alone. For I am His and He is mine.

Proudly possessed and loved by our great and awesome God,
pastor tony



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.



Do you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration? Please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com or you can call her cell at 651-373-1426.

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Tues	Young Ladies Study– 7:00 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	Women's Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

November Memory Verse:

1 Peter 4:9-11 (ESV)

"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

November Fellowship Tip:

What gifts has God given to you by the Spirit that He is calling you to put into practice for the building up of the body at New Life? Such as hospitality, acts of service, prayer, teaching, discipling, administration, etc.?

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Nov 16 Meal Team 1~Pizza
Nov 23 Meal Team 2~Chili

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

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

Come Thou Fount; But For the Cross of Christ;
How Firm A Foundation; There Is Hope; Yet Not
I But Through Christ In Me

➤ **Meal Team Ministry:** Meal team Ministry needs volunteers to serve on the beans and rice team and the soup and salad team. Please contact Barbie Judkins for more information. Text or call (309) 269-0556. This is a great way to serve and connect with others in a fun and creative ministry.

➤ **Ladies Fiber Fellowship at Jenny Steward's Home:** Our next Fiber Fellowship will be this **Sunday, November 16th** at my home: 15765 392nd Street, Center City, MN 55012 at **3 pm**. Bring a snack to share if you would like. I live near Almelund, but my address is Center City. Please let me know if you have any questions! 612.860.6148

➤ **Young Ladies Study:** Will be meeting this week **Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm**. Address is 2147 45th Ave., Star Prairie, WI 54026. Please feel free to call or text with any questions. Katie Severson 715-417-1595. Eager to study with you.

➤ **Shoebbox Season is Here!** Help share God's love and spread joy and hope to children around the world. This incredible project led by Samaritan's Purse delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need, along with the message of God's redeeming love.

****Pick up a shoebox at the OCC station in the back of the sanctuary**Fill it with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies**Return your shoebox to NLCC by **Sunday, November 23**Monetary donations can be made to Operation Christmas Child @ samaritanspurse.org** any questions, contact Carie Wright at 630-863-0016.****

➤ **NLCC Partnership:** Are you interested in becoming a partner of New Life Christian Community? Some call it membership, but we call it partnership. If you want to invest in this local body; you want to be held accountable in this body; you want people to be able to council you; you want to be able to participate in a much deeper way here because we are committed to do God's work here together, then consider this next step. Being a partner also means you are an active participant in our annual partner meetings where we celebrate God's work in this body over the last year, where we vote to fill certain offices/roles in the body, where the current year's budget is reviewed and next year's budget is presented for approval, where the pastors and elders share vision leading into the next year, and where as a congregation we give ourselves to prayer, seeking the Lord's grace and help for the coming year. If you desire to become a partner, be sure to spend some time getting to know the leadership, our statement of faith, and observe the functions of the body. Then begin by initiating a conversation with any of the elders to walk through our partnership covenant.

Busy Bags
Available by the Door



Jesus

Proclaimed
to the
Colossians

SERMON NOTES:

Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the
New Testament book,
Colossians 1:24-29