



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We Celebrate
Only Jesus

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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

Immerse – A Teacher's Perspective

You ever choose to do one of those things that seemed like a good idea at the time? As the elders explored the idea of a more focused approach to immerse it seemed like it would be fun and somewhat easy for Lorraine and I to take on a class. Particularly a younger class. One of those early years where the teaching of scripture would be simple and fun.

Let's think through that. We take a concept (God/Christ/sin/redemption) and make it understandable to children who are just beginning to read and write (and perhaps beginning to think abstractly). That sounds like fun?! In truth, it has been great fun so far, but only if you really like a challenge. Don't get me wrong, the children are not the challenge, the concepts are.

Part of the theory behind our current structure of immerse is that we can take small parts of scripture and meditate on them in various situations (as couples, at a class, in our home, with friends) and never exhaust the fullness of the riches of His word. I am seeing that increasingly.

Week one: Two verses, an introduction. Lorraine and I spent glorious time together in the garden, exploring it and preparing. We only went slightly over on time. All good.

Week Two: What!! 12 verses on the concept of what it means to be "in Him" and why we are "In Him"? Whose idea was that? Basically, this is what God was thinking before the foundation of the earth. How He was going to put it into practice through Christ before we even existed in any physical form. Yah, kind of like "here's God's word, the whole of scripture summed up in 12 verses," given to 8–9-year-olds in 60 minutes. I am not sure we gave them anything substantial, but it sure made us ponder.

We left the kids with a couple of "simple" questions to take home and get their parents to answer. (mostly cause we didn't have great answers)

1. What does it mean to be "In Christ"?
2. When were we chosen by God?

If you haven't read **Ephesians 1:3-14** lately, I would ask that you pause now and read it.

"Even as He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world." Just one phrase in **vs 4** but it is packed. As we often do when studying the words of God, I like to try and get as close to the original meaning as we can. Sometimes looking up the original words, sometimes looking at various thoughts on translation. Following this we like to write it down with our understanding. Likely not perfect but it makes it ours and gives us common ground to refer to when discussing other passages from God. This brings us closer to God and to each other in the spirit of our understanding. Strengthening our union and preserving oneness. In this case; He did this (Blessed us with all spiritual blessings) by selecting us **IN** Christ prior to the conception of the cosmos (world).

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Pastoral Pondering

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Maybe it is just me, but I think that we as Christians throw words around with little thought for their meaning. Perhaps in a casual conversation that may be safe? With the word of God we should be much more careful? Too often, I wonder, "I don't think that word means what you think it means". Inconceivable, right? Maybe not. We throw around words like: Blessed, grace, peace, faith, and assume everyone is meaning the same thing? Try this. Ask a friend to give you a definition of grace. See if that matches your own. Is grace a noun or a verb? Can it be felt or given? What is the result of grace? The questions and nuances are endless.

How about a little word like "in". **en-** (G1722) *A primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), and (by implication) instrumentality (medially or constructively), that is, a relation of rest. Intermediate between eis- G1519- to or into (indicating the point reached or entered), and ek- G1537-A primary preposition denoting origin (the point whence motion or action proceeds) from.*

All this to say, "in" here is a fixed spot, a place of rest. When we ask what does it mean to be IN Christ we often imply the question, "What do I have to do to be" In Christ. This scripture actually negates that question. Read correctly, we believe it means you are chosen before God even considered the universe, to rest in Jesus Christ. To trust that He has given His blood to reconcile all things to Himself and that this is sufficient payment. You want to do something? Let your spirit rest in Him. **"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."** ~Colossians 3:17

All this to begin to understand one two letter word. Now you see our struggle with 12 verses. A life time could be spent in just those alone. Hallelujah! To God be the Glory!

Rene Milner



Have you visited our bookstore lately? Our shelves hold so many great books to help you grow in your knowledge of and love for God and to help guide you in your daily walk with Him. Perhaps you'll find a book to read with a friend or form a book group with! We also have many great resources that you may want to consider for your gift-giving needs for the young or old and all ages in-between. Come check us out after service today.

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Sun	Hall Of Men– 6:30 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

September Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

September Fellowship Tip:

The weather is still beautiful, take advantage of this by inviting others over. Don't overthink or undervalue hospitality. In love, share something you have and share something about the Lord.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Sept 20 Meal Team 6 ~Baked Potato/Salad Bar
Sept 27 No Meal Service

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

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

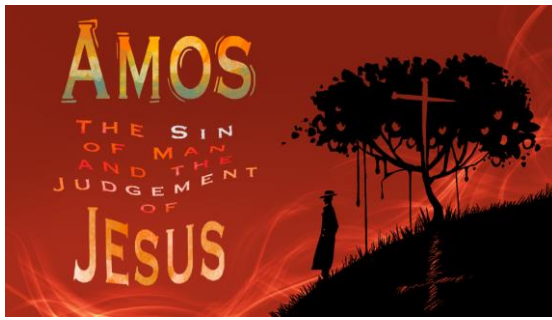
1. How Great Thou art
- 2 Rejoice! The Lord is King
3. How Rich a Treasure
4. O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer
5. O Great God

- **Hall Of Men:** Will be tonight, **Sunday, September 20th at 6:30pm.** Our next Preaching Guild (normally the 3rd Sunday of the Month) will resume next month, Sunday October 18th.
- **Celebration Of Life:** Reminder: The Celebration of Life service for Pete will be **Sunday, September 27th at 3pm** here at the building with a meal to follow. Barb and the family would love to have you all there.
- **Meal Team Lead Meeting:** **Sunday, October 4th immediately following the service.** Grab lunch and join us in the meeting room off the kitchen. Please send a representative from your team if you can't make it.
- **Young Adult Study:** Our Young Adults Bible Study will be back in its regular routine starting **Tuesday October 13th.** This year were diving into Exodus! Our group of young adults usually consists of ages from 12 to 25ish. If you are not a "young adult" anymore, would you prayerfully consider counting this study as one of your regular bible studies in order to invest in our young people and cultivate deeper relationships with them as we grow together in the Word. In addition, it has always been our pattern and joy to gather for this study in one another's homes. You will notice a "host sign-up" sheet in the foyer which contains the dates for this season gathering. We meet the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30pm.** Consider signing up today for one or more of the dates to host the study at your home.



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.



SERMON NOTES:

Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,
Amos 8:1-3