



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2Cor5:17

## Pastoral Pondering

### Our Perfect Father

***"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*** Lamentations 3: 22-23.

In most cases in Life, the more you do something the better you get at it. For instance, the more you practice a musical instrument the better you get at it. The same goes for sports and even with occupations, but when it comes to parenting, the principle doesn't necessarily seem to hold up!

As a grandparent raising a grandson, I am once again reminded of the difficulties of raising children. Cory and I have the blessing of having a grandson who has lived with us since his birth. Out of necessity and love, I have assumed the role of a father. Most of the time this has been a blessing, but with blessings come trials. My grandson was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes 3 years ago which turned our world upside down, even as a former physician. Meals are now accompanied by label reading, calculating carbs and insulin injections. Many are the nights we are awakened by alarms going off signaling either elevated blood sugars requiring insulin or low blood sugars requiring candy or such to raise his glucose. Nights have been spent monitoring blood sugars until they stabilize before finally being able to go to sleep.

As a parent/grandparent, I wish I could trade places with him, allowing him to return to the prediabetes days where life was carefree without insulin shots and alarms. Despite all of this, life with diabetes goes on. My grandson loves dirt biking and is involved in racing. He and I spend a lot of time together at tracks and races which I love. I personally have never been involved in racing in the past, but let me say there is stress involved, and not only from accidents and injuries. For example, recently I was trying to get his bike started but, due to the cold, I had a hard time starting it. As his friends were all leaving on their bikes, I continued trying to kickstart his cold bike only to have it sputter and die over and over again. Each time he'd shake his head and mutter something that I couldn't hear given the noise of the motors on the track. I finally lost my cool and raised my voice and said some not too kind of words, which were immediately received poorly, causing him to walk out to the truck. I was left standing on the track all alone to contemplate the hurtful words I had spewed. I went out to the truck and found him broken and sobbing. I had failed miserably as a parent.

I apologized profusely and told him how much I loved him and that I was truly sorry for my behavior. He told me all he was trying to say was to make sure I had the choke on. He wasn't being critical of me, which is how I'd taken his headshaking and mumbling! Writing about the moment now still makes my heart ache. This was not my finest hour as a parent!

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## Pastoral Pondering

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I clearly realize that I still haven't mastered parenting even at the age of 67. I would have thought by now I could remain calm and cool during the trials of parenting, but I fail far too often, which I'm not proud to admit. Perhaps this is why people say it takes a village to raise a child. When one person fails, the next person steps up.

My failures as a veteran parent point out that as followers of Jesus, we have a perfect Father who knows our heartaches including our health afflictions like cancer and diabetes, our financial problems and marriage issues. He never sleeps; He monitors our conditions continuously. His love is steadfast, unwavering and resolute, and His mercies are unending. He never forsakes us and remains by our side in both good times and bad times. He loves us so much that he sent his only Son to die for our sins so that we may be called children of God! That's the good news that we should be shouting from Dresser to Nepal!

Writing this pondering as the appointed Archbishop of Dresser has been cathartic in that I have confessed to all of you that I often fall short, but I vow that I'll continue to pursue Jesus and pray that all of you will do the same. In doing so we'll be known by our Love and not our shortcomings.

greg Mattson

# 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.



## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am  
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 Women's Study– 6:30 pm  
Thurs Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

### January Memory Verse:

Proverbs 24:13-14 (ESV)

*"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off."*

### January Fellowship Tip:

Often January is a time for new beginnings. Reflect this month on the "new beginning" you have in Christ by sharing with someone the story of how God has worked in you to bring you to saving faith in Jesus, and by His grace, what He is currently doing in your life to draw you to treasure Him above all things.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Jan 18 Meal Team 2~Chili

Jan 25 Meal Team 3~Italian

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

### This Sunday's Worship Songs:

Lord I Need You; Christ Our Wisdom; We Come, O Christ, To You; Christ Is Mine  
Forevermore; Christus Victor

- **Preaching Guild:** Preaching Guild meets this Sunday evening, 6:30pm. Fellow brothers, if you are willing to be challenged to dive deeper into the scriptures, lean more on Christ, and grow in the practice of preparing and giving of a sermon, consider attending tonight. New Life family please join in prayer for our men who are laboring in the studying and preaching the Word of God.
- **Men's Evening Bible Study:** Men! Thursday evening Bible Study is back from break. We will continue meeting weekly from 6:30pm-8pm in the banquet room. Questions, just contact Pastor Paul.
- **Ministry Team Fair in January:** Ministry Team Fair is next Sunday, right after service! Come meet our wonderful ministry team leaders, learn about each ministry, and find out more ways to pray for and/or participate in serving the body of Christ here at NL.
- **Hall of Men:** Hall of Men is back next Sunday, January 25th! All ages encouraged to come. We're reaching back into the annals of history to blow the dust off the writings and work of faithful men of old. For our encouragement, we will listen to a presentation on the life of one of these men, celebrating the grace of God through Christ in him and how by faith he was able to stand firm in the Gospel in the midst of the trials and temptations of his own generation.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Women's Thursday night Bible Study is starting a new 12-week study of Philippians using a John MacArthur study guide on February 5th at 6:30 pm at the New Life building. Sign-up sheet is in the lobby. Contact Colleen Firkus with any questions. 612-889-7581
- **Housekeeping:** If you are using any of the classrooms for overflow lunch seating please clean all dishes and food scraps before leaving and place your lunch garbage in the large bins in the banquet area. The classrooms and small garbage containers in them are not checked or cleaned by the meal teams. Please help us keep these rooms clean and tidy and ready to use for the next group. Thank you!



If you haven't visited the Resource Center lately, Come check it out! 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 books that you may want to consider for your Christmas gift-giving needs for the young or old and all ages in-between. Come check us out after service today.



# Jesus

Proclaimed  
to the  
Colossians

SERMON NOTES:

## *Today's Passage:*

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
New Testament book,  
*Colossians 3:1-4*