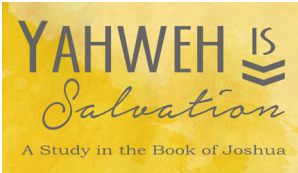


## Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be continuing in the Book of Joshua.  
Our passage for today is Joshua 23:1-16.

## Sermon Notes



# 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, March 27, 2016

Vol. 9, Issue 25

## pastoral ponderings

Looking to Jesus. What an interesting way to start a verse. The other day I was thinking on all the great passages that I could muse about here and I asked my wife. Without hesitation she said Hebrews 12:2. As I read it I had to think to myself "what an interesting place to start a verse". This verse is in the middle of something. It doesn't even start with a capital, just "looking to Jesus...". With a versus like this, my nature will not let me just go on from there, I have to look around. I can't just start in the middle of a sentence I want to know the full context. So, Hebrews twelve one says "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...". Well that helps! Therefore! You can't start a thought with therefore. So now I have to go back to Hebrews eleven. The writer has just finished telling us that Faith is the promise that we will receive the things we long for, "the assurance of things hoped for". Through faith we can be confident of things we have been told but cannot see. He goes on to show us the long list of those who acted out of this very concept. Those whose lives gave evidence to this very belief. Even though they could not see the result, they believed. Each of them acting strangely for this world because they had faith in a promise. Picking up and moving, having a baby at 90, giving up your son to the river in a basket, marching around a city as an act of war. None of these make sense until you see the results. But they were obedient. They followed what they "hoped for" when it did not make sense in this world. Looking back now we can say that what they did made sense based on what happened afterwards. But they didn't get to see that they just acted out of what they hoped for, knowing that God would provide what they longed for. And all of them, even though they made for great witnesses to faith, did not receive that which was promised. God had provided in them something better for us, that they would be made perfect together with us. That is amazing! That all these great men and women who did amazing, impossible things, far beyond what I could ever hope to do, are right there waiting on us to receive together with us the promise that is for us all.

"Therefore". Suddenly therefore carries a whole lot more weight. As they continue in faith to wait for the promise that we will receive together, let us have no excuse to not follow their example. Let us not get caught up in excuses and the things of this world but follow their example throwing off this world because we know we will inherit so much more. Just as they knew and their lives stand witness to it. But wait, I don't have an Ark to build or a Red Sea to cross. I probably won't suffer "mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment". So how am I in the same boat as these great witnesses? Why do we all get

*Continued --->*

# Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-time Visitor  
 Returning Visitor

Name

Date

Email

Phone#

## How to access the sermon archives:

To download sermons for **free**, go to [newlifechristiancommunity.com](http://newlifechristiancommunity.com)

For a CD or DVD (\$2 charge), please fill out the form below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Your order will be available for pick up at the video booth the following week.

Name

Sermon Date

Scripture Passage

# Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall.
- Share this only with the pastors and elders.

Optional:

Name

Email

Phone#

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front immediately following the service.

## Ministry Directory

**Building & Grounds Ministry:**  
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**Children's Church Ministry:**  
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**Transportation Services:**  
Eve Bjork, 715.497.641  
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and Art Behr, 715.220.6882  
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**Treasurer:**  
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**Video Ministry**  
Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172  
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**Youth Group Ministry:**  
Pastor Chandler Wiley,  
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## pastoral ponderings cont.

lumped together and these great men and women are being perfected with us? They did not see the promise but they kept "looking" towards it. As we are "**looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God**". That was their promise and it is our promise. "**That He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**". They look forward in time, we look backward in time, both looking to Jesus. And though I do not know what trials or discipline I may endure, I know that the same **Author** who brought them through it will bring me through and has brought me together with all those others and has **perfected** our faith.

As I wait for Sunday, I get encouragement from these men and women, but I **look** to Jesus who endured the shame of the cross so that He would secure the joy set before Him. The joy of perfecting our faith and reuniting us with a Great and Awesome God. It Is Finished!

To God Alone be the Glory



Men, please make your plans to attend this year's men's retreat, Biblical Manhood. This year the retreat will be held on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are brochures available on the welcome table with more information. Please take one and let Pastor Tony know if you will be there. Come for as little or as much as you can. We would love to have every brother there! Our very own Pastor Chandler will be leading worship and Pastor Tony will be among three area church pastors teaching throughout the weekend.

## March Memory Verse

Hebrews 1:1-2

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."

## upcoming [events]

- Mar. 30 Afternoon GriefShare Mtg.,  
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.,  
Green Room @ NLCC
- Mar. 30 Meeting w/ missionaries,  
6:30 pm @ the building
- Mar. 31 *Men's Bible Study, Book of Acts*, 6:30 a.m. @ the building
- Mar. 31 Women's Bible Study,  
Book of Hebrews,  
9:30 am @ the building
- Mar. 31 Evening GriefShare Mtg.,  
6:30-8 pm  
@ (green room, the building)

## meal [teams]

- April 3 All Church Potluck (Meal Team 4 helping with serving and cleanup)
- April 10 Meal Team #5



## Check out New Life Online [newlifechristiancommunity.com](http://newlifechristiancommunity.com)

Find Links to:  
• Events • Sermons Online  
• Set Lists • The Table • & More

**Pastor Tony:**  
[galatiansii20@yahoo.com](mailto:galatiansii20@yahoo.com)

**Pastor Chandler:**  
[pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Cory Mattson**  
715-417-0945



*Spend the evening  
with the Ziels*

We are so excited to be hosting an evening with Dave and Angie Ziel, our sponsored missionaries from Costa Rica! It is a time of greeting them, finding out how God is working through them in Costa Rica and area, and a time to ask questions. So please keep the date open: Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the building. This will be replacing Immerse that evening.



TEENS! Only 4 days left to register for CYIA! Registration closes at midnight on March 31<sup>st</sup>. See Erika Rice for info and details.

## CHILD SAFETY ALERT!!

With all the construction going on in the entry way, we are asking people to be extra careful. Please help to keep our kiddos safe by keeping them from running in and out of the construction area.

## Pastoral Eldership Team:

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AP, Chandler Wiley	815-575-6122
Zachary Fugate	715-379-2918
Paul Gilbertson	715-755-3517
Dale Mattson	715-566-2302
Greg Mattson	715-417-2444
Rene Milner	715-483-0185