

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, September 27, 2026

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Pastoral Pondering

The Author and Perfecter of Faith

"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, (2) 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". Hebrews 12:1-2

To help us with context, in chapter 11, the author of Hebrews looked back and saw how the great saints of the OT won the race of life through faith. Now the author urges them to "look to Jesus" and have their faith and hope strengthened, as it is for each of us. He begins chapter 12 with this: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**".*

The author tells us we need to turn from sin that clings so closely so we can run the race with endurance, because sin will always weigh us down. It appears that the sin being emphasized here is the sin of unbelief. It was unbelief that kept Israel out of the Promised Land, and it is unbelief that hinders us from entering our spiritual inheritance in Christ. The phrase "by faith" is used twenty-one times in Hebrews 11, indicating **that it is faith in Christ that enables us to endure**. Running the race of faith requires us to always be trusting in Christ, never giving up, no matter what the obstacles, hardship, or cost.

As runners in the race of our Christian life, we must **"fix our eyes on Jesus."** As we run, we must be always looking to Him in faith. Like the Apostle Peter, when we get our eyes of faith off the Savior, we start to sink (Matt. 14:22-33). It was in "looking to him" that we were saved, for to look means to trust. When the dying Jews looked to the uplifted serpent, they were healed, and this is an illustration of our salvation through faith in Christ. (Num. 21 and John 3). Looking unto Jesus describes an attitude of saving faith and not just a single act.

We must run towards Him with all our might, in the promise that we will be conformed into His image.

Verse 2 teaches us that Jesus is the **"author"** of our faith. He is the one who made the way into the Holy of Holies so that the rest of us could follow into

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

God's presence (see Hebrews 10:19-20). Jesus is also the **"perfecter"** of our faith. He did not just start it; He finished it. And all the glory goes to Him. Jesus endured the cross in Gethsemane, carried out the will of the Father. (Matthew 26:39). He did this by focusing on the joy that was to come. He knew that He would be resurrected and restored to the place of glory that He had with the Father from the beginning. He looked forward with joy to the people He would save. He willingly gave His life to save His sheep. Crucifixion was a gruesome, tortuous death, and it included public humiliation and shame. **The cruel irony is that He could only save others by not saving Himself.** He is truly the Messiah, and this prevented Him from coming down off the cross. He was the Chosen One, our Substitute, our only Redeemer, and He had been chosen for the very purpose of dying as God's once for all sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:8-14). After Jesus' death, God raised Him from the dead, and Jesus ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God the Father. This signifies Jesus' authority and the fact that His work is finished. (John 19:30)

We need to get our eyes off ourselves, other people, and circumstances and get our eyes fixed on Christ alone. Our brother Pete Manship was such a good example of this as he battled cancer for over 5 years. Pete was a regular at the Thursday morning Men's Bible study, he loved God's Word, fixed his eyes on Jesus, and ran the race of faith with endurance and trusted in Christ alone for salvation.

Pete and I were able to have many good discussions about the saving gospel during his last few months. He appreciated this wonderful quote from Luther and the other Reformers.

*"I don't know how I can be saved when I look at myself, but, **when I look to Christ**, I don't know how I could ever be lost, what a great Savior we have."*

Christ is indeed the author and perfecter of our faith. He is our sin bearer and our perfect righteousness, (2 Cor. 5:21 and Phil. 3:9). As we see Him in the Word and yield to His Spirit, He increases our faith and enables us to run the race with endurance.

Looking unto Jesus with you, Jim Nelson

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Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172
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This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. Crown Him with Many Crowns
2. Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery
3. Beautiful Savior
4. My Worth is not in What I Own
5. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

This Week's Schedule of Events

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

Sept. 27 No Meal

Oct. 4 Meal Team 8 - Tacos

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

Fellowship Tip for 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.

September Memory Verse

1 Cor. 10:31--So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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Announcements

Young Adults Bible Study: Our Young Adults Bible Study will be back in the 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's 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.

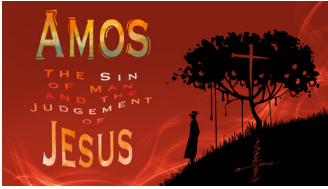
Meal Team Lead Meeting: Sunday, October 4th immediately following the service. Grab lunch and join us in the meeting room off the kitchen. Please send a representative from your team if you can't make it.

New Life Messaging

New Life Christian Community has a secure online community designed to engage the body of Christ in between Sundays. If you would like to be part of this online community, consider joining by downloading our app or through a link posted at the top on our website. Feel free to ask any of the Elders for help.



Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Amos.

Our passage for today is 8:4-14.

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Join New Life Connect by emailing Pastor Paul at pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com