



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, September 21, 2025
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Pastoral Pondering

Perspective

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."---
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

For many Christians this is a favorite passage to reflect on, especially during times when what we see with our eyes challenges what we know to be true according to God's Word. What we see and feel are powerful influencers for the state of our hearts and minds. So we need the reminders of God's Word in the midst of the trials, hardships, and temptations to give us the eternal perspective during the days of our sojourning here until the day our Savior comes again.

Earlier in chapter 4 Paul has been describing the ministry of the gospel given to believers by the mercy of God (**vs 1**). The way this gospel is manifested in the life of the believers is that they begin, as servants of God, proclaiming Christ and no longer themselves (**vs. 5**). This gospel, this treasure, this life and light of Christ has been deposited in the believer who is described as a jar of clay (**vs. 7**). Paul describes the physical experience of those ministering this gospel with words more than just a little uncomfortable, such as: "afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, struck down, and always carrying in the body the death of Jesus." Though this is true, they are somehow not crushed, not driven to despair, not forsaken, not destroyed, and not dead (**vs. 8-12**). What is happening here? Paul describes what appears like two different realities. On the one hand he describes the experience in the flesh is like being given over to death daily, yet on the other hand, simultaneously, there is a sustaining grace of God that is at work inside the heart and soul of the believer, preparing them for eternal things of incomparable glory.

Now when he starts **vs. 16** with, ***"So we do not lose heart, though our outer self is wasting away..."*** We kind of get why someone might be tempted to lose heart. Dying daily is not pleasant by any means. If Paul and those with him or if we ourselves would look only with physical eyes at our physical experiences to make sense of life or to ground our joy and hope in, we would be certainly driven to despair and crushed. But through this, another reality is taking place within, ***"our inner self is being renewed day by day."***

He acknowledges that there is real affliction and real hardship that has powerful sway on our minds and perspective, yet he tells us that from God's eternal perspective this

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Pastoral Pondering

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affliction is preparing us for glory! And when you compare your current affliction to the weight of eternal glory, all things, no matter how severe, will soon appear light and momentary. We need not our circumstances to change to grow in faith, hope, love, and joy; we need our inner self renewed day by day with God's eternal perspective and purposes for us in Christ.

Where does Paul point our eyes? To Christ and His current sanctifying work, His sure future promises, and the eternal glory we will share with Him. This is where we need to keep our eyes too. Paul and those with him are looking NOT to the things that are **seen (current temporary afflictions)** but to the things that are **unseen (future eternal glory)** as they walk out the ministry of the gospel. *"For the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal."* Living with your eyes on Christ does not ignore the present affliction but by faith recognizes what we experience here and now, is actually His very means of preparing us for the eternal weight of coming glory beyond all comparison.

Remember beloved family in the Lord, we are called to labor in the ministry of the Spirit that brings true life by proclaiming Christ and His gospel. Though, *"we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, it is so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."* There is a real, daily dying to ourselves and real struggle and affliction, but take heart; it is God's means to prepare us for what is incomparably better, things that are eternal and full of glory. With Paul, we are to keep our eyes on the truth and promises of Scripture, keeping our eyes on the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Looking to the things unseen, Pastor Paul



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

Building & Grounds Ministry

Jim Judkins 715.338.8837
oldoutboardjim@hotmail.com

Coffee Ministry

Ana Smith: 715.566.3740
ajoysmith05@gmail.com

Finance Administration

Colleen Firkus (Treasurer): 612.889.7581
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

Greeting Card Ministry

Lynn Nelson: 651.373.1426
lynnjimmnelson@gmail.com

GriefShare Ministry

Robin Mattson: 715.566.1945
robinmattson27@gmail.com

Immerse Ministry

Andrew/Lauryssa Steward: 715.483.5133
lamilner.31@gmail.com

Meal Train Relief Ministry

Kristin Stephan: 651.235.1681
kristin@kageinnovation.com

Missions Outreach

Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661
lrmilner@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Jeff Warren: 715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com

Newsletter Administration

Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djhalm@lakeland.ws

Resource Center

Cory Mattson: 715.417.0945
cory79mattson@hotmail.com

Sunday Meal Services

Barbara Judkins: 309.269.0556
bjdarnell@hotmail.com

Video Ministry

Jim Mabree: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell	715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com	
Pastor Paul Linzmeier	320.226.5581
pastorpaul.nlcc@gmail.com	
Pastor Jeff Warren	715.553.2405
pastorjeff.nlcc@protonmail.com	
Cory Mattson – Secretary	715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate	715.379.2918
Brian Gates	651.230.6554
Dale Mattson	715.566.2302
Greg Mattson	715.417.2444
Rene Milner	715.557.0185
Jim Nelson	651.283.2132
Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

This Week's Scheduled Events:

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

September Memory Verse:

Psalms 42:11 (ESV)

"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him my salvation and my God."

September Fellowship Tip:

Take a moment this week and reach out to one of our missionaries. You and/or your family would be such a blessing by just sending an email, card, making a phone call, or a video chat. Take a look at our missions board for more information.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

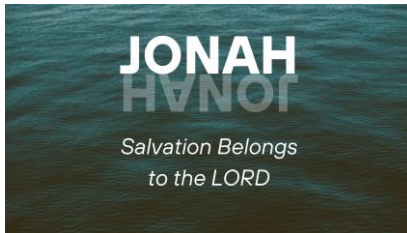
Sep 21	Meal Team 1 ~Pizza
Sep 14	Meal Team 8 ~Chili

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

Check Out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Preaching Guild Postponed:** Preaching guild brothers, another important event is scheduled tonight so we are postponing this gathering and will plan to pick back up next month, 3rd Sunday night (October 19th.)
- **Young Adults Gathering at Wood Lake -UPDATE:** Due to a small number of people registered for the night at Wood Lake camp, the event has been cancelled. However, you are invited to the kickoff night for the Genesis study at the Linzmeier home on **Friday, September 26 at 6:30 pm**. There will be a campfire and a "S'moregasbord." Please bring a camping chair, Bible, instrument, and a creative (or traditional) S'mores ingredient. The address is 1632 138th St. Balsam Lake, WI. This is North of 8, so flannel shirts are encouraged.
- **Young Ladies Study:** We are planning to continue the Young Ladies study that we began this summer. This time going through a study together called ***Becoming a Woman of Freedom*** based on **Hebrews 12:1-2. "Lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"**. If you would like to join us, please let me know in the next couple days so I can get books ordered. At this point we will plan to **meet the opposite Tuesdays of Young Adults**. Please feel free to call or text with any questions or to let me know you would like a book. Eager to study with you! Katie Severson 715-417-1595.
- **NLCC 2025 Directory Supplement:** It's been a while since we've mentioned the 2025 directory. We would like to provide another updated supplement this fall prior to the holidays with additions of new families and further corrections. This would be great timing for those who send out snail-mail Christmas cards and letters! So if anyone would like to make us aware of needed corrections, or would like to have their contact information included for this fall, they can send an email to: nlccdirectory@gmail.com. The info needed, if you're willing to share, includes:
 - names of all family members
 - address
 - cell phones and/or landlines
 - email addresses
 - birthdates (no year)
 - anniversary dates (no year)Current directories with prior additional info and corrections are still available in the resource center for \$2 each.
- **NLCC Cookbook:** We would like to start taking pre-orders for the NLCC cookbook which is titled ***Fellowship Feasts and Treats***. You can find us at the resource center where there will be signup and prepay for your very own copy. We are charging \$12 per book with **all profits** going back into the church. However, we haven't decided on what cause the money will be supporting so please be in prayer for us on that. Thank you!



Sermon Notes:

Today's Passage:

Pastor Paul's message is from the
Old Testament book,

Jonah 1:1-16