



# 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, JUNE 14, 2026  
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## Pastoral Pondering

### Understanding Who Jesus Is

Mount Hermon, located just north of Israel, has a long history of pagan worship. In ancient times it was viewed as the home of Baal, the god who represented one of the most serious challenges to Israel's status as the Lord's people. In the intertestamental period, Mount Hermon was understood to be the home of the Nephilim, also known as the Rephidim. These giants were believed to be demonic agents who corrupted mankind by teaching them arts and skills that were not meant for humans to be involved in.

When Alexander the Great was conquering the ancient world, the Greeks identified with the pagan lore of Mount Hermon. They adopted the site as a center of Greek pagan worship. The Romans came later and followed suit with their gods. The name, Caesarea Philippi, has obvious connections to Roman rule.

Today the site still shows some of the signs of its evil past. There are niches carved out of the base of the mountain where man-made idols were displayed and worshipped.

It was to this location that Jesus took His disciples. They were going to a place of the "gods" and there was something important He wanted them to know and contemplate.

***And on the way He asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" (Mark 8:27)***

This was a very important question because the entire ministry of Jesus was focused on demonstrating that He was not an ordinary man—He was God's Son. His teaching and His miracles all pointed to this truth. The disciples responded to the question Jesus asked by identifying some of the speculations of people.

***And they told Him, "John, the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." (Mark 8:28)***

Even though He asked the question, it seemed Jesus was not especially interested in the answer. What He really wanted to know was what the disciples thought. They had been with Him, had seen His miracles, and had heard His teaching. How had these experiences shaped their understanding of Him?

***And He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered Him, "You are the Christ." (Mark 8:29)***

It was the right answer, but the time was not right for making His identity known, so Jesus told them not share this important information with anyone.

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a high mountain. There is disagreement about the identity of the mountain, but there are not very many high mountains in Israel. Most of the "high" mountains would be considered hills. But one high mountain was very close by: Mount Hermon, so that is the likely site for the next step in the Lord's revelation of His identity.

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## Pastoral Pondering

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As they were on the high mountain,

*He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. (Mark 9:2, 3)*

This must have been very impressive. But wait, there's more...

*And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses and they were talking with Jesus. (Mark 9:4)*

Peter again had something to say, but, while it represented good intentions, it was rash and foolish. Perhaps he can be excused because of the intensity and awesomeness of what he was experiencing. Mark tells us that his outburst happened because Peter and the other disciples were terrified. It really was *that kind of* experience. But the terror was not over.

*And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. (Mark 9:7, 8)*

What the people thought about the identity of Jesus was interesting and revealing, but it did not matter all that much. What the disciples thought was more interesting, more important, more revealing, and it mattered greatly. But it took a revelation from God to complete their understanding.

In the end, the real answer to the question of who Jesus of Nazareth was, came not from men, not from the disciples. It came from God. His understanding of the identity of Jesus was perfect because He had sent Jesus to Earth as the fulfillment of His plan that was formed before the foundation of the earth. It is true wisdom to adopt God's perspective on who Jesus of Nazareth was. Adopting God's perspective will have a profound impact on how we think and live.

*And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (Mark 9:9)*

Today we know the Son of Man has risen from the dead, so we are able to tell others who Jesus of Nazareth was and is and always will be.

Jay Swisher



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Pastoral Eldership Team:*

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### *This Week's Scheduled Events:*

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– <b>On Break</b>
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

### *June Memory Verse:*

Psalms 92:1-3 (ESV)

*"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most high; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre."*

### *June Fellowship Tip:*

Have you begun a prayer/discipleship relationship with someone from New Life? If not, prayerfully consider whom you can be regularly meeting with for the purpose of growth and sharpening as disciples of Jesus.

### *Sunday Meals and Fellowship:*

Jun 14	No Meal
Jun 21	Meal Team 7~SloppyJo/Hotdogs

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

### *This Sunday's Worship Songs:*

1. Come behold the wondrous mystery 2. Rejoice! The Lord is King
3. All my boast is in Jesus 4. There is hope
5. Give me Jesus

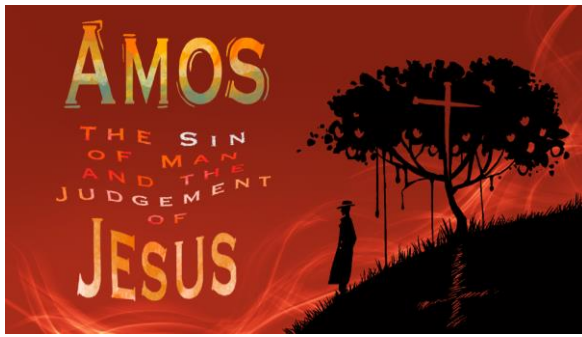
- **Sunday Morning Prayer:** Join us **each Sunday morning, 8:30-9:00 am**, in the large classroom, you are invited to join us in prayer. Specific topics to pray for include ministry teams, missionaries, bible studies, personal requests, and really anything the Lord impresses on our heart. We serve a gracious God who calls us to pray and hears our prayers! Let us make every effort to gather often and pray.
- **Midyear Partners Meeting:** Partners Meeting after service **today**. Partners, please plan to stick around after service; the meeting will begin at **12:00 Noon**.
- **Preaching Guild:** No Preaching Guild this month. Plan on being back **Sunday, July 19th at 6:30 pm**.
- **TRI County Baby Bottle Fund Raiser:** If you haven't already, please consider supporting our local Options for Women | TRI-COUNTY. **Be sure to bring the baby bottles back by next Sunday Service (6/21), Father's Day**. This fundraiser contributes significantly towards the total operating expenses for the year, so it's a really important fundraiser! Your support will help provide free pregnancy tests, counseling, ultrasound services, clothing, and baby supplies for the mothers who are most in need from our community.



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 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.

*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 4:1-3*