



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, May 31, 2026

Vol. 19, Issue 35

Pastoral Ponderings

Justified by Faith

Romans 3:20-24: (20) *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (21) But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it (22) the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

To put these verses in proper context, the Apostle Paul is teaching the Roman Church that the entire world is guilty by describing the total sinfulness of mankind. The Law that the Jews thought would save them merely condemns them; for the Law gives us the knowledge of sin and points us to the need of a Savior. The Puritans taught us well; "we need to convict with the Law and heal with the Gospel." **Jesus came to saves sinners.**

As we continue with this text down to verse 26, Paul introduces several important terms for us to know and understand correctly.

Justified, verse 24 – declared righteous in God's sight through the merits of Christ, secure in our position in Christ before the throne of God. Justification is God's righteousness imputed, put to our account.

Redemption, verse 24 – deliverance from sin and its penalties, by the payment of a price. This price was Christ's blood on the cross.

Propitiation, verse 25 – Christ's sacrifice satisfied God's holy law, thus making it possible for God to forgive sinners and remain just Himself. God's justice has been satisfied; He may now look with kindness and grace upon a lost world.

In verse 24, Paul tells us we are "justified freely by His grace," what an amazing statement.

Not by works, good intentions, or religious activities, but freely by His grace as a gift, (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is in this letter to the Roman Church that Paul explains how God can be both "just and justifier" and the answer is the cross. When Jesus died, He bore our sins in His body (1 Peter 2:24) and thus paid the price God's law demanded. Then, He rose victoriously from the dead. Thus, He is alive and on His Throne interceding for us, our one and only mediator (1 Tim: 2-5), and able to save all who will believe and trust in Him.

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Pastoral Ponderings cont.

As we read the last few verses of chapter 3, we conclude that we are accepted by faith alone. The Jews had nothing to boast of, because all sinners are justified by faith and not by the works of the Law. If justification is by the Law, then He is a God of the Jews only, because only Israel had the Law. But God is also a God of the Gentiles. Therefore, both Jews and Gentiles are saved the same way—by faith. Salvation has been available only by grace through faith ever since our first parents fell.

Paul takes us back to Abraham as the prime example of this: “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned (imputed) to him as righteousness” (Gen. 15:6, Romans 4:3). Habakkuk 2:4 says. “The just shall live by faith.” And this means of salvation does not cancel the Law, for the Law demanded death for sin, and Christ died for our sins. Thus, the Gospel establishes the Law, God’s Law reveals my need in a very big way for His grace, and God’s grace enables me to obey the Law.

Mike Gendron of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministry writes: “The heart of God’s Gospel is the treasured doctrine of justification by faith. This is the hinge upon which the gates of heaven open and close. Anyone who is wrong about justification is wrong about the Gospel. The Gospel is good news because it reveals the only way a condemned sinner on death row can be declared righteous and set free. Jesus Christ satisfied divine justice so that God could be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21-28). **The sinless Savior went to the cross as a substitute for His people.** He endured the wrath of God in the place of sinners who would repent and believe His Gospel.”

The doctrine of justification runs straight to the very heart of the gospel. In Justification, God provides the answer to mankind’s most basic theological and religious question: **How can sinners come to be in a right relationship with the holy God of the universe.**

Scripture is clear that Justification by faith alone means I have been declared as righteous as Christ Himself and will be considered as such for all eternity! Amazing Grace Indeed!

Your brother in Christ – Jim Nelson

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Check out New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. Psalm 62
2. We Come, O Christ, To You
3. He Will Hold Ne Fast
4. O Great God
5. But For the Cross of Christ

This Week's Schedule of 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– On Break
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

Meal Teams

- May 31 Meal Team 5 - Breakfast
June 7 Meal Team 6 - Potato & Salad

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

Fellowship Tip for May

Looking to be more connected online? If you haven't already, download our NewLife App to access our online messaging platform.

Get church updates, announcements, prayer requests, and more. Make an account today and get connected.

May Memory Verse

“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” John 6:35

Pastoral Eldership Team

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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! You're invited to join us for our meal after service. We would love to meet you and get to know and for you to get to know us more.

Announcements

Hall of Men this evening 6:30pm. You don't want to miss it!

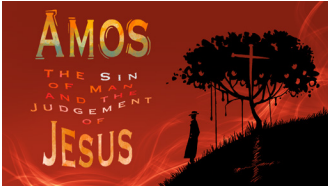
Partners Meeting: Coming up on Sunday June 14th we will be having a Midyear Partners Meeting. Partners, please plan to stick around after service; the meeting will begin at 12.

2026 Graduates: Next Sunday June 7th we will be recognizing and praying over our 2026 Graduates. If a grad party is planned, please feel free to place an invite on the welcome table and/or announce in the Megaphone group through our App Messaging platform.

Birthday Celebration: Roberta Behr's 90th birthday celebration is planned for Saturday, June 20, from 1 to 3 PM. RSVPs are necessary. Sign-up sheet is in the church entry. More details forthcoming.

Young Adult Women Study: Hello! My name is Jocelyn Fugate and I am hoping to gather a group of YOUNG ADULT WOMEN who are interested in designating time to study the word and grow in faith together. I am looking to meet on Mondays, time and location flexible, beginning on Monday June 8th and continuing every other week. Please reach out via New Life Messenger, text message at 715-294-0921, or in person at church on Sundays if you are interested!"

Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be teaching from
the book of Amos.
Our passage for today is Amos 3:9-15.

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Sunday service starts at 9:30 am • nlcc.dresser@gmail.com

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