

This is why so often we offer up a prayer or two and then forget about it as soon as our car breaks down or internet goes out for an hour and we are frustrated thinking for sure this is a great catastrophe forgetting and not caring 29,000 children die everyday worldwide from preventable causes. Some of whom are fleeing great poverty, crime, persecution and certain death willing to be illegal in the United States rather than face another day in their current existence.

Initiating a policy like the one on April 19<sup>th</sup> should have been done with the forethought of being able to house families. You do not have to be a genius to know the numbers and what they were going to face when this policy went into action. It was by admission meant to be a deterrent to future border crossings and so far has had no such effect and will likely not see a more than a 10-20% drop in the number of illegal border crossings. There are so many people in such a bad situation, a situation which we cannot even imagine that being detained and separated in the United States is a better option than staying where they are. Families would rather send their children to the US alone than have them grow up where they are. Of course there are situations where border crossings are done for the express purpose of criminal activity like drug trafficking or gang related crime. There is no doubt this occurs and needs to be stopped. There is no question breaking the law is a crime and different laws carry with them different consequences (unless you are rich or a politician or both... I am stating the obvious facts.) and illegal crossings need to have a more effective solution but this is not it. Morally we are failing our own nation, appearing to the world as no different than Russia, Iraq, or Syria detaining refugees in limbo or worse. Illegal border crossing is a matter of law, but there is no legal necessity to separate parents and their children. The world is watching, has spoken, and are appalled, as am I.

The root issue is immigration. This is not a new issue nor one with any easy solution. Our nation, composed mostly of immigrants, has failed to enact rational and reasonable laws on immigration throughout its history. Legislation passed in 1924 was actually cited by the Nazi's as credence to enact similar policies. During my lifetime immigration has always been an issue upon which almost no administration was willing to comprehensively reform. Often the official policy has been to ignore policies fearing something like this may be the result and it could be an explosive and political nightmare. Obama attempted to fix the gap of minor children who were brought illegally to the US by the parents with DACA legislation, giving this specific category the opportunity to become a legal resident. However, this was but one political step in a quagmire of years of inaction. On one side of the political spectrum you have some calling for sanctuary cities which will protect illegal aliens and even those who have committed crimes above entering the country illegally to those who are now on the side of taking children from their parents. There is a great divide. Not the least of which are minors who cross the border without their parents. The media may have failed to mention it but there are no less than 11,000 children in federal custody. OVER →

The federal government is providing ongoing childcare for more than 11,000 kids with no apparent resolution in sight. The moral situation, as many moral situations we face, does not have a black and white, letter of the law blanket solution for every single situation. Both parties need to own up to their part in this disaster, break the deadlock and start working on viable solutions. There are some, none are immediate, none easy, several are far less evil. So far in 2018 the child care cost alone for children who have crossed illegally is at almost 100 million dollars. The moral cost of recent decision may be much higher. Let's look at the Biblical side of this issue, specifically a comment made by US Attorney General Jeff Sessions. He used Romans 13 saying, "I would cite to you the apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13 to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained the government for His purposes. Orderly and lawful processes are good in themselves. Consistent and fair application of the law is, in itself, a good and moral thing and protects the weak and protects the lawful." He contextually misused, actually overused, the Biblical text. His own denomination is actually pursuing church discipline for his public support of this questionable moral decision relating to the separation of families. Two issues arise here the first is the text of Romans 13 which I will get back to in a moment and the second is the discipline coming from the United Methodist Church which is fairly loose in its understanding of other moral issues yet firm in the politically charged atmosphere of this one which in itself is an interesting issue to consider deeper. For now, suffice it to say there are obvious incongruities in their stances on political and moral issues relating to their interpretation and application of Scripture. The text of Romans 13 was brought to world-wide attention so it is necessary to speak to this issue (I preached a sermon on May 27, 2018 on this text addressing government and politics which can be found at <http://www.newhopewachula.com/messages/>). Please read the text and then consider Paul wrote under the Roman Empire, not under freedom, and under a rule which persecuted and killed Christians and would eventually kill him. Paul is advocating government and order because where there is no governance there is disorder and often chaos and this is always destructive. This can lead to greater moral tragedy than unjust government. Considering this we must prefer order to disorder and to protect God's gift of order we must help protect government even from itself. So when the government is not worthy of honor we must advocate for the gospel and the good which it brings and the moral good for all people who exist, even if they violate the law. Not every law adopted by a government is right, thus honorable action must be taken by God's people. All people deserve the right to the better more perfect law of God. God's people have faced this for years and the Bible is full of positive examples of honor and yet faithful adherence to holiness and worship of the one true God: Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach, Abednego, Esther, Mordecai, David, Paul, Peter, John and a host of others. Our responsibility: not to dishonor the law nor the lawmakers or law enforcers by calling for anarchy or rebellion but by calling for more righteous and just laws for all people.



SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

### *Morning Worship Service*

**Whole Heart**

**Welcome & Prayer**

**Holy Ground**

**PASSION CAMP TESTIMONIES**

**God, You're So Good**



**Build My Life**

### *Evening Worship Service*

**# 139 At the Cross**

**Invocation & Welcome**

**# 203 His Name Is Wonderful**

**# 141 The Old Rugged Cross**

**Worship Through Testimonies & Prayer**

**# 10 How Great Thou Art**

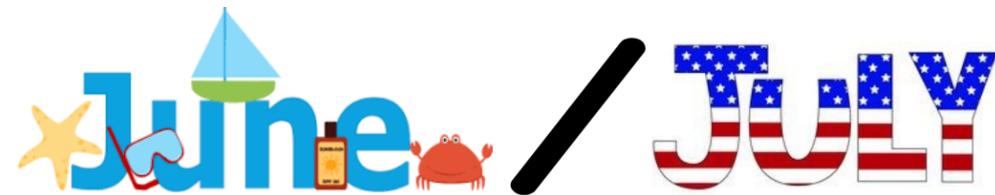
**FAITH THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES -**

**Hebrews 12**

**# 305 I Have Decided**

I had a couple articles in mind to write upon, a few issues which are indeed important, some may have slipped the notice of mainstream reporting and I want you to know about them. However, one issue cannot escape our notice this week so we must address the US Government's policy of separating parents from their children even those of "tender age". The current administration has probably faced more widespread bipartisan criticism on this issue across the spectrum of political views than on any other issue which has occurred in the first 18 months of this administration. This, in itself, is saying a lot. The facts are simple and for the most part a matter of law printed in black and white and yet the moral, ethical and human issues at hand are far from cut and dry; in fact this is one of the most complicated issues regarding human rights. (The issue of immigration is on the level of pro-life vs pro-choice, LGBTQ vs. freedom of religion, and sex and child trafficking.) Let me first employ you to begin a concerted effort to pray for each of these issues daily and do your part to know the issues at hand and the consequences which can be known and deduced in order to be prepared to act on behalf of Jesus when and where necessary. This is our first and most important objective! Now let's briefly examine immigration and the policy of separating families who illegally cross the border. I will begin by saying illegally crossing the border is an issue of law, separating children, even "tender age children" is an issue of morality and the US Government has and is failing on both issues. A policy which took effect on April 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, began separating children of parents entered the country illegally. When the policy was announced, it was announced as being an urgent, urgently needed, and short-lived program. However the policy is already responsible for 1,995 children being separated from their parents. One thing this number highlights is the number of families seeking to escape their current situation in their own countries which points to instability around the world which we are, for the most part, oblivious to as we go about our daily lives unaware, and if we are honest, uncaring about the situations of others. This issue is close to home as each of us is aware of and likely knows someone who is "undocumented". However, we will not be affected until we are actively and directly involved in the lives of those against whom these actions occur. I was not nearly as aware of the injustices in governments around the world and the tenuous situations they live in until, while in Nicaragua, anti-government protests and government response has plunged Nicaragua into chaos. Those are my friends, my family, children I have sat with and watched movies with, families I have spent our vacation with, and with whom I have eaten in their homes, who have cared for my kids, and shown me hospitality. It reminds me of September 11, 2001, do you remember that day? And yet did it change our life much, if at all? The next day I went to work in a peaceful community feeling totally isolated from what had occurred. I knew the facts, saw first hand the initial news reports as that historic event took place and yet its impact on the way my life operated was nil. I believe these are solid reminders for us; we only care about what affects us directly and what we are actively involved in directly.

I am *Blessed*, I am CALLED  
 I am *Healed*, I am *Whole*  
 I am *Saved in Jesus' Name*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27 Rehearsal for Youth -Led Service	28	29	30
1 <b>JULY</b>	2 7pm Deacon's Meeting	3 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM		5	6	7 Youth -Led Service Rehearsal Dinner @ 5pm Rehearsal @ 6pm
	9 6pm Stewardship Meeting	10	11 Business Meeting 6:30p	12		14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

*Happy Anniversary!*  
 June 24th—*Brian & Gilly Knight*  
 June 27th—*Ernest & Pauline Hendrickson*  
 June 28th—*John & Mildred White*  
 June 30th—*Binky & Ralene Graham*  
*Clay & Sheena Newman*

**Happy Birthday!**



**June 26**  
Debbie Wheeler  
**June 27**  
Jonathan Benbow  
Michelle Graham  
**June 30**  
Micah Hendrickson

ARE YOU READY TO...  
**Love LOUD**  
 Coming August 2018

**TUPOS STUDENT MINISTRIES**  
 UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES...

**REDEEMED**  
 YOUTH LED WORSHIP SERVICE JULY 8TH



UPCOMING YOUTH  
 FRIDAY, JULY 20TH  
 DINNER @ 5PM

**Sunday Services**

Nursery.....21  
 Morning Worship.....117  
 Evening Worship.....34

**Giving Record**

Budget Needs/Week .....\$7,056.00  
 Tithes & Offering .....\$7,366.00  
 Difference.....+310.00  
 Designated..... \$515.00

**COUNTING COMMITTEE - JUNE 2018**  
 Johnny Trammell, Alma Durrance, Debbie Wheeler

**USHERS OF THE WEEK**  
 Kelly Durrance  
 Scott Farr  
 Corey Zeigler  
 Greg Shackelford

**DEACON OF THE WEEK**  
 June 24-30  
 Adam Bunch 673-0206  
 July 1-7  
 Kord Robertson 781-5383

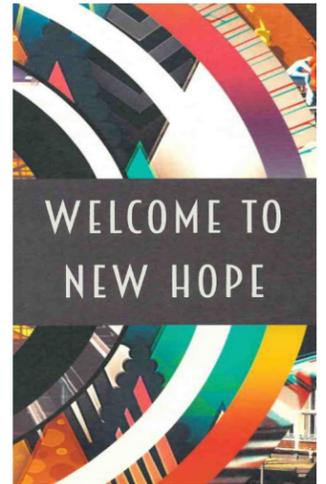
**WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

Sundays

9:30 A.M. Media Center Open  
 9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building  
 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary  
 Kids' Church K-5  
 6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday

5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study  
 6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)  
 G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.  
 Women's Bible Study  
 Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.  
*We're so glad you're here!*

1999 State Road 64 East - Wauchula, Florida 33873  
 (863) 773-2101 - [www.newhopewauchula.com](http://www.newhopewauchula.com)  
 Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)  
 Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)  
 Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)