



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 2

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2015

DON'T LOSE HEART

From the Pastor's Desk

Jesus Christ: The One Who Divides

Luke 12:49-53

Do you love a good party? Who doesn't love to live it up a little? We just got passed one of the busiest times of the year. Gatherings for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's generally consume our time and energies. Not to mention, but I will anyways, the Super Bowl celebrations that will occur, because our team, the Patriots, made it, yeah! For my immediate family during this time of year we celebrate four birthdays and Christmas within a forty-four day period. Yikes! But you know gatherings are generally fun especially when you have family to spend them with. When I think about my extended family, for the most part we get along pretty well. Yes there can be heated debates. Yes there can be disagreements on certain topics. Yes we may even get pretty vocal, just as my wife, about the things we are passionate about. However there is still a sense of unity that exists among the family, a unity that connects us, binds us, and unites us if for no other reason we are family. This unity within the family reminds me of something that seemed rather contradictory in the Bible. It is a passage regarding what Jesus said about what he came to do in his ministry. Now mind you, this passage does not represent the only thing he came to do, but it does represent the results of those who will embrace Him, His message, and His salvation.

The passage I am referring to is that of Luke 12:49-53. In this passage Jesus said, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather divisions; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (NASB)

This is indeed one of the hard sayings of Jesus in the Gospels. Does He appear to advocate hatred in this passage? Does He seem to not be the one who brings peace to life? Is He actually saying that He is doing this on purpose? The answer is no, He is not advocating hatred for the sake of

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb.1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion.

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

Adult Bible Series– to resume in April

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 hatred. Yes he is the one who brings peace. No he does not do this necessarily on purpose. However he is pointing to the fact that this is the end result of one who comes to know Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

When Jesus comes into the life of a new believer that individual becomes a new person. Thus as a new person those who knew the old do not recognize the individual because of the immense change that has occurred in the new believer. We can all recognize that there is always a level of tension between a father and son, between a mother and daughter, and especially between a mother-in-law with her daughter-in-law, but it is generally overcome with love and acceptance, at least in a healthy situation.

But with the changes that occurred in the life of the new believer, these tensions are increased a hundred fold if the other person has not made that same profession of faith. The biggest reason is that the new believer embodies the righteousness and resemblance of his Savior and Lord, which can be offensive to one who has not yielded his or her life to Christ.

It is important to recognize that Jesus made a profound statement that He wanted "to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were kindled!" In this He declares how He wanted to be at the point in history when He would be shown in His majesty as well as in His full righteous rule. But He declared that He had to undergo a baptism and that He was distressed till it was accomplished. This distressing

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

factor is not about the event of His death, burial, and resurrection; but instead, the distress points to His desire to be at that point in history when His second coming has finally occurred and judgment is passed. Until that day there is division in familial relationships. Until that day there will be a lack of harmony in those families where some are saved and others are not. Until that wonderful day of our Savior's revelation, we must endure the hostility of our unsaved family and friends.

Let me encourage you to not lose heart. I understand that no one wants to live in hostility with family members. Many of you would rather have a peaceful time when you visit with the unsaved in your life. The Lord does encourage us to be peacemakers in our lives. However, remember that He who lives in you cannot be hidden from those who know you.

If you are truly saved, then you truly represent your Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. If that is true, then there will be hostility, division, and frustration, but don't lose heart. For Jesus has warned us ahead of time what to expect. Endure to be His representative. Strive to serve Him. Seek to honor Him in all your communications with family. Honor Him in all you do. Pray for the salvation of your unsaved loved ones, for one day we will no longer know division, we will only know the peace of the Lord and that is something for us to long for in our lives.

May His grace and love be upon you.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On February 7 at 8:00 a.m., the guys will be meeting for a home cooked breakfast followed by a lively Bible discussion.

We are usually done by 10:00, so set your alarm for early rising on the 7th and join us for a good time of fellowship.

Property and Space Patrol

Well we made it through a Saturday storm of about 5 inches and still held Sunday Services, and then we made it through the "Stormageddon" that wasn't at the end of the month. Many thanks to Bob Lavalley and his plow truck for plowing and sanding the church roadway and thanks to Pastor Jim's family for shoveling the walkways.

Note that the parsonage is over 20 years old and that is about the life limit on many parts of construction. We have managed to upgrade and replace the kitchen stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, and flooring in the downstairs.

The following items will need attention in the coming months.

- The roof will need replacing, particularly the garage.
- The domestic hot water needs to be modernized for efficiency.
- The boiler and heat unit will need replacing.
- There needs to be a wiring upgrade from the house to the garage.

- A proper hookup needs to be installed for the generator.
- The deck needs to be inspected, pressure washed and sealed.
- The gutters need to be cleaned out.

There is a lot of maintenance needed on the grounds.

- Brush needs to be cut on the lower parking area.
- Woodchuck control or extermination. (They were here first. Maybe call Bill Murray from *Caddieshack?*)
- The granite steps on the front walk ramp need to be reset.
- Raking out grounds disturbed by plowing snow.
- Straightening driveway lights.
- Clean out shed.

The major item for the church building is:

- Replace the exterior doors and windows.

Proposed Spring Workday is April 18 with a rain date of April 25.

THINK SPRING!

✠ Pastor Al Page

Ten Wise Sayings to Live By

The following article of ten inspirational thoughts was sent in by Virginia Smith from down Texas way.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.
2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If things are going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If things are going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold, because, to hold onto a diamond, you always need a base of gold.
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities. When God doesn't solve your problems, it's because He has faith in *your* abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing your eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. Sometime when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

The Wise Old Owl

This is a story from the pages of *Our Daily Bread* for September 2014:

Years ago an anonymous writer penned a short poem about the merits of measuring our words.

A wise old owl sat in an oak;
The more he saw the less he spoke;
The less he spoke the more he heard;
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?

There is a connection between wisdom and limiting what we say. Proverbs 10:19 says, "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise."

We are wise to be careful about what we say or how much we say in certain situations. It makes sense to guard our words when we are angry. James urged his fellow believers, "Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19). Restraining our words can also show reverence for God. Solomon said, "God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few" (Eccl. 5:2). When others are grieving, our silent presence may help more than abundant expressions of sympathy: "No one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great" (Job 2:13).

Although there is a time to be quiet and a time to speak (Eccl. 3:7), choosing to speak less allows us to hear more.

✠ Jennifer Benson Schuldt

From the Dwight L. Moody Archives

This article was submitted by Pastor Jim.

"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in the burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (1 Sam. 15:22 KJV)

Did you ever notice all but the heart of man obeys God? If you look through history, you will find that this is true. In the beginning God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. "Let the waters bring forth," and the water brought forth abundantly.

And one of the proofs that Jesus Christ is God is that He spoke to nature, and nature obeyed Him. At one time He spoke to the sea, and the sea recognized and obeyed. He spoke to the fig-tree, and instantly it withered and died, it obeyed literally and at once. He spoke to devils, and the devils fled. He spoke to the grave, and the grave obeyed Him and gave back its dead.

But when He speaks to man, man will not obey Him. That is why man is out of harmony with God, and it will never be different until men learn to obey God. God wants obedience, and He will have it, else there can be no harmony.

Dwight L. Moody (365 Days a Year with D. L. Moody, Fleming H. Revell, Grand Rapids, 1995)

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday this month:

2/18 Ruth Bachand

2/21 Charlotte Hastings

Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:



2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Feb. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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