



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 5

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

May 2015

Sometimes God Says: Be Patient

From the Pastor's Desk

Patience: A Test to Trust in God's Timing

Genesis 12:1-4

Oh what a long winter it has been! Are you ready for it to be over? I know that I am. As I think about it, do you know what has made this winter somewhat tolerable? I will tell you the answer: it was the knowledge that Spring would come soon. Well, that and looking at the calendar every day for the last two months.

In order to endure the long winters, I find that it's helpful to remember that God has placed the movements of the seasons as a promise to show to us that, though the current season may be difficult, another one will come. We must then wait upon God's promise for a new season and display patience until it comes to pass. However, in some years, the wait for Spring seems longer than others, doesn't it?

As I think about waiting, I am reminded about the story of Abram and his season of waiting. It was in Genesis 12:1-4 in which God promised Abram that his descendants would inhabit the land. Now it is important to remember two things about such a promise. First, Abram and Sarai had no children at the moment of that promise. Second, Abram was already seventy-five years old, and Sarai was about sixty-five years old – well past childbearing age. Thus such a promise in itself was an amazing one, but it would not be fulfilled right away. As a matter of fact, the promise that God made, in regard to Isaac being born, would not be fulfilled until Abram would reach one hundred. So he was made to wait a very long time.

This wait was a true test of Abram's faith in patience. Both Abram and Sarai's faith (they would later be renamed by God as Abraham and Sarah) was tested greatly and eventually their patience wavered a little. It was ten years later that Sarah would ask Abraham to fulfill God's plan by having Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, bear her a child. Without consulting God, Abraham agreed and within a year Ishmael was born. The results were that Sarah was despised by Hagar for her inability to have children and maintained the belief that she was now greater than Sarah in Abraham's eyes, which caused distress in Abraham's home.

This should be a small warning to all of us that, when we

Upcoming Events and Meetings

May 2, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

May 2, 9:00 a.m. – Spring Cleanup

After breakfast, we'll get the church ready for summer.

May 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

May 6, 10:00 a.m. – Weds. Bible Study starts

May 10 – Mother's Day

Also, the Start of the Baby Bottle Fund Drive

May 25 – Memorial Day (observed)

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. – Adult Bible Study

lose patience in waiting for God to act or respond to promises we see in Scripture, we must not run ahead, but must wait patiently for Him to act. When we run ahead, it inevitably results in turmoil within our lives and homes, just as it did for Abraham and Sarah. However, God was not harsh in response to what Abraham did, but reiterated later in Genesis the promise that He would produce an heir through Sarah, not Hagar. Thus the promise would not be fulfilled through Abraham's virility, but through God's ability. He took the dead womb in Sarah and brought life where there was none.

It would be another fourteen years before Abraham would receive word from God that he would have a child, one born of promise, the one stated back in Genesis 12. What a long wait it was indeed, twenty-five years from the original promise to fruition. Could you have waited so long? How

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

would you have fared in the same circumstances? Would you have been as faithful?

This story teaches us many things about God and our role in waiting for His promises to come to pass. First, it teaches us that God's word will come to pass regardless of how long it may take. To us time matters greatly, for we live each day in twenty-four hour cycles, but to a God who is everlasting, and for whom time is irrelevant. What is relevant is that the promises He makes will come to pass.

Second, though we are forced to wait for a promise, God is not slack in fulfilling that promise. Whether it is one year or a hundred years, God is not slow in making that promise come to pass, but instead works out the promise to come at the exact time He plans it to be fulfilled. We are called to sit back and wait for it and to acknowledge it when it happens.

Third, God uses time to cultivate patience within us. When it comes to waiting, we will either grow in patience or become more impatient. For the believer, we are called to trust, to wait, to anticipate, and to expect that the promise will come to pass. But, however long it takes, we are told to be patient. How do you fare in waiting for God to bring to pass His promises in Scripture? Do you have patience while waiting? Well, if you are having a hard time, maybe it will help to remember that patience is a test to trust in God's timing. Have you passed the test?

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, May 2nd at 8:00 a.m., there is a Men's Breakfast. This is a great way for the men to have some food and fellowship. The meal is home-cooked and the conversation is encouraging.

Spring Cleanup

Immediately following the Men's Breakfast on May 2nd, we will switch gears and get on with the Spring Cleanup. Here is the list of tasks which we hope to accomplish:

- Install air conditioners in the sanctuary.
- Remove cobwebs and dust over doors.
- Rake out yard to prepare for mowing.
- Cut and pile brush by lower parking area.
- Clean out the storage shed.
- Store snow shovels, sand, and salt.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Spring Bible Study Series

Pastor Al will be leading the Spring Bible Study Series, scheduled to begin on Wednesday May 6 at 10 a.m.

The study series will start by covering the beginning of the Bible, Genesis chapters 1-11. These chapters cover a period of about 2000 years and describe four major events: Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and Language.

The second part of the series will go through Genesis chapters 12-50 covering a period of about 350 years, in

which you find the lives of four key characters: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

Bring your Bibles and your questions as we delve into the beginning of God's plan for the human race.

Refreshments will be served.

When You Read the Bible Through

This poem about how to read the Bible was submitted by Pastor Al. You get a different and more thorough understanding of the Bible when you read it from cover to cover.

Many daily devotions help you keep the pace. For example, "Our Daily Bread" has a caption at the top of the page that says "The Bible in one year" and indicates passages to read from the Old and the New Testaments; in this way you are reading both Testaments in parallel.

I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading it piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis,
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms (the twenty-third),
Twelfth of Romans, First of Proverbs—
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!

But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.
You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble here and there,
Just before you kneel, a-weary,
And yawn through a hurried prayer,
You who treat the Crown of Writings
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude impatient look—

Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through!

by Amos R. Wells as printed in "Through the Bible" by
J. Vernon McGee

Christian Courses Online

A link from the "Our Daily Bread" web site (formerly RBC Ministries) leads to a wealth of courses you can take online. These courses are offered by <http://christiancourses.com/> and you have a choice between free courses, fee-based courses, and courses for academic credit. The footer for the web page shows that this web site is supported by RBC Ministries.

If you click on the "Get started here" button, the next page has a list on the left that organizes the site by category or by type of course.

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Christian Courses (from p. 2)

The "Free courses" link takes you to a catalog of over 60 offerings. They start with courses called "10 Reasons..." and include other topics like "New Testament Basics," studies on the gospels, the letters of the New Testament, Old Testament Basics, and the books of the Old Testament. There are even courses in foreign languages *pour vous tous*.

Note that, at the bottom of each page, you can change the number of courses per page from 5 to 100, which can be handy if you don't want to keep looking for the "Next" button.

For each course, you can open a course syllabus that includes the topic title, a course description, course objectives, background on the course lecturer, and course methods. The lecturers are from across the U.S. For most of the courses, you can select any of three formats: video, audio, or PDF text. To take a course, you need to create a login account.

If you are looking for a way to study the various books of the Bible and don't want to plunk down cash for a lot of printed study booklets, you might try this option.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a U.S. federal holiday on which we remember those people who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces. This annual holiday is observed on the last Monday of May, and was previously called Decoration Day. It originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died during that war.



Arlington National Cemetery

By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died while serving in the U.S. military.

On that solemn day, look for a commemoration ceremony in your town and pay homage to those who died to protect us from enemies both foreign and domestic.

Memorial Day Tribute

They answered their country's call to arms,
 Into battle they did go.
 Where their final destination was
 No one will ever know.
 May their final resting place
 Under some unknown sod
 Be forever hallowed,
 For it is known only...unto God.

-- Author unknown

Creating a Worship Song Service

The other day Pastor Al asked me if I was still willing to put together the music selections for each Sunday Service. I said, "Sure, I like picking the songs, but I could use some help with the rest of the process," and then explained all the facets of the process to him. He suggested I let you all know what is involved and see if anyone might be able to help out.

First I copy my bulletin template and then pull out the two big binders of sheet music: one for praise songs and the other for hymns. Each one has an index of titles showing the last time each song was sung. Currently there are about 300 songs to choose from.

I let the Spirit lead me through the lists until I have a set that looks good. Then I type up the list, add the web links to known videos for the praise songs (or search the web if needed), and mail the Sunday song list to you all so you can practice at home if you so desire.

The rest of the process can be done at the church's A/V computer by anyone in possession of the Sunday song list.

Next, I create a PowerPoint file of all the praise songs for a given Sunday. I keep these in a folder of Sunday song sets. If I picked all hymns (which is not often), then I don't need to create this file. I also have a folder full of single praise songs. I open each selected praise song, making sure it displays properly.

For each single song, I copy all its slides into the Sunday song file. All these files are then copied to a flash drive, taken to church on Sunday, loaded into the proper folders on the church's A/V computer, and the Sunday song file is opened with the resident version of PowerPoint. The last detail is to enter the sermon title and scripture reference.

The next important step, which sometimes gets overlooked in the Sunday morning rush, is to go to the music file cabinet in the rear of the office and pull out three copies of each praise song: one for the Pastor, Michelle, and Bob.

The last step, which doesn't get done very well or at all is to file all the music copies back into the music file cabinet.

So there you have the nuts and bolts of the process. The major computer skills required are a knowledge of PowerPoint and of using Windows Explorer. If you might be so moved to help out, please let me know.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 5/22 Rachel Page
- 5/26 Michael Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on any people who celebrate wedding anniversaries this month. We just don't know who you are.

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 May 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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