



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2015

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAISING GOD

From the Pastor's Desk

Spontaneous Praise to God

Isaiah 25:1:

“O Lord, You are my God;

I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name;

For You have worked wonders,

Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.” (NASB)

These were the words that greeted me first thing one morning this past week as I began my Bible study. I read them and was immediately caught in the realization I was not ready for them. Why? Because, the spontaneity of Isaiah’s praise to God came forth so forcefully to my eyes that I was not truly ready to do the same.

Up to this point in his book, Isaiah had been dealing with prophecy after prophecy of impending doom and gloom for Israel. In addition, he was faced with the realization that the people of God would not listen to his message and that in the end their destruction was imminent. Honestly this seemed like the last place Isaiah would burst forth with spontaneous praise.

So how could Isaiah, who faced such great opposition and pain from the Israelites, take a moment to spontaneously praise God? Well if one looks directly at the words it is easy to see.

First, Isaiah declared that the God of Israel is his God. His God was not the gods of the surrounding nations, or the gods that crept into the land and nation of Israel, or the idols fashioned by his neighbors whose destruction were assured. At one time for Isaiah they were his gods. Instead, for Isaiah, it was the God who created all things, and called all things into being, who reigns over all things, and is sovereign over all things that he declared as His God.

It was God who called him out of the surrounding idolatry of the nation that revealed Himself and purified Isaiah for the work of a prophet. That is why Isaiah praised God, for God delivered him from a path of destruction, the very destruction he saw in the prophecy God called him to declare to others. Thus this motivated Isaiah to exalt the name of God and give thanks for all that He has done.

Second, Isaiah spontaneously praised God because God revealed His plans to Isaiah, plans that were not formed out

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Sept. 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Sept. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Sept. 11 - Patriot's Day

Remembering those lost in the terrorist attack of 9/11

Sept. 20, Midday – Finance Committee Meeting

To develop a draft of the 2016 budget.

Sept. 23, 10 a.m. – Fall Bible Study Series

The series begins in Genesis where the Spring Series ended.

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

of anger, or out of retreat, or from reaction to what Israel had done. No, God’s wonders and activity are borne out of His sovereign rule and predestination. They are works of His that He carefully guided and directed in spite of man’s sinful behavior and rejection of Him.

Isaiah recognized that God is not surprised by what man does, or thwarted by man’s activities that were against Him, or derailed by man’s attempt to take control. Instead, Isaiah acknowledged that God was sovereign, that He had called the Israelites as a nation unto Himself, and because He did so, He would work out His plans with great covenantal faithfulness.

Isaiah recognized that this was a blessing in the midst of punishment, because God’s punishment would only go so far based on His love for His people. Thus the prophet spontaneously praised his God in the middle of much declaration of woe for the covenantal people.

See Pastor’s Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor’s Message | Upcoming Events | Men’s Breakfast | Fall Bible Study Series | Property & Space Patrol | Who Is My Neighbor | In Memoriam | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

Though this story is set almost three thousand years ago, we can learn a lot from this passage. The greatest thing to learn is to spontaneously praise our God and Creator, for our acknowledgement of His faithfulness points primarily to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Oh, how much God has done for us and how much He has lavished His love upon us. For He is God and He is worthy to be praised. Have you spontaneously praised God recently in the midst of pain or pleasure?

Isaiah teaches us in this passage that such praise does not come from focusing on ourselves, on our predicaments, or our problems; but instead on His majesty, glory, and greatness. Christ has done so much for us, shall we not praise Him for all He has done?

Let me encourage you today to take a moment and consider the importance of spontaneously praising our God and Savior for being who He is. Let us exalt His name and declare how awesome is His majesty. When we do break out in spontaneous praise, we fulfill our utmost for His highest, for we do that which we were created for, that is, to praise our Maker for who He is.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday Sept. 5th at 8:00 a.m., the guys are to meet for a home cooked breakfast followed by a lively Bible discussion. It's food for the body, then food for the soul.

We try to finish up by 10:00, so set your alarm for early rising on the 5th and join us for a good time of fellowship.

Fall Bible Study Series

The Fall Bible Study Series will start on Weds. September 23rd at 10 a.m. The focus is on the latter part of Genesis from chapter 17 to the end (chapter 50).

This series covers the important period from the time when God made His covenant with Abraham through the amazing life of Joseph.

Property and Space Patrol

It has been a very dry summer and lawn growth very slow, so the mowing has been cut back to every two weeks instead of weekly. Summer is over and we need to start thinking of the winter ahead.

One big need is for a new salt spreader. The old spreader lasted five winters with us nursing it along and making the necessary repairs to get us through each winter. Finally salt eroded it away and it is no more.

A new spreader will cost about \$700.00. The cost to get the drive salted and sanded by a vendor would be about \$125 for each storm, so a spreader will be much more cost effective and pay for itself in one winter. Let's think about how we can meet this need.

Look for a Fall Clean-Up Day near the end of October. Hopefully the leaves will be down by then and we can do all

those indoor and outdoor things necessary to get the church ready for the "W" word.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Who Is My Neighbor?

Here is the daily devotion for August 20, 2015 from the "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklet (courtesy of Our Daily Bread Ministries).



Mary enjoyed her midweek church group meeting when she and several friends gathered to pray, worship, and discuss questions from the previous week's sermon. This week they were going to talk about the difference between "going" to church and "being" the church in a hurting world. She was looking forward to seeing her friends and having a lively discussion.

As she picked up her car keys, the doorbell rang. "I'm so sorry to bother you," said her neighbor, Sue, "but are you free this morning?" Mary was about to say that she was going out when Sue continued, "I have to take my car to the repair shop. Normally I would walk or cycle home, but I've hurt my back and can't do either at the moment." Mary hesitated for a heartbeat and then smiled. "Of course," she said.

Mary knew her neighbor only by sight. But as she drove her home, she learned about Sue's husband's battle with dementia and the utter exhaustion that being a caregiver can bring with it. She listened, sympathized, and promised to pray. She offered to help in any way she could.

Mary didn't get to church that morning to talk about sharing her faith. Instead she took a little bit of Jesus' love to her neighbor who was in a difficult situation.

Lord, help me to be ready at any time to be Your hands and feet to those in need.

Luke 10:30-37:

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he

See *My Neighbor* on p. 3

My Neighbor (from p. 2)

put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

In Memoriam



Christopher Frascinella died on August 21 2015 following a long struggle with depression and addiction. He was 39 years old and committed suicide. He was brother to Nathan and Julieanne and our son.

We tell you this – suicide – because the cause of death doesn't define his life. All of us live a lifetime and die in an instant. And the life before someone dies, regardless of cause, should count for something.

We loved our son and love his memory. When the depression came, he was overwhelmed with a sadness that we never understood. His actions would become inappropriate, dangerous, sometimes in anger, and illegal. Family was important but even that wasn't enough.

He fell in love and found a young woman who became his life, and another family whom he loved and who loved him back. Ten years and a new home, a wedding planned, and even that wasn't enough, and he lost it all. So did we.

Chris was a good person; he didn't always do good things, but we can still say that Chris was a good person. Outgoing, gregarious, and hardworking, Chris was good to be around. He helped with chores, often without being asked. He took pride in his work. He loved to cook, though he mostly overcooked everything. Chris and Nathan took turns cooking dinner when it was too tiring for their Mom.

He loved our dogs, Cisco and Gizmo, and, along with his Dad and Nathan, would hike the woody trails or take them swimming in the river. He loved the dogs to the point of annoying them, but they were always excited to see him.

For several years, Chris helped his second family with volunteer work for the Special Olympics and participated in February's Penguin Plunge.

Depression and addiction are just as much diseases as cancer, heart attacks, and pneumonia. We shouldn't be ashamed. We shouldn't *not talk* about them. They change the ones we love and take them away. When I think about my son, Christopher, I think about all the good he was and the last time I hugged him and how he felt.

As much as we'd rather that suicide wasn't the end of the story, it doesn't mean it's not a good story.

Chris, we love you and miss you so much.

✠ Gail & Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

9/1 Julie Frascinella



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

9/7 Fred & Virginia Smith

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 Sept. 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.



Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

Modeling the truth of God's Word

