



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2016

The Principle of Tithing

From the Pastor's Desk

Oh Yes, I Went There!

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Do you remember the time when you were the most financially strapped that you had ever been in your life? Many of you are aware of the fact that I grew up as a preacher's kid, which meant that there were plenty of times we had need for financial support. However, there was a time before that in which my family probably faced its greatest poverty.

It was when we moved from Oklahoma to New Hampshire. When we made the move, it was a difficult one in the middle of winter. We did not have much money and we had no real direction other than this one fact, we were not going to move back to Worcester, MA.

After a failed attempt to purchase a home in Pembroke, NH my parents were able to buy a home in Manchester, NH on a handshake. Yup, a handshake. After we moved our belongings into the new house it was about as miserable as it could be. Virtually no heat, breezes came through all the windows, the house was in shambles, stuff strewn everywhere, no washer and dryer to do clothes, and no stove to cook on. It would be an understatement to tell you that we were a pretty sorry lot.

One of my most vivid memories as a six-year-old was that of my dad cooking our entire dinner on a charcoal grill in December with no jacket. He did that for weeks before someone graciously gave us a used stove. It was a pretty miserable moment. No job, little money, and nowhere to turn but to the Lord and a local church plant that met at the YMCA in downtown Manchester, NH. Eventually things picked up and the Lord saw us through that difficult time.

When I ponder at that time in my life there is something that I cannot forget. No matter how poor we were, no matter how much we needed money, no matter how much we needed help, my parents made sure that they tithed what little they were able to get. This was because they firmly believed that all things came from the Lord and that it was an act of worship to give back to the Lord that which was the Lord's. Thus, no matter how bad things ever got, and they did get almost as bad as that many times, they always tithed.

As I consider this illustration I am reminded of what Paul

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day

Feb. 6, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Feb. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 15 – Valentine's Day

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. He said, "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed" (NASB).

Oh yes, I went there! I have broached the subject that most want to ignore. Over the years I have occasionally preached directly on the necessity of tithing and giving back to the Lord. At other times I would reference as the sermon would allow so as to encourage individuals to grow in their walk with the Lord.

I write today on the necessity of tithing because it is a diminishing concept in our churches today. Many churches struggle financially because their members hold back and our church is no different. As a pastor I recognize the many reasons why some withhold their tithes and offerings to the Lord, but one must ask themselves if such reasons are legitimate. In the Bible we are told to give our first fruits to God, which in our world is one's gross income. That is that which one earns before paying taxes to the government. If one bases their tithe upon that which is left after taxation then the government got first fruits and God gets seconds.

Things like taxes, health insurance, property, food, family, heating fuel, cars, vacation, furniture can and often do get in

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

the way of honoring the Lord with one's tithe or offering. And the fact of the matter is there will always be something that can get in the way if you let it.

However, if we let these things get in the way then we fail to live up to the principle mentioned in today's passage. If we sow sparingly, then we will reap sparingly. That is if we hold back from God which is His, then in the end He will hold back from us. But if we give bountifully to the Lord then He will open the floodgates of heaven and bless our socks off. This though is not to be done out of compulsion or to be given unto the Lord with clenched fists, for God delights in a cheerful giver.

What may be holding you back today from honoring God with your tithes and offerings? Why have you sowed sparingly? Why have you dishonored God by holding back? Why have you robbed yourself of the blessings that can come from faithful giving? Though you may be doing great financially what might have God actually accomplished in your life if you had not held back? Let us stop and consider that the blessings promised here are more than just financial.

Blessings come in different forms such as good health, loving children, faithful spouse, peaceful homes, fulfilled plans or dreams, better running cars, houses without problems, and a good work environment. Though there is a potential monetary value placed on all these aspects of life, the greater value is the peace, love, and grace that one experiences from the Lord because of the faithfulness of giving one's tithe and offerings. This comes because God loves a cheerful giver and, because you gave, He has made grace abound in your life having sufficiency in everything.

I know that the discussion of money is one of those taboos in today's culture and I agree that what you do with your finances are between you and the Lord, not anyone else. I also agree you owe no man any explanation to how you handle your own finances and wealth. But, this is a Biblical principle that must be conveyed, taught, and expounded upon for your own growth and benefit.

I write, yes because there is a need in the church to meet the bills and ministry goals set forth by our congregation, but more importantly I write to express the Biblical truth that when we hold back from the Lord that which is already and rightly His, He then in turn holds back from you the blessings you could receive if you would just step out in faith and embrace this truth.

No, God is not some ogre trying to get His cut for crossing this small bridge called life, but instead He is a loving Father who seeks to have a closer walk with you in which you trust in Him, rely on Him, run to Him, and believe on Him for all your needs.

What many do not realize is that when one holds back the tithe and offerings to the Lord, it is a declaration that the money received and earned is in fact obtained by one's own might and abilities and thus God is entitled to nothing. It is also an attempt to independently work in separation from God's purpose and plan for one's life. It is essentially saying I can meet my needs on my own. I know that most people do

not consciously think this, but that is what is being displayed when one does not honor the Lord from one's wealth as prescribed in Scripture.

I would like to encourage everyone –, whether you are part of this church or not – to consider the word of God. Consider the principle of tithing. Pray about it. Read more passages in the Bible about it and then make a decision regarding it. Many who read this will make the decision to pay a mortgage or a car payment without even thinking twice about the commitment being made. Yet many will never think about the need for regularly tithing unto the Lord and will refuse to make a commitment to honor Him each and every week.

If one thinks of temporal things so easily why not consider the eternal more carefully? It is to your benefit that you commit to honoring your Lord and Savior through the giving of the tithe for His glory and kingdom and for your growth as a Christian. May you follow the leading of the Lord regarding this matter in your life.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, Feb. 6th at 8:00 a.m., you have the opportunity to join the guys for Men's Breakfast. We always have a good home-cooked meal and then engage in a congenial discussion of the scriptures. We are still working our way through the letter to the Colossians. So come and join us.

Property and Space Patrol

We had a few small storms in January but they were easily cleaned up. Let's see what the groundhog does on Feb. 2nd.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Natalie Carleton, a Life

Natalie (Kimball) Carleton, 82, of Concord, passed away Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, at the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen, where she had resided for the past couple of years.

Natalie was born in Concord on March 2, 1933, the daughter of Ralph and Kathleen (Merrill) Kimball.

She was raised and educated in Concord. After graduating from high school she attended Concord Commercial College.

She was a homemaker for many years while raising her four children. She was later employed by S & H Green Stamps in

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Concord, and then as a secretary at the State of NH Dept. of Fish and Game. She was active in the Boy Scouts of America as a den mother and earned the Silver Beaver Award; Girl Scout Troop #247; and the Dame School PTO. She was a long time member and officer of TOPS #4 Concord/Bow and also the Penacook Chapter.

She was previously a member of Hillside Baptist Church in Pembroke and the Bow Young at Heart Club.

Natalie enjoyed knitting, reading, solving Sudoku puzzles and listening to Gospel music. She especially enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her sons, Steven Carleton (companion Linda) of Concord, David Carleton (Pamela) of Corona, Calif. and Tracy Carleton (Ann Marie) of Nampa, Idaho; her daughter, Susan Morgan of Penacook; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandsons; her sister, Betty Poitras (Roger) of Franklin; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents and a daughter-in-law, Michal Carleton.

A memorial service was held at the Wendall Butts funeral home in Penacook on Saturday January 16. In spite of the recent snow and cold, many attended. Burial was in Penacook on January 20th in bitter cold conditions.

Consecration to the Lord

This was submitted by Pastor Jim (Title not by Author)

Consecration is not the act of our feelings, but of our will. Do not try to feel anything. Do not try to make yourself good or earnest enough for Christ. God is working in you to will, whether you feel it or not. He is giving you power to will and do his good pleasure. Believe this and act upon it at once, and say, "Lord Jesus, I am willing to be thine;" or if you cannot say as much as that, say, "Lord Jesus, I am willing to be made willing to be thine forevermore."

Consecration is only possible when we give up our will about everything. As soon as we come to the point of giving ourselves to God we are almost certain to become aware of the presence of the one thing, if not of more, out of harmony with his will. Every room and cupboard in the house, with the exception of this, thrown open to the now occupant; every limb in the body, but one, submitted to the practised hand of the good Physician. But that small reserve spoils the whole. To give ninety-nine parts and to withhold the hundredth undoes the whole transaction. Jesus will have all or none. Who would live in a fever-stricken house so long as one room was not exposed to disinfectants, air, and sun? Who would undertake a case so long as the patient refused to submit one part of his body to examination? Who would become responsible for a bankrupt so long as one ledger was kept back? The reason that so many fail to attain the blessed life is that there is some one point in which they hold back from God and concerning which they prefer to have their own way and will rather than his. This one little thing mars the whole, robs them of peace, and compels them to wander in the desert.

(F. B. Meyer in *For Each New Day*, selected and arranged by Delavan L. Pierson, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1966, p. 320).

Sermon in a Burning Ember

This story was sent in by Cynthia Ward.



A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

A Hint of Heaven

The following article, written by Julie Ackerman Link, appeared in the Jan. 17, 2016 *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet.

"What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of

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Heaven (from .3)

instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." --1 Corinthians 14:26

The world-class botanical garden across the street from our church was the setting for an all-church community gathering. As I walked around the gardens greeting people I have known for years, catching up with those I hadn't seen recently, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings cared for by people who know and love plants, I realized that the evening was rich with symbols of how the church is supposed to function—a little hint of heaven on earth.

A garden is a place where each plant is placed in an environment in which it will thrive. Gardeners prepare the soil, protect the plants from pests, and make sure each one receives the food, water, and sunlight it needs. The result is a beautiful, colorful, and fragrant place for people to enjoy.

Healthy churches draw people to God.

Like a garden, church is meant to be a place where everyone works together for the glory of God and the good of all; a place where everyone flourishes because we are living in a safe environment; a place where people are cared for according to their needs; where each of us does work we love—work that benefits others (1 Cor. 14:26).

Like well-cared-for plants, people growing in a healthy environment have a sweet fragrance that draws people to God by displaying the beauty of His love. The church is not perfect, but it really is a hint of heaven.

Proverbs

This was submitted by Pastor Al who found it on Facebook. Years ago the editor had an office poster that said "Strive for adequacy" but the ninth one on this list is better.

Live beneath your means.

Return everything you borrow.

Stop blaming other people.

Admit it when you make a mistake.

Give clothes not worn to charity.

Do something nice and try not to get caught.

Listen more and talk less.

Every day take a 30 minute walk.

Strive for excellence, not perfection.

Be on time.

Don't make excuses.

Don't argue.

Be kind to people.

Be kind too unkind people.

Let someone cut ahead of you in line.

Take time to be alone.

Cultivate good manners.

Be humble.

Realize and accept that life isn't fair.

Know when to keep your mouth shut.

Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.

Learn from the past.

Plan for the future.

Live in the present.

Don't sweat the small stuff. It's all small stuff.

The Early Days of the Christian Faith

Clement of Rome

by Rev. Michael A. Smith, Baptist Minister, Rochdale, Lancashire, England, as recorded in *Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity*.

Little is known about the life of Clement, who was one of the early bishops or presbyters of Rome and died about 100 AD.

His name was linked to a general letter usually known as 1 Clement. 1 Clement is an open letter from the church at Rome to the church at Corinth, probably written at the end of the first century, shortly after the persecution by the emperor Domitian. It is probably the earliest surviving Christian writing apart from the New Testament. It was written to counter the disruption and disturbance in the church at Corinth, where some of the older leaders had been deposed by a younger clique.

The letter sheds interesting light on life soon after the age of the apostles. There is no trace of a single ruling bishop; instead the leaders of the church are called either bishops and deacons or elders (presbyters). The martyrdoms of Peter and Paul are referred to – but only in very vague terms. The letter appeals to a simple form of apostolic succession.

1 Clement puts great stress on good order, and on Christian faith being accompanied by good works, claiming that Abraham was saved "by faith and hospitality." The book quotes extensively from the Old Testament, Jewish books outside the canon, and writings of the apostles.

It became widely known and popular because it was believed that its author knew Peter and Paul, and because it contained earnest exhortations to Christian humility and love. It was known to Hermas and Dionysius of Corinth in the later second century and was occasionally even read in church.

2 Clement, another early work, was claimed to be by Clement of Rome, but is an anonymous sermon perhaps dating from 150 AD. Several additional writings of the fourth century were falsely claimed to be by Clement.

A transcription of 1 Clement can be found at <http://www.ewtn.com/library/patristc/anf1-1.htm>

The letter is about 18 pages long.

An address by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 contains the following references to Clement:

St. Clement, Bishop of Rome in the last years of the first century, was the third Successor of Peter, after Linus and

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Anacletus. The most important testimony concerning his life comes from St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons until 202. He attests that Clement "had seen the blessed Apostles", "had been conversant with them", and "might be said to have the preaching of the apostles still echoing [in his ears], and their traditions before his eyes."

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

2/21 Charlotte Hastings



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

2/12 Jim & Teddy Hamel

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 and Editor, 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

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