



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 15 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2016

## Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Being Ready to Testify about Jesus Christ

1 Peter 3:15

Recently I heard a great illustration from a professor of theology about the immense curiosity of his son. The story starts off with the dad shaving in the bathroom one morning. Around that time, which apparently was the time the son often would approach his dad, the son came into the room and asked a series of questions. One of the questions that was most notable was, "Dad what is the most deadly predator in Alaska?"

Now the dad commented that it was a normal practice of his to stay constantly read up on various topics because of the immense curiosity his son displayed from such a young age. To his surprise, he had literally just read on that very topic was able to answer quite quickly, "Polar bears!" Not readily receiving the answer, the son asked if he was sure about his information, because it seemed more plausible that wolves would be the biggest culprits.

However, the dad assured him that his most recent acquisition of such information was accurate. To really sell the article's authenticity, he told his son an almost unbelievable fact. He said to his son, "Did you know that the polar bear has become so adept at killing and eating humans in Alaska that the polar bears have adapted a technique to hide themselves? The polar bears have learned to actually cover their black noses so that they do not stand out in the very white background and thus their prey, which happens to be many humans, cannot see them."

After that statement, the son looked away and began to process such interesting information. There was no real visible sensationalism of the news received, but instead a real sense of quandary.

So he turned and asked his father, "Dad, do people who are killed by polar bears go to heaven?" Well, with that, the father put on the hat of a theological professor and replied to his son, "Well if they are saved in Jesus Christ, they are going to heaven." So the son sat there for a moment or two and really processed what his dad had just told him.

Then he turned to his father and asked the most interesting question that he had asked in a long time. The son said to him, "Dad what if they were eaten by the polar bears and

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### June 4, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### June 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### June 14 – Flag Day

Honor our veterans. Fly the flag.

#### June 19 – Father's Day

Remember and honor your dad. Also the day to return your coin-filled baby bottles

#### Weekly:

#### Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

turned into bear poo, would they still go to heaven?" While holding back the need to laugh his head off at such a question, he reassured his son by saying, "Son, even if a person is eaten and turned into bear poo, as long as that person has Jesus Christ as his Savior, he will go to heaven." Though this is a semi-humorous little illustration about a child's curiosity, it also points to the father's readiness to declare the hope that he has within him and with the word of God's testimony about the salvation that Christ gives to those who believe in Him.

This is the very testimony that Peter called for God's people to display in 1Peter 3:25. The Apostle tell us, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (NASB).

We are called to have it in our hearts to be ready to give a defense of our faith, to anyone or everyone who asks. Now it is easy to be able to look down into your own little child's eyes and give that testimony, but how about someone else? Your boss at work? How about a coworker? What about your neighbor? More close to home, how about your unbelieving spouse? Or your wayward adult child?

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

## Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

If we do not have it set ahead of time in our hearts to be a testimony for what Jesus has done in our lives, then, when the time comes, we may not be able to readily answer the challenge as to why we believe what we believe. Or at best we may be able to give some type of answer, but not as effectively as we could have if we had taken the time to prepare.

Let me encourage you today to have your testimony ready. To write down your salvation experience and reflect on the finer points of why you trusted your very soul to Jesus Christ.

Take the time to explore the tough nuances that pop up in Scripture. Be ready answer the naysayers who would try to knock you down in your walk with the Lord.

In other words, prepare in your heart what you will say, how you will say it, and why you believe what you believe. In that way, when the questions come flying at you, whether from your little child or an intimidating boss, you will be able to stand. You will be able to declare confidently your faith in Christ. You will be able to give a defense of the hope that you have within you.

God bless,

✠ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, June 4th at 8:00 a.m., you have the opportunity to join us for Men's Breakfast. We always prepare a tasty and nourishing home-cooked meal and then dive into a congenial discussion of the scriptures.

Currently we are working our way through Paul's letter to the Colossians. So set your alarm clock and come and join us.

## Property and Space Patrol

With the warm weather upon us, the grass is doing what it knows best to do: growing. So mo' mowing season is in full swing.

We had a good sized crew at the Spring Clean Up. The church got a thorough cleaning and looked great after we were done. Many thanks to all those who pitched in to help.

✠ Pastor Al

## Shine Through

The following article comes from the May 2nd page of the *Our Daily Bread Devotional* booklet. The ODB author is Keila Ochoa.

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Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under

a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

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A little girl wondered what a saint might be. One day her mother took her to a great cathedral to see the gorgeous stained-glass windows with scenes from the Bible. When she saw the beauty of it all she cried out loud, "Now I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through!"

Some of us might think that saints are people of the past who lived perfect lives and did Jesus-like miracles. But when a translation of Scripture uses the word *saint*, it is actually referring to anyone who belongs to God through faith in Christ.

In other words, saints are people like us who have the high calling of serving God while reflecting our relationship with Him wherever we are and in whatever we do. That is why the apostle Paul prayed that the eyes and understanding of his readers would be opened to think of themselves as the treasured inheritance of Christ and saints of God (Eph. 1:18).

So what then do we see in the mirror? No halos or stained glass. But if we are fulfilling our calling, we will look like people who, maybe even without realizing it, are letting the rich colors of the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control of God shine through.

## The Early Days of the Faith

### Marcion, A Deceiver of the Second Century

The chronicles of Christian history contain the stories of famous and noteworthy defenders of the faith. But this history also contains stories of people who subverted, diluted, or redefined Christianity to suit their own purposes. It is worth learning about such deceivers so that one can recognize when deception attempts to disguise itself as sound doctrine. One such story is about Marcion, who lived in second century Europe.

Marcion was born in Sinope, Pontus, on the Black Sea, and was the son of the bishop. [Pontus was about 250 miles northeast of Ephesus. --ed.] He arrived in Rome about 140 A.D. and immediately fell under the spell of the Gnostic teacher, Cerdo, who believed that the God of the Old Testament was different from the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of the Old Testament was unknowable; the latter had been revealed. The former was sheer justice; whereas the God of the New Testament was loving and gracious.

Marcion became the chief spokesman of this message and introduced his own distinctive ideas. But his garbed Christian views were firmly repudiated by the church in Rome, and Marcion was excommunicated in 144 A.D.

Justin Martyr asserted that Marcion was aided by the devil to blaspheme and deny that God was the creator of the

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## Marcion, from p. 2

universe. Tertullian wrote Against Marcion about 207 A.D. and regarded Marcion as a formidable foe of the true Christian doctrine.

Marcion developed Cerdo's division between the God of the Old Testament and the New. He held that the Old Testament God was basically vengeful and the author of evil. God was solely concerned for the Jewish people., for whom He was prepared to destroy all others. In contrast, the New testament God was a God of grace and love for all, who disclosed Himself in Jesus Christ, His son.

Marcion stated that Jesus Christ was not born of a woman; he suddenly appeared in the synagogue at Capernaum in 29 A.D. as a grown man. For he was not like any other man except in His appearance. He was a new being on the Earth.

Marcion's view of Christ was similar to that of the Docetists. Although he stated that Christ's life and crucifixion were necessary for salvation, he also believed that Christ's human experiences and sufferings were merely apparent, not real. Since creation was not an act of the good God of the New Testament, the Christian must reject the world. The body must be denied and discarded, since the soul and spirit alone are redeemed. As a result, Marcion rejected the idea of the resurrection of the body.

Because he believed that the God of the Old Testament favored the Jews exclusively, Marcion rejected the entire Old Testament and also those New Testament writings which he considered favoring Jewish leaders -- for example, Matthew, Mark, Acts, and Hebrews. He cut out from the rest of the New Testament what appeared to him to compromise his own views, including the pastoral letters (1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus). So he was left with only a mutilated version of Luke's gospel (omitting the nativity stories) and ten letters of Paul. He believed that Paul was the only apostle who did not corrupt the gospel of Jesus.

The Marcionites set up their own churches, modeled on orthodox congregations. They had their own orders of clergy and rituals. They did not use wine at communion, as a result of the ascetic emphasis of their teaching. Some of the Marcionite ideas spilled over into the various Gnostic sects, and the Marcionites were themselves affected by Gnostic views.

Their ideas spread throughout Italy, and as far afield as Arabia, Armenia, and Egypt. In the East, they exercised a considerable influence for many decades. A number of Marcionite villages are known to have existed near Damascus, Syria as late as the fourth century. In the West, their influence declined mainly as a result of their becoming linked with the Manichaeans, another Gnostic-type sect.

--from *Eerdman's Handbook of the History of Christianity*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

6/8 Gail Frascinella

6/10 Mary Anne Richards



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

6/6 **Pastor Jim and Michelle Robertson**

## 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 June 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.



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*Modeling the truth of God's Word*

