



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 15 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2016

## Give Him Your All Today

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Going All-in for God

Mark 12:30

What consumes you or drives you? What eats up all your attention, energy, and focus? What do you invest yourself in day-in and day-out? There are many things in our lives that rise to such prominence that we spend ourselves for it. If it takes all our money, we will spend it. If it requires all our energy, we will give it. If it demands all our attention, we will fixate on it.

For example, I have known individuals who loved hockey so-much-so that they would devote a yearly portion of their salary to be sure they could attend all the home games of their favorite team. Add to that the cost of travel, gas, food, memorabilia, and some trinkets to wear and it adds up to a hefty sum each year.

Another all-consuming passion for many is fishing. If you don't believe me, just talk to a fisherman's wife. She will tell you that her twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty-something man-child absolutely needs the latest gadget for the next fishing trip and if he doesn't get it he goes into pout mode.

Take into consideration the cost of a fishing permit, a boat and trailer, a permit for that boat and trailer, all the needed gear, a new rod, a new reel, a new tackle box, and the most fashionable headgear and waders and you have a pretty good idea that such a person has spent a small fortune to just go out and toss a line into a river or lake without the certainty of catching anything beyond of the chagrin of his wife.

How about a computer or tech item? I have known individuals who have gone into debt just to have the latest and greatest thing on the market. Individuals who pride themselves on being up-to-date on all the most recent programs, computer models, or video game consoles which makes their last year's model look obsolete, are smugly forced to dump such a model if for no other reason than to show up their buddies.

There are many things in life that can seemingly require us to go all-in, but do we really need to? Or should we really? The fact is many go all-in because of the obsessive compulsive nature that plagues their very being. Others go all-in because it speaks to that passion button within their heart that seems to resonate with the items of their fixation. And some go all-in because they may not have certain priorities

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Aug. 6, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### Aug. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Aug. 27, 1:00 p.m. – 30th Anniversary Party for Al & Rachel Page

#### Aug. 27 – Pembroke-Allenstown Old Home Day

#### Weekly:

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

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

in order, such as paying their bills, going to work, or even making sure food is on the table for them and their kids.

If you think I'm kidding, I am not. I have met and ministered to individuals who sacrificed money for toys and pleasures only to realize they did not save money to meet their basic required needs to survive.

When we think of the human nature's need to dive into something or go all-in, do we see this same vigor when it comes to God? Are we willing to go all-in for Him? Well in this case, believe it or not, we are not given a choice. Jesus Himself tells us that when it comes to our relationship with God we must go all-in.

Let's look at what Jesus says in Mark 12:30. He said, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (ESV)." Did you catch the word "all" before each major category?

First, Jesus tells us we must love God with all our heart. That means we are to dedicate all our passions, drives, desires, and decisions according to our love for Him. That all these aspects of our lives must be given in submission to His will. Is this something that you have been willing to do for your God whom you love?

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

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

Second, Jesus tells us we must love God with all our soul. This points to our very being, who we are, our very essence. Have you loved God recently for just loving God? Or do you find yourself loving God because of what He has given you or does for you? It's okay to do so, but when we love God with all our soul we can't help but simply praise Him from our very being.

Third, Jesus tells us that we are to love God with all our mind. That means our pursuit for knowledge, insight, discernment, and intellect is first and foremost submitted to Him and His wisdom. Loving God with all our mind seems to be a lost perspective and pursuit in our world today. If we are not careful we as Christians can become lazy and neglect to challenge ourselves to expand our intellect to combat the false teaching, the false premises, the false ideologies of our current society. We must always keep in mind that if we do not commit our minds to the Lord's work then we will fall short of honoring Him.

Fourth, Jesus tells us that we are to love God with all our strength. We work for the Lord. We contend for the Lord. We are to strive for our Lord God. This means we do not give up, we push forward even when things get difficult, and we never surrender the battle for the furtherance of His gospel.

It is clear from this passage that Jesus calls us to be "all-in" for our Lord – it is not a choice. The question that must be asked is do you commit these four areas of your life to Jesus Christ and to the Father? Or do you find yourself committing these areas first to something else and then giving your leftovers to God?

We see from this passage that God is to take preeminence in your life. He is to be your first and last, He is to be your all and all. Half-hearted devotion and partial observance to His will in your life is not acceptable to our God. He does not want some of you, He does not want a little of you, He does not want what you're will to give to Him, He wants all of you. Will you give Him your all today?

Blessings,  
✠ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast

Well we are halfway through the summer and we're getting tired of all the hot weather. Come winter, we'll be wishing it was hot again.

For now, it's time to rustle up some grub and meet at the Hillside Breakfast Nook for some cooked food for the body and then some Biblical food for the soul.

Join the guys on Saturday, August 6th at 8:00 a.m. and we'll enjoy some food, fellowship, and a fine time in God's Word.

## Fellowship Events

On July 31st, a Potluck Dinner was held just before the quarterly business meeting.

## Property and Space Patrol

There is not much to report this month. With the recent stretch of hot weather, the grounds get mowed as needed.

✠ Pastor Al

## A Baptism

John LaFratta of Pembroke was baptized on Sunday July 31st. John has been attending services for the past few months and decided it was time to take the plunge for Jesus. He has found love and compassion at Hillside to the point that he tells people that when his own family fails him, his Hillside family comes to his aid.

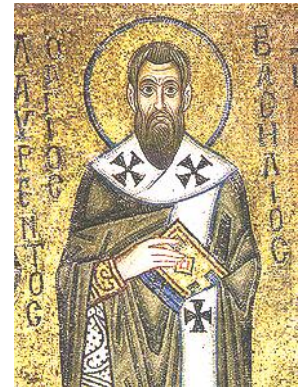
We wish him the Lord's blessings as he takes this special step in his walk with the Lord.

## The Early Days of the Christian Faith

### Basil the Great

As recorded in *Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity*.

Basil display his great gifts in public speaking, church statesmanship, and theological insight, and was outstanding in social concern and the monastic way of life. The trio of Basil, his brother, Gregory of Nyssa, and friend, Gregory of Nazianzus, are often known as the "Cappadocian Fathers."



Basil was born into a distinguished and wealthy Christian family in Caesarea in Cappadocia about 330 AD. Despite a first class education there and at Constantinople and Athens, he turned aside from a career in rhetoric, was baptized, and became an ascetic on his family estate in Pontus (357 AD).

From the outset he was completely dedicated, especially to Biblical study. With Gregory of Nazianzus, he compiled an anthology of Origen's works. [Origen was a scholar, ascetic, and early Christian theologian circa 184-254 AD.] His sure theological touch helped to strengthen Origen's place within orthodoxy.

In 364 Basil was ordained presbyter, and in the spring of 370, he succeeded Eusebius as Bishop of Caesarea. His new monastery was at the heart of the complex of hospitals and hostels he founded, largely out of his own pocket, out of his concern for the sick and the needy.

He took a firm stand against the state-supported Arian Party and wrote several works to oppose their errors. He backed Meletius (bishop of Antioch, 360-381) which damaged his attempts to win practical help from Damasus, bishop of Rome, and cooled his relationship with Athanasius. Basil refused to accept the Roman bishop as supreme judge of the

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## Basil the Great (from p. 2)

universal church, although he recognized the authority in the area of doctrine.

Basil's writings on the monastic life have had enormous influence in Eastern Christianity. No one before had laid so much stress on community and love in the monastic life. In "On the Holy Spirit," Basil opposed the Pneumatomachions (fighters against the Spirit) who denied that the Holy Spirit was truly divine. He also wrote homilies on a number of the Psalms, a long commentary on Isaiah 1-6, and many sermons and letters.

By giving precise meaning to the terms used in talking about the Trinity, Basil paved the way for the work of the Council of Constantinople in 381. He was the first to fix the accepted formula for the Trinity: one substance (ousia) and three persons (hypostaseis).

Basil was suspected in turn of the opposite errors of Sabellianism [1] and tritheism [2], but could not be convicted of either. He died in Caesarea on the first day of 379.

[1] A heresy which states that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are different modes or aspects of one God, rather than three distinct persons.

[2] The erroneous teaching that the Godhead is really three separate beings forming three separate gods.

## Keeping Faith

The following article comes from the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for July 2016 and was written by Philip Yancey.

It's tempting to think of faith as a kind of magic formula. If you muster up enough of it, you'll get rich, stay healthy, and live a contented life with automatic answers to all your prayers. But life does not work according to such neat formulas. As proof, the author of Hebrews presents a stirring reminder of what constitutes "true faith" by reviewing the lives of some Old Testament giants of faith (Heb. 11).

"Without faith," the author says bluntly, "it is impossible to please God" (11:6). In describing faith he uses the word persevered (v. 27). As a result of their faith, some heroes triumphed: They routed armies, escaped the sword, survived lions. But others met less happy ends: They were flogged, stoned, sawed in two. The chapter concludes, "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised" (v. 39).

The picture of faith that emerges does not fit into an easy formula. Sometimes it leads to victory and triumph. Sometimes it requires a gritty determination to "hang on at any cost." Of such people, "God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them" (v. 16).

What our faith rests on is the belief that God is in ultimate control and will indeed keep His promises—whether that happens in this life or the next.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

8/9 Nathan Frascinella

8/25 Bob LaValley



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month: If that's you, please let us know.

## 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 Aug. 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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