



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2016

## Who Is Great?

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Great is Our God

Exodus 15:1-19

Have you ever affixed the word "great" to something that might not have deserved such an honor? Maybe you were referring to how great that pizza was the other night at Pizza Hut; or maybe it was in reference to that movie you saw at the theatre; or possibly that new coffee you started drinking at the local pit stop in the morning on the way to work; or in reference to this year's Patriots team. Either way, often we attach the word "great" to things that might not really fit the bill when one truly considers the essence of greatness.

Truly the only one who deserves to have the word "great" combined with His name is our Lord God. There is a song in many hymn books that you probably know. It was written and composed by Stuart K. Hine sometime around the turn of the twentieth century. He wrote the powerful hymn "How Great Thou Art." This song is sung throughout many churches in any given worship service in our country.

When you stop to look at the song and words the author uses, it truly is a magnificent composition. As you read the next couple of paragraphs, try to read them without singing the hymn in your head. I know it is hard, for even now I have it stuck in my own, but the reason for such a request is that often when we sing the song, we might get caught up in the beautiful musical melody and miss some of the powerful words the talented hymn writer used.

The hymn reads:

1. O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder, Consider all the works (worlds- modern translation) Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty (rolling- modern translation) thunder, Thy power thro'-out the universe displayed.
2. When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander, And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.
4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Sept. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### Sept. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Sept. 7 – Labor Day

#### Sept. 11 – Patriot's Day

The 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC

#### Weekly:

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

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

bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

Chorus - Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

(Stuart K. Hine, Copyright 1953, Renewed 1981 by Manna Music, Inc., Pacific City, OR)

What a testimony by someone who truly was caught up in the greatness of God. I do not know what was going on in his life that put such a spiritual mindset to ponder on the greatness of God, but it must have been something powerful that impacted Stuart's life.

There is a character in the Bible that also got caught up in the greatness of God. It was Moses in the book of Exodus. Israel had just been through a great ordeal trying to get free from the tyrannical chokehold that Egypt had on them and they were finally given permission by Pharaoh, through the very persuasive acts of God, to leave the land of Egypt.

As they were on their way out the door, Pharaoh changed his mind and went after the Israelites bent on destroying them for good. So God did His thing and parted the Red Sea so that Israel would be free from the bondage of Egypt forever.

See *Pastor's Desk* on p. 2

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | Bible Study | New Member | 9/11 | Shaping Your Thoughts | Medical Terms | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

As the Israelites safely got over to the other side, Pharaoh had his army charged after them and when Israel was in the clear, God closed the door and wiped out the entire Egyptian army by drowning them.

As Israel gazed upon the Red Sea and noticed that the Egyptians could no longer bother them Moses was led by the Holy Spirit to lead the people in singing the praises of God's greatness. The passage is fairly long for this short article, but I do want to quote a couple of verses from chapter 15. In verses 6 and 7 Moses says; "Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, and it consumes them as chaff." And in verse 11 Moses asks a question that could only fit the greatness of God; "Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? And in verse 13 he writes; "In Your lovingkindness, You have led the people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation." And near the end of this praise song he finishes (v. 18) with "The Lord shall reign forever and ever." (NASB)

Truly Moses and Israel had cause to praise the greatness of God, for our God is great and there is none other that is like Him. The word "great" is a word that ought to be reserved for the one who truly embodies the meaning and character of that word. I, like you, have probably used this word nonchalantly in the past in which I threw it onto an inanimate object or person that did not embody the true nature of the word and I will probably do it again. I know that in our world today one might argue there are various levels of greatness, but doesn't that just diminish the true meaning and worth of this word? It brings the meaning down to a level of mediocrity that diminishes the power and thrust that this word should truly have. Words are powerful and they can bring about revolution, repulsion, or repentance, but they should never be just mediocre. Let me leave you with this thought; next time you get ready to affix the word "great" to someone or something stop and think if such a word that should only be reserved for our God should be used on something that is, well let's face it, small. If you stop to think about it you might not be so quick to throw out the word "great" on something that really isn't. Then when you do use it in reference to our Great God, it will have more meaning and impact on you and your walk with Him. God bless.

✝ Pastor Jim

**Men's Breakfast**

Before we convince ourselves that autumn is getting close, we'll have a great Men's Breakfast on Sept. 3rd at 8:00 a.m. at the church. It looks like the menu will consist of scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, orange juice, English muffins, and coffee.

Since we finished the book of Colossians last month, it will be time to pick a new Bible topic. Join us for good food, good fellowship, and a good time in God's Word.

**Property and Space Patrol**

We had a mouse problem on the lower floor of the church. The entry point turned out to be by the library window. The window was removed and the surrounding framing, sheathing, and siding were replaced and painted.

Hopefully we have plugged the mouse trail. We will keep our eyes peeled for new mouse tracks.

✝ Pastor Al

**Mid-Week Bible Study**

I hope to start a study of the Gospel of John soon. I'm looking for input regarding a time and place that works for you. This study can be held anytime and is open to friends and family in the home or at church at your time. Perhaps you already have full knowledge of the Gospel of John.

How about a quiz?

- Who wrote the Book of John?
- List the chapters and verses in the Book of John that refer to the writer.
- What was the first miracle Jesus performed according to John?

✝ Pastor Al

**Welcome New Member**

On Sunday, July 31st, John LaFratta of Pembroke was accepted as a new member at the quarterly business meeting. He had just been baptized that morning.

Please give John the right hand (or right fist-bump) of fellowship when you meet him.

**9/11 – Fifteen Years Later**



As the 2001 Alan Jackson song asked, "Where were you when the world stopped turning, that September day?" Each of us who can remember that day have a strong memory of where we were.

On that day, we were attacked by hateful religious fanatics who believed that their god had sent them on a mission,

but it was a mission of murder.

Nearly 3,000 people died for no good reason – Christians, Jews, Muslims, atheists, Americans, Britons, and many other nationalities, just going about their daily activities in Manhattan, Washington, DC, and on United Flight 93, which suddenly crashed near Shanksville, PA.

A new Freedom Tower has replaced the Twin Towers but ongoing wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and elsewhere require us to continue to pray for the peace that only our Lord can bring.

## Shaping Your Thoughts

The following essay, written by Davis McCasland, is from the August 12 entry of the "Our Daily Bread" devotional from Our Daily Bread Ministries.

When Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase "the medium is the message" in 1964, personal computers were unknown, mobile phones were science fiction, and the Internet didn't exist. Today we understand what great foresight he had in predicting how our thinking is influenced in this digital age.

In Nicholas Carr's book *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*, he writes, "[The media] supply the stuff of thought, but they also shape the process of thought. And what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation. Whether I'm online or not, my mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles."

I like J. B. Phillips's paraphrase of Paul's message to the Christians in Rome: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity" (Rom. 12:2). How relevant this is today as we find our thoughts and the way our minds process material affected by the world around us.

We cannot stem the tide of information that bombards us, but we can ask God each day to help us focus on Him and to shape our thinking through His presence in our lives.

Let God's Spirit, not the world, shape your mind.

## Medical Terminology

In the past few months we have a few occasions to visit and pray for a church member who has been in the hospital for serious surgery. If you happen to visit the hospital again, you can bring this list and impress the hospital staff with your knowledge of medical terms.

Alimentary -- What Holmes said to Watson.

Barium -- What doctors recommend when their patients die.

Benign -- What you be after you be eight.

Bowel -- Letters like A, E, I, O, or U.

Buried the Hatchet -- Accidentally left a surgical instrument inside a patient.

Caesarean Section -- High-rent area of Rome.

Cardiology -- Advanced study of poker playing.

Castrate -- Market price for setting a fracture.

Cat Scan -- A search for a missing kitty.

Cauterize -- Made eye contact with her.

Colic -- A breed of long-haired dog.

Coma -- A punctuation mark of consciousness.

Cortisone -- The area around a courthouse.

Cystogram -- A cable sent to your sister.

Diarrhea -- Journal of daily events.

Dilate -- To live a long life.

ECU -- Eternal Care Unit, AKA heaven.

Enema -- Someone who is against you.

ER -- The things on your head that you hear with.

Eyedropper -- A clumsy ophthalmologist.

Fester -- Quicker than someone else.

Fibrillate -- To tell lies.

Frequent Flyer -- Someone who is transported to and from the hospital on a routine basis.

Genital -- Non-Jewish person.

ICU-- Peek-a-boo.

Jack Bauer-- A doctor still up and working after 24 hours.

Lactose-- Person without digits on the foot.

Lobster -- Sunburned patient.

Lymph -- To walk unsteadily.

Mammogram -- A telegram to your Mama.

Morbid -- A higher offer.

Nitrates -- A medical fee cheaper than day rates.

Node -- Past tense of know.

Obstreperous - an obstinate obstetrician.

Outpatient -- A person who has fainted.

Pelvis -- Second cousin to Elvis.

Protein -- In favor of young people.

Rear Admiral-- Proctologist.

Recovery Room -- Place to do upholstery.

Saline -- When you go on your boyfriend's sailboat.

Semen -- Sailors.

Terminal illness -- Getting sick at the airport.

Tumor-- One more than one more.

Urine -- Where you are when you aren't out.

Varicose veins -- Veins that are near each other.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

9/1 Julie Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on any couple who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month.

If we missed your anniversary, 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 Sept. 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**

*Modeling the truth of God's Word*

