



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 15 No. 11

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2016

DEFEND WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS

From the Pastor's Desk

Zeal Without Knowledge Is Dangerous

Romans 10:1-3

There are two things in our society that are considered no-nos to discuss with others in public life since they often lead to arguments if the topics are breached. What are they? Politics and religion. With the elections coming in November there is a heightened sense of anxiety in many throughout our country and it is interesting to see the amount of fights, arguments, and scuffles that are displayed in our news everyday regarding politics.

In addition to politics, there is a heightened awareness of faith, or better said one's faith in conjunction with one's views of those politics. This past week, Michelle brought to my attention one prominent Christian woman author who had given an interview sharing her political viewpoint. This should not be a surprise, if for no other reason many candidates claim to be at minimum God-fearers and at most Christian. Thus the media wants the perspective of well-known Christian figures who will weigh in on the political hot topics of our day.

The article addressed ideas that are becoming, what some may consider neutral, issues within our Christian churches. Neutral if for no other reason that many within those churches have allowed the world to creep into the orthodoxy and orthopraxy of Christian life.

In this article the Christian woman author touted her disgust with one political candidate and that she would not vote for that individual under any circumstances. Now the political candidate she was against runs under the platform of pro-life, pro-constitution, traditional meaning of marriage, protection of religious rights, and host of other issues that align more closely with the historical Christian perspective.

However, after being asked several questions about her Christian viewpoint, which aligned with a more modern interpretation of the Bible and Christian doctrine, she was finally asked if she would vote for the opposing candidate, who was pro-abortion, pro-homosexual rights, pro-transgender rights, for greater government oversight and regulations, for the candidate who was running a platform contrary to the historical Christian doctrines. When asked the question, she unequivocally said yes she would.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Oct. 30, Noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Nov. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Nov. 12, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

What was most glaring to me was that it was a normal progressive step for this Christian author to side with the liberal candidate over the one slightly more conservative because, if for no other reason, she has redefined what being Christian means. Now I know that for most of us conservative Christians, we do not feel like we have a presidential candidate we can get behind, but there still comes a point where we must choose. Thus we are called to side with those who align most closely with what the Bible clearly says is right and oppose those who favor what the Bible clearly says is wrong.

Yet the greatest problem lies in the fact that the world has crept into the church and slowly has influenced individuals within it to redefine what Christianity is and is not. Unfortunately, the world's perspective of Christianity looks a lot like itself and less like God's righteous standard and what is worse is that many do not even notice that reality or paradigm shift.

I believe that Romans 10:1-3 provides us a healthy understanding of what is going on in our churches today. Paul wrote, "Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them (Jews) is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Events | Property & Space Patrol | Old Hymn Books | Poetry Corner | Finding the Messiah | Devotional | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor’s Desk (from p. 1)

and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God” (NASB).

Wow, did you catch what Paul said? Let’s look at it really quickly. First, notice how Paul has a heart to see his fellow countrymen come to know the Lord. This is the proper perspective of all who are saved in Christ. Our desire is that all come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Such a perspective will cause us to pray for them, to try and reach them, to try and minister to them so that they will come to know the Savior we dearly love. For in Christ we receive the Holy Spirit and it is He who gives understanding, insight, and clarity to the Word of God and to the World we live in.

Second, Paul declared that their greatest hindrance was that they had zeal without knowledge. When I think about such a statement I liken it to many teenagers. How often have you had a conversation with a teen? What do you find? Passion. Certainty. Definitiveness. Zeal.

Yet, you being the older, wiser, and learned one knows that often such perspectives of teens are limited. They will tout what they know and do so with ferocity and surety of mind, but not with complete or full knowledge. Thus their perspectives are not fully developed to consider all the various nuances that exist within any given discussion or any given subject matter being addressed.

What tends to happen is that the older individual recognize the narrowness and tolerate such perspectives because you know that over time there will be growth that will allow them to adjust to a more holistic point of view later on in life. That is basically what Paul is pointing out here.

The Jews had a zeal for God, but they did not know God. They did not know how to articulate what God expected thus one had to tread lightly in discussions with them less anger would erupt. I am afraid this is true of many individuals within our Western Christian churches. Often there is zeal, but a lack of knowledge that creates fights, problems, and turmoil within and without. Such unchecked zeal has led to many heretical viewpoints and is a root cause or reason for many popular Christian authors’ misrepresentation of the true historical Christianity that has, for the most part, run contrary to culture.

Last, Paul declared that their zeal was more grounded in their desire to assert their own righteousness which is veiled as God’s righteousness. Thus, their very actions proved that they did not know the righteousness of God and passed off their own righteousness as being so. Which, by the way, is extremely dangerous and heretical in our churches today. It is dangerous for one to believe they are right with God, presume to speak for God, and then vehemently defend what they believe is of God, all the while not knowing they were against God.

See *Pastor’s Desk* on p. 3

Men’s Breakfast

This month, men's Breakfast is being pushed ahead to Nov. 12th at 8:00 a.m. BCNE (the New England Association) is holding its annual meeting in Hudson, Mass. on Nov. 4&5 and the pastors are going as Hillside delegates.

So we'll meet a week later than usual but the food, fellowship, and Bible Study will still be as enjoyable as ever. Don't miss this opportunity to share some quality time in the Lord with the other guys.

Fellowship Events

On Sunday Oct. 30, there is a Potluck Dinner right after Worship Service. Please bring a dish to share with others. Visitors are welcome to stay for the dinner since we always have plenty to share.

After the dinner, we will hold our quarterly business dinner where the main item will be the 2017 budget. Please keep our finances in prayer as we consider income and expenses for next year.

Property and Space Patrol

On Saturday October 29th, a Fall Work Day was held. The air conditioners were removed and stored, the church was given a thorough cleaning, and ceiling bulbs were replaced.

Outside we cleaned debris from all the gutters on the parsonage and dismantled an old picnic table and tossed it on the brush pile.

✚ Pastor Al

Old Hymn Books Get New Life

A collection of over 400-rare hymn books are slowly being electronically scanned by Ed Steele, a faculty member at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell College. Some books date back to 1713.

The rare volumes are too fragile to be scanned on a flatbed scanner so Steele is using an advanced tool, an Opus FreeFlow Bookeye 4 scanner which can capture an image



Old Hymn Books (from p. 2)

from above a partially opened book and automatically correct the skewed image so it looks flat.

One such volume is *The Baptist Hymn and Tune Book* dated 1873. The preceding excerpt is for "Create in Me a Clean Heart," a song that we sang in church this month.

In that book, William Bradbury is the composer but the melody is different than what we sing today. Our modern version (shown below) appears in "Maranatha Music, 3rd edition," and is copyright 1986 with composer unknown.

Create in me a clean heart, O God
Scriptures for Singing

(Guitar)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, And re - new a right spir - it with in me.
 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, And re - new a right spir - it with in me.
 Cast me not a - way from Thy pre - sence; Take not Thy ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 Res - tore un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion; And re - new a right spir - it with in me.

It would be an interesting exercise to hear the original melody. The hymnary.org web site has a clear copy of the sheet music but no recording, so that would be a good start for an enterprising pianist. Go to <http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/BHTB1871/page/400>

For more details about this project, read the full story in the Baptist Press: <http://www.bpnews.net/47759/rare-hymnals-get-new-life-in-nobts-digital-scanning>

Pastor's Desk (from p.2)

Unfortunately, that is what is being done in our world today. Many individuals claim to be Christian, yet their perspectives being asserted in public, in politics, and in faith are not Biblically sound or proper Christian doctrine. And woe to the one who questions their false perspective, for in doing so you will see an individual who has zeal, but lacks any real knowledge of the Bible or Godly wisdom.

We as Christians must become bolder and call a spade a spade, and a diamond a diamond. We who do have knowledge must correct the false teachings that are being touted by many today in our world. We know we live in an age where individuals will come together and choose from themselves those who will sooth their conscious and tickle their ears, but that does not excuse us from pointing out that is what is happening.

Unfortunately, many who have zeal and little or no knowledge ardently defend the worst offenders of true doctrine. However, we must remember the principle that, just because the majority agrees, it does not mean that what they agree on is right. We are guardians of God's truth and

we must correct those who are clearly wrong in doctrine and promote God's righteousness as in accordance with God's word.

As I finish, I would like to state the obvious, so please bear with me. We are facing another election, which is more than just about presidents. This next election is about all the other branches of government, both federal and local. We as Christians must choose for ourselves those who best support our Biblical perspective.

Now it doesn't mean our candidates will be elected. And it doesn't mean that those we may support fit our perspective 100%. What it does mean is that, when given the chance, we as Christian Americans, choose the side of righteousness against those who would destroy it in our culture and our society. Unfortunately, there are many in politics and religion who have zeal without knowledge, so it is our job to know and have the zeal to defend what is righteous for the glory of our God against those who would try to destroy that truth.

✠ Pastor Jim

Poetry Corner

The following cute poem was submitted by Rachel Page. It brought to mind that 1976 movie, "Freaky Friday," where mother (Barbara Harris) and daughter (a very young Jodie Foster) magically swapped bodies for one day.

When I'm an Old Lady, I'll Live With Each Kid

When I'm an old lady I'll live with each kid,
 And bring so much happiness, just as they did
 I want to payback all the joy they've provided
 Returning each deed! Oh, they'll be so excited

I'll write on the walls, with red, whites and blues,
 I'll bounce on the furniture--wearing my shoes.
 I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out.
 I'll stuff all the toilets and oh, how they'll shout.

When they're on the phone and just out of reach,
 I'll get into things like sugar and bleach.
 Oh, they'll snap their fingers and shake their head
 And when that is done, I'll hide under the bed.

When they cook dinner and call me to eat,
 I'll not eat my green beans or salad or meat.
 I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table,
 And when they get angry--I'll run if I'm able!

I'll sit too close to the TV, through the channels I'll click,
 I'll cross both my eyes to see if they stick.
 I'll take off my socks and throw one away,
 And play in the mud 'til the end of the day.

See *Poetry* on p. 4

Poetry (from p. 4)

And later in bed, I'll lay back and sigh,
I'll thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.
My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping,
And say with a groan, "She's so sweet when she's sleeping!"

Author unknown

Finding the Messiah

John 1:35-36: In referring to the "next" day, the day after Jesus was baptized, John introduces us to the first disciples. These two were disciples of John the Baptists. John tells them to behold "The Lamb of God".

1:37 The two disciples heard John speak and then they followed Jesus.

1:40-42 One of the two was _____ who went and found his brother _____. Jesus changed his name to _____, translated means _____

1:43 The next day (note there are three "next days" in chapter one) Jesus found _____

1:45 He then found _____

In chapter one, we find the first four of the 12 disciples. People are still finding the Messiah. Have you found Him? He is not hidden, but is close by.

† Pastor Al

Do We Have to?

The following devotional essay comes from Our Daily Bread for October 17, 2016 and was written by Anne Cetas. The scripture passage for the day is 1st Thess. 5:12-28.

Joie started the children's program with prayer, then sang with the kids. Six-year-old Emmanuel squirmed in his seat when she prayed again after introducing Aaron, the teacher. Then Aaron began and ended his talk with prayer. Emmanuel complained: "That's four prayers! I can't sit still that long!"

If you think Emmanuel's challenge is difficult, look at 1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray continually" or always be in a spirit of prayer. Even some of us adults can find prayer to be boring. Maybe that's because we don't know what to say or don't realize that prayer is a conversation with our Father.

Back in the seventeenth century, François Fénelon wrote some words about prayer that have helped me: "Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that He may sober them; tell Him your longings, that He may purify them." He continued, "Talk to Him of your temptations, that He may shield you from them: show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them . . . If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say."

May we grow in our intimacy with God so that we will want to spend more time with Him.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 11/18 Warren Hastings
11/19 Barbara Kingsbury
11/29 Michelle Robertson



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

- 11/28 Jack & Cynthia Ward

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 Nov. 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

