



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2017

AVOID WORLDLY MYTHS AND STRANGE DOCTRINES

From the Pastor's Desk

Superstition vs. God's Sovereignty

Back in 2006, when I was working in construction, one of my co-workers stated to me, "Jim, tomorrow is the end of the world!" I looked at him in a puzzling way and responded; "Yeh, how is that?" He looked at me and said; "Tomorrow's date is 6-6-6, the end of the world!" I laughed and said to him; "It is not 6-6-6, but 6-6-06 and it is my wedding anniversary as well." He looked at me strangely and laughed the situation off.

Later, I caught up to him and he was spouting the same topic to every other person he saw. He definitely was very superstitious about the date. Three days later, I had someone else ask me about the same date. He wanted to know if there was anything to it. I told him that there wasn't and furthermore "there is nothing inherently wrong with the number 666 and that it can even be found as a page number in most Bibles." He seemed a little surprised by my answer and admitted that he was nervous about the day.

What I found most interesting about these two men is that neither of them are "church goers" or outwardly religious people and yet they had a concern about something they mistakenly read about in the Bible. Even the papers made a big to-do about it.

Why is that people are caught up in such superstitious nonsense? Maybe because most people have a fear of the future or events they cannot control and they are looking for something beyond themselves for answers.

The Bible teaches us that our God is sovereign in all matters and that He is in control so that nothing happens by accident or apart from Him. We must understand as believers in Christ that He is behind the steering wheel and in control; and all we need to do is to sit back and let Him guide us through life.

I once knew a deacon who was very superstitious. His hang-up was that, when leaving a house, he was always sure to exit through the same door by which he entered. He believed it so much so that when he accidentally went out the wrong door he would re-enter that door so he could exit the proper door. Isn't that a little strange?

Now I do not know about you, but I do not walk under ladders because I do not want a hammer to hit me on the

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 4, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Mar. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 12, 2:00 a.m. – Daylight Savings Time begins

Spring forward one hour, lose an hour's sleep, don't be an hour late to church!

Mar. 26, midday – Bi-Annual Business Meeting

The meeting will follow a Potluck Dinner. Visitors are welcome to stay for the meal.

Apr. 16 – Resurrection Sunday

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

head, not because I am superstitious. If a black cat crosses my path, I keep on going. If I break a mirror then I clean it up and do not worry about seven years of bad luck. If I spill salt, I brush it off the table. How is that these things have become known as bad luck experiences or omens? The answer is fear of the uncontrollable future.

The Bible clearly shows that the Christian who is superstitious is one who is in sin. The person who believes in these superstitions are not trusting in God to be God. What they do not realize is that they are giving credence to a power that is not of God.

People do not like it when bad things happen to them, but we cannot forget that James (1:2) says in his letter: we as Christians need to count it "all joy, when you encounter various trials." We can sometimes forget that, when something does not go our way, it isn't because we had "bad luck," but because God is testing our faith so that it can

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/>

Pastor’s Desk (from p. 1)

grow and we can learn to trust in His sovereignty to guide us through it.

So let me encourage you to not give into worldly myths and strange doctrines, but instead trust in the Lord who is sovereign in all matters. Then you will know what it is to be freed from pointless superstitions.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men’s Breakfast

March is here already and summer is not far ahead. Local syrup producers have already started tapping the sweet elixir from the maple trees.

For a special outing, visit a local sugar house, especially one that still uses a wood-fired evaporator to make syrup. The most wonderful aroma is the mixture of wood smoke and hot, boiling maple sap. Try some maple syrup in your coffee – it's delicious.



On Saturday, March 5th at 8:00 a.m., we won't be making maple syrup, but we'll be having a tasty, home cooked breakfast followed by a congenial Bible discussion. So please don't sleep in. Get up early and come on over and join us. You'll be glad you did.

Property and Space Patrol

We have had a respite from snowplowing for a few weeks, which is good. March came in quite cold and blustery but milder weather is on the way.

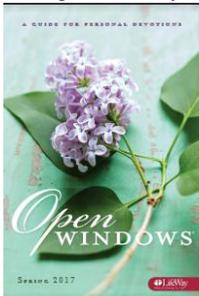
If you wonder what happened to the church sign, well it's under repair. After years of service, the north side of the sign got so badly weathered, it became very difficult to change out the letters, and much of the hardware was corroded.

A new sign board will be installed as soon as possible.

✠ Pastor Al

Free Stuff!

It’s there to take. Each quarter, Hillside provides current daily devotionals and other literature to help us to get through each day and to grow in our daily walk with Christ.



"Open Windows" and "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklets provide hope, strength, courage, and strength for each day. They each have appropriate Bible verses that apply. We often find these daily readings fitting the situation we are in at that

time, giving us the answers we need.

To benefit from the Bible, we must read it. A habit of daily reading using a devotional will make each day easier.

Isaiah 55:11 says: "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

Isaiah 40:8 says: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever."

A daily dose of God’s Bible will change your life.

Take some of this free stuff AND take an extra copy for someone that you know could use some spiritual help.

✠ Pastor Al

Media Library News

The church library is on the lower level in the last room on the right. Stop in and browse. There are many books of interest for all ages. The honor system of checkout is in effect:



the borrower simply fills out the signout log.

The Hillside website (www.hillside-sbc.org) also lists the library holdings. Click on **Resources -> Hillside Library** and then click on the **online catalog** link.

I am a history buff, particularly of Israel. There is a six-book historical novel series written by Brock and Bodie Thoene (pronounced tay-nee), a husband and wife team. (<https://www.thoenebooks.com/>)

The series starts with “Vienna Prelude,” set in Austria during the 1930s when Hitler took over the country and the Jews were methodically being exterminated. The book series flows through the 1948 restoration of the land of Israel to the Jews and the 1967 Six-Day War where Israel occupied the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The extensive research and excellent blending of fictitious characters gives the reader a good picture of the Jewish situation and the Middle East today.

Tasteful media donations are gladly accepted. There is a basket in the library for drop off.

✠ Pastor Al

500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

The following excerpt is from an article written by Ray Van Neste in *The Baptist Press* for Feb. 24, 2017.

For the complete article, go to <http://www.bpnews.net/48403/firstperson-the-reformation-and-baptists.html>

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Reformation (from p. 2)

Around the world this year, multiple celebrations and events are marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.



Germany's tourism board is working overtime, advertising the land of **Martin Luther** and anticipating a flood of pilgrims.

During the years prior to the Reformation, the false belief that people had to earn the forgiveness of God had largely obscured God's glorious gospel. This doctrinal belief led to the corruption and spiritual weakening of the church.

But God, as He has done so often in the past, began to stir and awaken His people. The Gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith alone came in power once again. Luther said this discovery to him was like the opening of the eyes to the blind. Preaching of this Gospel inspired and emboldened the church, and this renewed vigor resulted in the training of death-defying God-exalting missionary-pastors.

Souls were saved, churches were purified and planted, and the missionary efforts extended even to the Americas.

Furthermore, the Bible was translated into the language of the common people, giving them direct access to the Word of God. For all of these reasons, the Reformation is the greatest revival in the history of the church after Pentecost.

The Terracotta Army

The following fascinating article about a hidden treasure, written by Bill Crowder, comes from the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for Jan. 19, 2017.



In March 1974, Chinese farmers were digging a well when they made a surprising discovery: Buried under the dry ground of central China was the Terracotta Army—life-size terracotta sculptures that dated back to the third century BC. In this extraordinary find were some 8,000 soldiers, 150 cavalry horses, and 130 chariots drawn by 520 horses. The Terracotta Army has become one of the most popular tourist sites in China, attracting over a million visitors annually.

This amazing treasure lay hidden for centuries but is now being shared with the world.

The apostle Paul wrote that followers of Christ have a treasure inside them that is to be shared with the world: "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure" (2 Cor. 4:7 NLT). The treasure inside us is the message of Christ and His love.

This treasure is not to be hidden but is to be shared so that by God's love and grace people of every nation can be welcomed into His family. May we, through His Spirit's working, share that treasure with someone today.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following young lady who is celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

3/30 Amanda Robertson, la Barista



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

If that's you, please contact the editor so we can make a note of your anniversary.

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.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Mar. 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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