



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 16 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2017

Our Future is in the Lord's Hands

From the Pastor's Desk

Prepared for the Future

Matthew 25:1-13

This past week we have had some pretty nasty weather with a tremendous amount of rain falling throughout the region causing some of the rivers to rise and become more rapid than usual. Just over the border in Maine there was an incident late last week in which a young woman was kayaking with two others and their two kayaks turned over spilling them into the Saco River. The two men were able to get to safety, but the young woman could not be found.

For the Search and Rescue mission, many individuals were mobilized in the hope that they would find her somewhere down river safe and alive. During the rescue a young man who was on his first day of boat rescue and recovery was involved in an accident while looking for this woman. He and his partner were in great trouble and two others who were paddle boating nearby heard their cries for help.

Immediately the men who were just enjoying their annual Saco River run turned around and assisted them. The young man who was on his first day was severely injured and is even now in a coma fighting for life.

In another unrelated incident this past Thursday night, severe storms went through the Sunapee, New Hampshire area causing road flooding. Some driveways were inaccessible and others had tremendous damage on their property. Fortunately no one was injured, but many were not ready for the displacement from homes that the storm caused. One common factor among them all is that they were not prepared for what they all encountered.

I use these illustrations to point out that tomorrow is a very tenuous reality in this short life on Earth. We as humans are very keenly aware of this reality, but we do not govern our lives in the knowledge of it. We make plans, we execute them, we fulfill them, and we go on to make more plans. After all, if we lived only in the moment with the fear of no tomorrow, nothing would ever be accomplished and our lives would be wasted.

Yet even though we know tomorrow is not guaranteed to us, we, for the most part, do not think we will die by tomorrow. We live as if we have twenty, thirty, fifty years to go in our lives. So I must ask what are you doing to prepare for the unexpected, inevitable, and unfortunate moment when

Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 10, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

June 14 – Flag Day

Fly the flag. Honor Old Glory.



June 18 – Father's Day

Honor thy father.

June 18 – End of Baby Bottle Fund Drive

Return those coin-filled baby bottles so we can help the Carenet Pregnancy Center of Concord.



Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

tomorrow does not come for you? What steps are you taking to be prepared for eternity?

Jesus gives us a parable in Matthew chapter 25 that teaches us to prepare ahead of time for what is to come. In the parable, Jesus pointed out ten virgins who were waiting for their bridegroom to come. The day prolonged and eventually they had to light their lamps for night had fallen.

As the evening droned on, they became listless and sleepy only to be woken by the declaration that the bridegroom was soon to arrive. When the ten virgins awoke, Jesus explained that only five had extra oil for their lamps and they were prepared for the lengthy arrival, but the other five did not have enough. Realizing that they had not prepared for the moment, they begged the other prepared five virgins for some oil, but the prudent five responded to them by telling them there was not enough and that they needed to go into town and buy some more.

So off went the five unprepared virgins to buy oil, but the task was extremely difficult for the hour was late and the

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

Men's Breakfast

This month's breakfast is on the second Saturday, June 10th, due to a schedule conflict. Be sure to set your alarm clocks and join us at 8:00 a.m. for a home cooked breakfast and some fellowship.

Afterward we will resume our study of Paul's letter to the Romans, a church that was not on any of his missionary journeys. This letter is loaded with memorable scriptures applicable to many areas of life.

Property and Space Patrol

In May, the Property and Space crew installed the air conditioners in the sanctuary. They also dismantled the 30-year-old garage doors at the parsonage and installed brand new ones.



The old doors had to be replaced because their lower sections had rotted and the hardware was very rusted. While replacing the doors, we found that all the wood trim was rotted as was some of the framing. Along with those repairs, we also replaced the vinyl siding on the lower half of the garage door wall. The outside lights were also replaced in the process.

For lawn mowing, it's been needed once a week. Unfortunately, the church lawn tractor died and has been scrapped. My own machine continues to serve this need. [Ed. - Does anyone have one to donate?]

✠ Pastor Al

Let Honor Meet Honor

The following story by Randy Kilgore is from the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for May 29, 2017. The daily reading is Matt. 6:1-6. The article is a fitting tribute to those who died serving our country.

I've always been impressed by the solemn, magnificent simplicity of the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. The carefully choreographed event is a moving tribute to soldiers whose names—and sacrifice—are “known but to God.” Equally moving are the private moments of steady pacing when the crowds are gone: back and forth, hour after hour, day by day, in even the worst weather.

In September 2003, Hurricane Isabel was bearing down on Washington, DC, and the guards were told they could seek shelter during the worst of the storm. Surprising almost no one, the guards refused! They unselfishly stood their post to honor their fallen comrades even in the face of a hurricane.

Underlying Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:1-6, I believe, is His desire for us to live with an unrelenting, selfless devotion to Him. The Bible calls us to good deeds and holy living, but these are to be acts of worship and obedience (vv. 4-6), not orchestrated acts for self-glorification (v. 2).

The apostle Paul endorses this whole-life faithfulness when he pleads with us to make our bodies “a living sacrifice” (Rom. 12:1).

May our private and public moments speak of our devotion and wholehearted commitment to You, Lord.

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

shops were closed. While they were gone, the bridegroom showed up and ushered the five prepared virgins into the bedchamber to enjoy the marriage, but the five unprepared were not there.

When they arrived later, they begged to be let in, but the bridegroom told them he did not know them and they were not allowed entry. Thus Jesus ended the parable by saying, “Be on the alert for you do not know the day nor the hour” the bridegroom comes.

When considering the future and being prepared, many people in our world adopt the notion of doing nothing and simply putting their heads in the sand hoping that death does not find them too soon, meaning never. Others are more aware of their mortality, but do not know what to do or how to proceed in preparing for it. What we learn about these two types of individuals is that they are not prepared for eternity, nor did they take the necessary measures to ensure a hopeful future.

In contrast, there are those who are saved in Christ. We who know the Lord, are aware of the coming death, but do not fear its impending footsteps because we have prepared for what is to come. We are ready for eternity even if happens within the next hour of our lives. As a result, we govern ourselves accordingly, knowing that our future is in God's hands.

Are you ready for eternity? Are you prepared for the future? Are you ready to enter into everlasting life? Luckily those who had to endure last night's storms had no major incidents and no harm came to any of them, but unfortunately the woman whose kayak capsized did not make it. They discovered her body sometime Thursday and unfortunately the young man from Search and Rescue who was trying to rescue her is still in critical condition, not knowing if he will live or die.

Accidents happen and bad things can hit us at any moment. Let us not live in the illusion that we can control all the variables in our lives so that we will successfully navigate through ninety years of safety, for we cannot control what

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others will do. We cannot control the weather. We cannot always control what happens to us and we must not live thinking we can.

But we can be prepared for whatever comes our way by preparing our futures in the Lord. Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Have you made reservations for His eternal mansion? Are you sure you know what will happen when tomorrow doesn't arrive for you?

Salvation through Jesus Christ is the way to ease our fears and He is the way to prepare our futures. May you receive His salvation today.

God bless,

✠ Pastor Jim

Early Days of the Christian Faith

The Origin of Celibacy

The following article is an excerpt from *Eerdman's Handbook to the History of Christianity*. It deals with the belief that Christian clergy like bishops, priests, ministers, presbyters, and deacons should abstain from marriage and sexual relations.

The practice of celibacy developed slowly. In the New Testament, it is reasonable to assume that most of the apostles were married. This is true of Peter, whose mother-in-law was mentioned, and it was considered normal for an apostle to include his wife in his church work.

Paul recognized the advantages of being unmarried, especially having visited on his missionary journeys many cities which contained temples where prostitution was part of pagan practices. But Paul discouraged special vows by younger women to abstain from marriage. He stressed that, due to the expectation of Christ's return, that people stay in the condition in which they were called. [See 1st Cor. 7 for discussion of married vs. not married. See also 1st Tim. 3 which states that overseers and deacons must be "the husband of one wife."]

During the following period, abstinence from marriage was left to personal choice, although the Gnostics discouraged marriage due to their belief that marriage entangled the spiritual soul with the evil physical world. Men and women who did not marry were commended because the lack of family concerns gave more time to devote to church affairs.

By the third century, celibacy was beginning to be valued as a mark of holiness. Extremes were frowned upon, such as Origen who made himself a eunich, believing that this was commended in the gospels. As martyrdom declined, asceticism became the measure of spirituality, but clergy were not obliged to be celibate.

In the fourth century, some men were ordained later in life after they had married. In some cases they continued to live with their wives but abstained from sexual relations. Also in this century, attempts were made to restrict marriage after ordination. The Council of Ancyra about 315 A.D. declared that deacons had to choose between marriage and celibacy before ordination, and could not marry afterward. The

Council of Neocaesarea about 320 A.D. ruled that presbyters who married after ordination were to be deposed.

Jerome was the most enthusiastic supporter of celibacy, but was criticized because he seemed to denigrate marriage. In spite of protests that celibacy was Manichean (the Manichees held that all aspects of the physical world were evil), supporters of celibacy persuaded churches that celibacy and holiness were closely connected.

Celibacy of the clergy introduced two great abuses. Many so-called celibate clergy lived with women who were not their wives (called subintroductae), a practice condemned by church councils and writers. Also, enthusiastic men were tempted to desert their wives in order to follow the celibate life. A Roman law of 420 A.D. expressly forbade this.

In the fifth century and later, two codes of practice evolved. In the Eastern churches, presbyters and deacons were allowed to marry before ordination, but bishops were always chosen from among the celibate clergy (very often they were monks). This practice was accepted by Justinian and remains in force in Eastern Christianity today. In the West, there was strong pressure for complete clerical celibacy. Leo the Great wanted to forbid marriage even for sub-deacons.

Certainly, during the fifth and sixth centuries, married men such as Sidonius Apollinaris became bishops. However, during these centuries, monasteries became the main centers of spirituality, thus the best bishops tended to be celibate. Celibacy of the clergy continued to be praised as an ideal, although it was not enforced legally and effectively until the time of Hildebrand (Pope Gregory VII, 1073-85).

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

6/4 Nanette Dawson

6/8 Gail Frascinella



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

6/6 Pastor Jim and Michelle Robertson

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apologies. But please do let the editor know so he can add you to the list of names.

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 is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ 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 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.



Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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