



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2017

Have Zeal for Our God

From the Pastor's Desk

Expressing One's Passion Properly

John 2:17

What do you get excited about in your life? What really stokes your emotions and stirs up within you a heightened passion? Is there anything in your life that really puts wind in your sails or the crank in your motor?

Having a concerted energy towards ideas, activities, and religion is nothing new under the sun and in fact the Bible uses a word over and over again that encapsulates one's intense feelings for someone, something, or anything that brings great joy or conviction. What is that word? Zeal.

With summer well under way there are many events that speak to our passions in which we are zealous for or have a great interest in. Music festivals, car shows, beach parties, sporting events, and blockbuster movies are all on the table and more for any and every enthusiast who wishes to dump their time, talents, and treasure into. But is placing such emphasis on worldly items and events the right way to express what the Bible calls zeal?

I confess that when I was a younger man, I was a little over the top when it came to sports and local New England teams; in particular to the Patriots and to football in general. I wasn't a statistician or expert in game-plan analysis or even knowledgeable on the various historical figures of the NFL, but I still had what might be considered an improper zeal for my team and for the game of football.

How do I know this? Well I found myself scheduling my whole week around the big game. What I would eat, where I would watch it, and with whom I would watch it with. I would talk with others about the past games of the season, speculate on the upcoming games, and argue the finer merits of their overall performance.

If someone said something poorly against my favorite player, I would argue vociferously till they caved to my position. I probably was considered at one-time an NFL bully. It was likely clear to others that I had an ungodly zeal for something earthly and temporal.

Looking back with spiritual eyes, I can see that the zeal that I had for football was wrongly placed and I wrongly invested in something that had no eternal impact. It wasn't till I submitted to the call for ministry that I was confronted

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Aug. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

in my unholy desire. Through the leading of the Lord, I redirected that zeal to something righteously in tune with God's will for my life.

Over the last twenty years in which I have committed myself to the service of the Lord, I have had countless discussions with a plethora of individuals that God had freed them from the thing in which they wrongly placed their zeal.

Some had zeal for work, trucks, science, learning, money, or any other earthly thing. How did Christ free them? He freed them through salvation and submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

There is a passage in the Bible that can help guide us to focus our zeal on the things that are Godly. We learn in the Gospels that Jesus went to the Temple in Jerusalem and – after assessing what was going on – He upended the tables and drove the money changers out of the Temple for their improper uses of God's house.

After He had done so, the Bible tells us that His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me" (John 2:17). What we find is that Jesus rightly – as He always does – displayed a holy, righteous, and sanctified desire for God and for what purpose the House of God was to be used. He displayed for us a zeal for God.

When we come to know Jesus as our Savior and Lord, He makes us anew and, because He does this, we gain a new perspective and focus in life. That new directed focus creates in us a zeal for the things of God, a zeal to properly order our lives according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Thus what was once vitally important to us before that point is

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

now relegated to a basic interest or passing consideration, but no longer has preeminence in our lives.

So, yes, I still enjoy football and occasionally yell at the screen during a bad call or busted up play, but I no longer allow that improper zealous attitude to drive me throughout the week. I may talk with others about it, but I much rather talk about the things of God. I get together with some to watch the games, but find myself talking about theology and the Bible more during those games. I may be vaguely aware of stats and other things, but I find myself studying God's important word. Thus zeal is rightly removed from the earthly temporal things and properly placed where it belongs: on God and His purposes.

Where are you when it comes to the things that motivate you? Do you have a passion for the things of God or for the things of men? Are you committed to Christ and His plan for you?

Let us follow the leading of our Lord Christ in this matter. Let us have a zeal for our God and demonstrate the zeal to others, for in doing so we properly display where our passion is focused.

Blessings,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday August 5th at 8:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast is the event of the day. Be sure to set your alarm clocks and join the guys for this event. There is always good food to share as well as fellowship. There may even be talk of football. After all, the Patriots did have their first practice this past week.

After breakfast, we'll turn to Paul's Letter to the Romans for study and discussion. Don't miss it!

Five-Finger Prayers

The following article came from the Our Daily Bread devotional booklet for June 27, 2017. It was written by Anne Cetas, a regular contributor.

Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formula. Yet sometimes we might need to use a "method" to freshen up our prayer time. We can pray the Psalms or other Scriptures (such as The Lord's Prayer), or use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). I recently came across this "Five-Finger Prayer" to use as a guide when praying for others:

1. When you fold your hands, the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you—your loved ones (Phil. 1:3–5).
2. The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Bible teachers and preachers, and those who teach children (1 Thess. 5:25).
3. The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders, and your supervisor at work (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

4. The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering (James 5:13–16).
5. Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God's greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs (Phil. 4:6, 19).

Whatever method you use, just talk with your Father. He wants to hear what's on your heart.

Property and Space Patrol

Mowing is being done once a week, and I have spent several mornings cutting down brush. There are loads more that need to go.

If you stand still very long, the Bittersweet vines will climb up your leg.

✠ Pastor Al

Welcome New Members

Welcome to Peter and Julie Jenkins who live down in Hooksett. They have been regulars for some time now and, on July 16th, were accepted into our fellowship at a special business meeting held after the Worship Service.

We all loved Julie after she prepared a delicious meal for Men's Breakfast at the beginning of July.

Be sure to greet them on Sunday and offer the right hand of fellowship.

Also pray for the continued growth of our congregation.

What Would Jesus Do?

The following story was submitted by member Cynthia Ward. Perhaps its theme might be that we should focus less on complaining about others and focus more on thinking about what would Jesus do.

A lady went to the pastor and said "Pastor, I won't be going to this church anymore." The pastor responded "But why?" The lady said "Ah! I saw a sister speaking bad of another sister; a brother that can't read well; the worship team living wrong; people looking at their phone during service; among so many other things wrong in the church."

The pastor replied "OK. But before you go, do me a favor: take a full glass of water and walk three times around the church without spilling a drop on the floor. Afterwards, leave the church if you desire." The lady thought: too easy! She walked three times around as the pastor had asked. When she finished she told the pastor she was ready.

The pastor asked "When you were walking around the church, did you see a sister speaking bad about another sister?" The lady replied "no." "did you see anyone looking at their phone?" "No" "You know why?" "No" "You were focused on the glass, to make sure you didn't tip it and spill any water.

It's the same with our life. When our focus is on our Lord Jesus Christ, we don't have time to see the mistakes of others."

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 8/4 Kanoba Bradner
- 8/9 Nathan Frascinella
- 8/13 Stephanie Carpenter
- 8/16 Brenda Thomas



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month.

If that's you, please contact the Editor so he can add you to the Anniversary List.

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 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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