



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 16 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2017

Nothing Trivial in the Bible

From the Pastor's Desk

Is The Word of God a Matter of Trivial Importance?

Mark 13:31; Matthew 5:18

When I was a kid a Christian game came out that became vastly popular in a quick way. What was the game? It was Bible Trivia. Have you played it?

The original version was a board with a rainbow in which you had to work your way through the colors of the rainbow to the top three times by answering questions that correlated with the color.

In order to win the game you would get your piece into heaven and be asked the last question chosen by others to win the game. Categories ranged from history, prophecy and miracles, Old Testament knowledge, New Testament knowledge, or Wisdom. There were a few other categories that I don't remember, but hopefully you get the idea.

My family loved that game. For weeks we met each Friday night and played it one or two times and often my dad won – which was not surprising – after all, he was the pastor of the church. It was a great game and there have been different iterations of the games since the original came out, but none as good as the first version.

As I have gotten older, I have often thought of that game and how interesting it was to play. I also wondered if it was the right title for a game connected to the most important book in the history of mankind. Really, is there anything in or about the Bible that should be called trivia?

Encarta Dictionary defines trivia as “unimportant things; a collection of insignificant or obscure items, details, or information.” It also defines trivial as “having little value, lacking in seriousness or importance; commonplace, lacking in qualities that are unique or interesting.” So do these definitions rightly describe what we know about the Bible?

Well let's consider for a moment what can be classified as trivia. For instance I remember one of the questions being, “How many angels are named in the Bible?” To which it stated three: Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer. I think they missed one in Revelation 9:11 in which there is angel called Abaddon (Hebrew), or Apollyon (Greek), but that is beside the point.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Sept. 2, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Sept. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Sept. 11 – Patriot's Day

Remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Another question the game asked was how many disciples followed Jesus? To which we are told twelve, which again that is the twelve Jesus chose, but others we know followed also.

Another question that was asked was how many books are in the Bible? The answer is 66: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. On the surface such questions do seem to indicate a level of trivia, do they not? But what is about these questions that make it simply trivia?

Let's consider the questions asked and answered from the game. First, it is pretty basic to name the angels, but when you know their function and importance, then they are more than trivia. Gabriel was the angel who talked to Daniel in the Old Testament and brought news from God. He gave the message in the Holy of Holies to Zechariah that Elizabeth would be with child and declared him to be mute for not believing the message.

He also brought word to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God and it is likely that he was the one who told Joseph in a dream to take Mary as his wife.

As for Michael, he was the archangel who fought for the body of Moses with the devil and he rebuked him in the name of the Lord and prevailed. It was Michael who fought off the prince over the kingdom of Persia and had charge of watching over the Jews living in Babylon.

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Real Treasure | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | Solar Eclipse | Jewish Holidays | Revival | God's Roll Call | No Meat | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

Lucifer is the devil, the fallen one who took a third of the angels in heaven and was cast out of heaven to earth. He is given power over this age and has the limited power to do what he can to lead people astray. He was there in the garden tempting Eve. He was there in the time of Job accusing him of loving God only because God favored him.

He was in the wilderness with Jesus tempting him to forsake God the Father and follow him instead. He was the one who wanted to sift Peter and cause him to fall. He is like a lion walking to and fro searching whom he can devour and, in Revelation, he is the one who is defeated along with his angels. When we consider their place in the history of the Bible, should we consider them merely trivia?

How about the question about the twelve disciples? There is much that can be said, but to shorten the answer, Jesus chose them all, for the Father had purpose for them. They would eat, walk, and talk with Jesus for three plus years. They would hear the words of life from the author of life Himself. One (Judas) would betray him for money and all of them would run from persecution the night Jesus was arrested. It was the twelve who were promised a special place in the kingdom of God and it was the twelve, with Matthias in place of Judas, who would live lives for the glory of Christ and die martyrs' death. Are they nothing more than trivia?

Lastly, what about the number of books in the Bible? Is it important to know such a thing? Well, to know that the Bible has been preserved for two thousand years is important. Some books in the Old Testament have been combined from what is listed from the Jewish Bible. The order of the Old Testament is also different from the Jewish Bible as well, but the whole content of Scripture is present. When we consider the Bible we see in the Old Testament it flows from the Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy), to History (Joshua to Job), Poetry (Psalms to Song of Solomon), and Prophecy (Isaiah to Malachi). In the New Testament it flows as Jesus' story in the Gospels (Matthew to John), Acts of the Apostles, Paul's writings (Romans to Philemon), Hebrews (possibly written by Paul), General Epistles (James to Jude), and Revelation. From the start of all things in Genesis to the end of the current age in Revelation, it is the complete story God wants us to know about Himself, His Son, mankind, and the need for salvation. Is then the number of books merely trivia?

To best address this passage, there are two passages in the New Testament I would like focus on. The first is Mark 13:31 in which Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (ESV). Second, in Matthew 5:18 Jesus says, "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (KJV). In both these passages Jesus points to the importance of the Word of God and its enduring nature. Thus, if Jesus said this about His Word and that of the Law, is there anything about the Bible merely trivia?

Let's face it, in reality some information in the Bible seems more benign and less important than other things such as the

importance of the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of our Savior. I think it might be best stated that there may be some things that can be classified as somewhat trivial, but to God, nothing of His word is trivial.

To know each of the five kingdoms of Philistines by name during the time of King Solomon is not as important as to know that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, David slew the Philistine giant, Goliath. To know what town Jesus grew up in is not as important to know that He is the Son of God who brings salvation to the world. To know what towns Paul visited on his three missionary tours is not as important as to know that countless Gentiles came to know Christ as their savior because of his faithful witness and that salvation was given to the Gentiles as well as the Jews. So yes, there are things in the Bible that are seemingly less important in comparison to others, but make no mistake about it, to God nothing about his Word is trivial.

As I finish up, you may have you have read this and said "so what?" So what if I do not know the nuances of the Bible like I should? So what if I find some things somewhat trivial or unimportant? So what if I only know highlights and not the finer intricate aspects of God's word? So what?

Well then, let me challenge you with this one goal. I challenge you to study the Bible as if it is the Word that will not pass away. To study it the way God the Father wanted us to study it, in its completeness so that we will know how things connect together. So that we will see how the seemingly less important things in fact bolster up and hold together the more important things.

Why? If for no other reason than through the super-intention of the Holy Spirit we have the exact words that we were supposed to have for our salvation, edification, education, and Christian growth. We have what we have because God found it important enough to give it to us, thus nothing in his word is trivia or trivial.

I hope and pray that through committed study we will see God's Word as of upmost importance for our growth in righteousness, which is no trivial matter.

✠ Pastor Jim

Real Treasure

The Power Ball lottery grew to an immense jackpot this summer and was won by a ticket sold close to home in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Did you buy a ticket hoping to win? I sure did. Can you imagine having close to a billion dollars? What an immense treasure. Alas, only one person can win that treasure.

How fortunate are we there is a greater treasure than that and one every one of us can have it: God's Word as spoken in the Holy Bible. Envision yourself holding the winning lottery ticket in one hand and your Bible in the other. Which treasure is greater?

You can share the lottery with lots of people but, immense as it is, there is a limit to how many you can share with before it runs out. You can share God's Word with all those people and have as much left over as when you began. Think

See Real Treasure on p. 3

Real Treasure (from p. 2)

of our Lord Jesus feeding thousands with a few fish and loaves and having basketfuls left over.

You can share God's Word with the entire world and still have as much left as when you began. God's Word is infinite! The lottery winnings can buy things of the world, but regardless of how much you buy and how much you enjoy them, those things will not bring you lasting health or peace or joy because in the end you will leave the world and all the things you have bought will go to another.

God's Word can bring you all possible blessings, your daily bread, shelter, clothing, and all the things the lottery cannot, including love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness and faith. In the end there will be no end at all but salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and eternal life.

If you *do* leave any of your love, joy, and peace, and your knowledge of salvation to others, you can rejoice in that. You will also take all of it with you, because God is infinite and the love and joy and peace He gives us are infinite.

No matter how much of these we spend on others, our own supply is not diminished. What an incredible treasure is the Holy Bible! Let us give thanks to our God every morning and every evening for giving us such great wealth!

✠ John French

Men's Breakfast

Sept. 2nd at 8:00 a.m. is the date and time for the September Men's Breakfast. It's always a good time for the guys to get together for a hearty home-cooked meal followed by an engaging Bible discussion. We are still in the early part of the Letter to the Romans.

Make the effort to get up early and come up the hill. It's always a rewarding and illuminating experience.

Property and Space Patrol

I been doing a lot of brush cutting. The bittersweet vines are growing so fast, it's a wonder they haven't snared someone's car in the parking lot!

The other ongoing chore has been lawn mowing.

The parsonage and church oil furnaces were given their scheduled cleaning last month. We have three furnaces to maintain. The hot water heater at the parsonage developed a leak but the service technician was able to repair it by changing a defective part.

✠ Pastor Al

The Great American Solar Eclipse

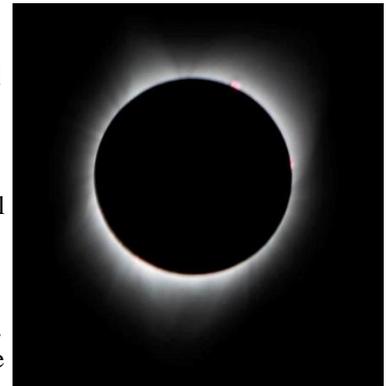
It was certainly a day in which "the heavens declare the glory of God." From the west coast of Oregon across the Great Plains to the east coast of South Carolina, millions of people flocked to the narrow band of the Moon's shadow to witness about 2 minutes and 40 seconds of the greatest show on Earth this past August 21st.

Many baseball parks were ground zero for the eclipse and the video of the "Total Eclipse of the Park" at Columbia, SC

was particularly entertaining. Go to the following link and scroll down to the video entitled Columbia Fireflies Eclipse.

The eclipse starts several minutes into the video. That's when you start hearing the people give out the ooohs and ahhs. If you notice a star in the sky, it was probably Mars or Venus.

[Eclipse at Columbia, SC baseball field](#)



Fall's Jewish Holidays

In September and October, Jews around the world celebrate three special holidays. The following information came from the judaism.about.com web site.

Rosh HaShanah (Sept. 21 at sundown)

Rosh HaShanah literally means "Head of the Year" in Hebrew. It falls in the month of Tishrei, which is the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar. The reason for this is because the Hebrew calendar begins with the month of Nissan (when it is believed the Jews were freed from slavery in Egypt) but the month of Tishrei is believed to be the month in which God created the world. Hence, another way to think about Rosh HaShanah is as the birthday of the world.

Rosh HaShanah is observed on the first two days of the month of Tishrei. Jewish tradition teaches that during the High Holy Days, God decides who will live and who will die during the coming year.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Awe, during which Jews reflect upon their actions over the past year and seek forgiveness for their transgressions in hopes of influencing God's final judgment.

Yom Kippur (Sept. 30 at sundown)

This holiday occurs 10 days after Rosh HaShanah. Its purpose is to bring about reconciliation between people and between individuals and God. According to Jewish tradition, it is also the day when God decides the fate of each human being.

Although Yom Kippur is an intense holiday, it is nevertheless viewed as a happy day. Why? Because if one has observed the holiday properly, by the end of Yom Kippur, they will have made peace with others and with God.

Sukkot (Oct. 5 at sundown)

Sukkot is a seven-day harvest holiday that arrives during the Hebrew month of Tishrei. Also known as the Feast of Booths or Feast of Tabernacles, it starts four days after Yom Kippur.

See Jewish Holidays on p. 4

Jewish Holidays (from p. 3)

Sukkot harkens back to times in ancient Israel when Jews would build huts near the edges of their fields during the harvest season. One of these dwellings was called a "sukkah." "Sukkot" is the plural form of this Hebrew word. These dwellings not only provided shade but allowed the workers to maximize the amount of time they spent in the fields, harvesting their food more quickly as a result.

Few people live in the sukkah today, but it is popular to eat at least one meal in it. At the beginning of the meal, a special blessing is recited: "Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to dwell in the sukkah."

Reviving the Church; Reaching the World

with Claude King

Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) is sponsoring a series of discipleship events across New England from September 24th-29th. The closest event to Hillside will be in Nashua, NH. Here is the writeup from the BCNE mailing.

 God has entrusted us with the assignment of making disciples of all peoples to the ends of the earth. A revived church with spirit-filled people is a prerequisite for power and fruitfulness in witness. Join Claude King to be inspired and equipped to help your church experience revival and become effective in penetrating lostness for God's glory and Kingdom expansion. Come, let's seek God together for revival and awakening in the land.

Claude King is author or coauthor of *Experiencing God*, *Fresh Encounter*, *The Mind of Christ*, *Come to the Lord's Table*, *The Call to Follow Christ*, and other resources. He is a discipleship and church help specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources.



Thursday, Sept. 28 Event

10:30am-1:30pm (with lunch - please sign up by email to: dom@nhba-sbc.com)

Topic: Sacred Assembly: Renewing Our Covenant Relationship with Jesus Christ

The sacred (or solemn) assembly is God's remedy for a people who need to return to Him in revival and as preparation for spiritual awakening. Help your church understand God's pattern for revival and spiritual awakening and identify processes and tools to return to your First Love in sacred assembly.

6:30-8:00pm, Topic: Prayer Boot Camp

A flexible prayer training experience to provide basic training in prayer and to introduce the weapons of our spiritual warfare. It is not just learning about prayer. It is

learning to pray by praying together. The content is based on The Battle Plan for Prayer by Stephen and Alex Kendrick, developers of War Room. Prayer Boot Camp utilizes a learning map that guides learning and prayer experiences.

James Milton Black and God's Roll Call

by Dan Graves, MSL

The following story was sent by Pastor Al and appears on many sites including Christianity.com.

James Milton Black was born on August 19, 1856 in South Hill, New York [in the Finger Lakes region]. He acquired an early musical education in singing and organ playing and knew such famous songsters of his day as Daniel Towner and John Howard. Around 1881, he moved to Williamsport, Pennsylvania where he carried on Christian work through the Methodist Episcopal church. Teaching music during the week, he was a song leader, Sunday school teacher and youth leader in his spare hours. In addition to all this work, he edited hymnals.

He loved young people and tried to win them for Christ. One day, as he passed through an alley, he met a ragged fourteen-year-old girl. She was the daughter of an alcoholic. He invited her to his Sunday school and youth group and she began to attend.

However, one day when he took roll call, she failed to respond [because she was absent]. Each child had to say a Scripture verse when his or her name was called. James saw a lesson in her silence. "I spoke of what a sad thing it would be, when our names are called from the Lamb's Book of Life, if one of us should be absent." And I said, "O God, when my own name is called up yonder, may I be there to respond!"

He was not the kind of man to let the matter die with a moral lesson. After Sunday school, he went to his pupil's home to find out why she had not showed up for class. He found her dangerously ill and sent for his own doctor--they still made house calls then. The doctor said that she had pneumonia. Since that was before the days of antibiotics, death was highly likely.

When James Milton Black came home, his wife saw at once that he was deeply troubled. Tears filled his eyes as he entered his gate. He tried to find a song to fit the thought of a heavenly roll call but could not locate one. An inner voice seemed to say, "Why don't you write one." And that is what he did.

He sat down at his piano and in a few minutes wrote the words and music that is familiar to most American churchgoers: "When the Roll Is Called up Yonder."

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,
 And the morning breaks, eternal, bright, and fair;
 When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,

See *God's Roll Call* on p. 5

God's Roll Call (from p. 4)

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.
 When the roll, is called up yonder,
 When the roll, is called up yonder,
 When the roll, is called up yonder,
 When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

"I played the music just as it is found today in the hymn-books, note for note, and I have never dared to change a single word or a note of the song," he said.

A few days later, he had the sad opportunity of explaining in public how he came to write the song that was sung at the funeral of the girl whose absence at that Sunday School roll call had inspired it.

No Meat on Friday

The following cute story was sent by Cynthia Ward. It has been told to three people who all burst out laughing at the punch line. So it passed the field test.

Every Friday night after work, I was in the habit of firing up my outdoor grill and cooking up some venison steaks. But all of my neighbors were Catholic, and since it was Lent, they had told me that they were forbidden from eating red meat on Friday.



The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic Faithful that they finally talked to their parish priest about it. The priest came to visit me and suggested that I become a Catholic.

After taking several classes and doing a lot of studying, I attended Mass. The priest sprinkled holy water over me and said, "You were born a Baptist and raised a Baptist, but now you are Catholic."

My neighbors were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood. The neighbors immediately called the priest. As the priest rushed into my yard, clutching a rosary, and preparing to scold me, he stopped short and watched in amazement.

There I stood, clutching a small bottle of holy water, which I carefully sprinkled over the grilling steaks while chanting, "You wuz born a deer, you wuz raised a deer, but you is now a catfish!"

Amen.

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
- 9/22 Julie Jenkins



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please notify the Editor so we can include you the next time.

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 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

