



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 16 No. 10

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

October 2017

In a Tragedy, Turn to Christ

From the Pastor's Desk

God's Sovereignty: Ministering to Others in the Midst of Tragedy

Matthew 5:25b

Wow, have you been paying attention to the news lately? Hurricane devastation in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean Islands. Road rage, terrorist attacks, and now a mass shooting in Las Vegas. It's as if a portion of hell had been unleashed upon this world and it is hard to see an end in sight. However, if there is one thing we learn from all of this, it is that pain and heartache are part of life and tragedy will happen at some point within it.

Unfortunately when it happens, many individuals have something to say about it. Politicians call for swifter oversight and control, famed preachers declare it is an act of God against the unrighteous, and satirists poke fun in morbid ways to get some point across. In addition, news anchors, night show hosts, and others tout that they don't understand why something can happen to so many innocent people.

Let's face it; bad things happen to everyone whether they are considered good or bad, but I must ask: are all tragedies inherently evil and if so are they equal in their level of evil?

What does the Bible say about disasters in life? Well one of the most quoted biblical passages on what happens to those who are good or bad is found in Matthew 5:45b. Jesus says, "For He (The Father) causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (NASB)."

Jesus was explicitly telling this to the Jews to remind them of God's gracious sovereignty on this world. For He sends enough sunshine and rain to warm the earth and grow crops so that mankind, whether good or evil, can enjoy His beneficence.

However, we know that the adverse can be just as true, for He can just as equally send too much sun and too much rain which in turn burns or drowns crops and destroys plant life, causing famine, floods, and fatalities that drive individuals to the brink of desperation and despair in which they lash out and perform acts that are atrocious and evil. As such we must acknowledge that the bad things that happen are against the righteous and unrighteous alike.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Oct. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Oct. 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m. - New Discipleship Course

Oct. 22, Noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Oct. 28, 8:00 a.m. – Fall Cleanup Day

Getting the church ready for "wintah."

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

So if we are asked about the nature, impact, or importance of a tragedy, how should we respond? Well first, we should always remember that not all tragedies are equally evil, but they can be equally devastating to those who must endure them. A hurricane or tornado does not have at its core an evil intent to go after particular people. Destructive weather such as earthquakes and tsunamis are not sentient and thus acting in a way that is malevolent towards any one person or group of individuals thus they are not evil, but are still bad.

However, a gunman who mows down fifty-eight people from a hotel room on the thirty-second floor and injures five hundred more individuals in Las Vegas is evil and had evil intent within his heart to hurt, kill, and destroy the lives of others.

Second, no matter the tragedy we know that God is still sovereignly present in the situation. The major reason that we have disasters is because sin is in this world and, as Genesis 3 tells us, the world (creation) is cursed because of it. Thus weather disasters will happen and will do so with increased frequency.

Man will kill man with rocks, knives, guns, and bombs till Christ comes back. Could God stop all of it? Yes of course He can, but in His divine purposes, He allows not only

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Events | Property & Space Patrol | Baby Bottles | D.L. Moody | Stay Awhile | The Limo Ride | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

mankind to continue in their free-will, but He continues to allow the earth to move forward too in that fallen state.

So when man sinned, God did not immediately destroy the world to create a new one, but instead allowed the existing cursed creation to remain if for no other reason than man would have ruined it again with more sin. Besides that, God is going to redeem this world at the final judgment. Yet He is still in control and will choose to act when He divinely wants to for the benefit of others and for His glorification.

Third, though God does not cause the tragedies, He will use them to test His people, to open doors of opportunities to witness and minister to others, and to cause wayward individuals to turn their faces towards Him for salvation in Jesus Christ.

Man hardly ever turns his face towards God when things are going great. It is the natural default of mankind to enjoy life in rebellion against his/her creator and keep moving forward never wanting to invite God into their lives.

However, when tragedies do come, which are ultimately a result of man's sin in the world, God will take the situation and use it for His own Glory. It is at these times that His people shine the most. Those who are saved in Christ tend to overcome the trials with grace, love, and peace within their hearts, which cause others to want to know where such strength comes from. Also, it is through heartache and tragedies that God will get the attention of those who would not otherwise consider Him.

During the most difficult moments in life, God brings His people into the midst of that tragedy to minister to those who otherwise would not experience the kindness and comfort that comes from one who loves Christ. There are countless stories throughout human history where the people of God were running into the disaster while others were escaping it. God's people wanted to share the love of Christ with anyone they could find. And because God's people are willing to endure hardships in the face of difficulties, many through a tragedy will give their lives to Christ for eternal life.

You and I know that bad things happen and will continue to do so, but they do not have to end in complete personal devastation. Oh, some may lose all their earthly belongings, but that is not everything. Some may see their house blown up, swept away by water, or disappear in a sinkhole, but that is not everything. They may see their job lost, savings stolen, and a loved one die from cancer, but that does not need to be the end of that person.

Here is a little secret that the world needs to know, death is not the end of everything, in fact it is the beginning of the rest of eternity. We know as Christians that there is a future resurrection of both the righteous and unrighteous and after that we all will live on in the flesh forever. The real question is will it be in the glory of God or in the pain of punishment?

Those who die in tragedies already have their future eternal state determined, but those who survive those tragedies have the opportunity to course correct their lives, they have a second chance to turn to God and live for Him.

Will you be the one that ministers to such individuals who will then turn to Christ in the midst of a tragedy? May you be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ to those who are in need during pain and trials of life so that we will see more individuals come to a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast for October is as far as it can get from the first of the month. You can still attend. It's on Oct. 7th at 8:00 a.m. We'll have a good meal together and then dive back into the Book of Romans for a short Bible discussion. Come on over. You'll be glad you did.

Fellowship Events

On Sunday Oct. 22 after the Worship Service, we will hold our second business meeting of the year. It will be preceded by a good old Baptist Potluck Dinner, so plan on staying and bringing something to share. Visitors are welcome to stay and enjoy the dinner and fellowship.

After dinner, the main items on the agenda will be a review of the 2017 year-to-date income and expenses and a discussion of the 2018 church budget. Other topics may be brought up as needed.

Property and Space Patrol

The grass is not growing so fast these days. Mowing happens about every ten days. Cutting it short allows the leaves to be blow away. This works since there has been no need for leaf raking for years. They just get blown farther down the road.

✠ Pastor Al

Baby Bottle Fund Drive for Carenet

Carenet contacted us with the final amounts for their annual fund drive. The contribution from Hillside Baptist Church was \$195.63 and the grand total from all sources in the Concord area was \$33,218.94.

Thank you all for helping to support this life-saving organization which is dedicated to saving unborn children from the abortion mill.

Dwight Lyman Moody, American Evangelist

Member John French sent the following amazing memo:

"A man name Jonathan Frizz prayed for 10 years for a revival at the DL Moody Northfield Academy in Northfield, Mass. At some point he was getting discouraged and beseeched God in the strongest prayer to answer his prayer.

The Holy Spirit told him to get up and write a letter which he did and sent to the DL Moody Institute in Chicago. He received a call and was flown out to a board meeting. They handed him his letter and asked him to read it to the Board. When he finished they handed him a parchment written by DL Moody himself but never published.

See *Moody* on p. 3

Moody, from p. 2

It was nearly word for word what he had written.

The DL Moody Institute then committed to underwrite this effort at Northfield Academy. Someone just finished a 10-day revival meeting there. The Holy Spirit is bringing revival to New England!"

The following biographical sketch of DL Moody is reprinted with permission from www.WholesomeWords.org.



Dwight Lyman (Ryther) Moody (1837-1899), American evangelist, was born in the village of East Northfield (Northfield township), Massachusetts, on the 5th of February 1837. His father died in 1841, and young Dwight, a mischievous independent boy, got a scanty schooling.

In 1854 he became a salesman in a shoe-store in Boston; in 1855 he was "converted"; and in 1856 he went to Chicago and started business there.

Beginning with a class gathered from the streets, he opened (1858) a Sunday school in North Market Hall, which was organized in 1863 as the Illinois Street Church, and afterwards became the Chicago Avenue Church, of which he was layman pastor.

In 1860 he gave up business and devoted himself to city missionary work. He was prominent in raising money for Farwell Hall in Chicago (1867), and in 1865-1869 was president of the Chicago Young Men's Christian Association.

Ira David Sankey (1840-1908) joined him in Chicago in 1870 and helped him greatly by the singing of hymns; and in a series of notable revival meetings in England (1873-1875, 1881-1884, 1891-1892) and America they carried on their gospel campaign, and became famous for the Moody and Sankey Gospel Hymns. In 1879 Moody opened the Northfield seminary for young women, at Northfield, Massachusetts, and in 1881 the adjacent Mount Hermon school for boys; in each a liberal practical education centres about Bible training; the boys do farm-work and the girls house-work.

In 1889 he opened in Chicago the Bible Institute, and there trained Christian workers in Bible study and in practical methods of social reform; at Northfield in 1890, he opened a Training School in domestic science in the Northfield Hotel, formerly used only in summer for visitors at the annual conferences, of which the best known are the Bible (or Christian Workers') Conference, first held at Northfield in 1880, and the Students' (or College Men's) Conference, first held in 1887.

Moody died at Northfield on the 22nd of December 1899. His sermons were colloquial, simple, full of conviction and pointed. In his theology he laid stress on the Gospel and on no sectarian opinions—he was, however, a pre-millenarianite—and he worked with men as much more

"advanced" than himself as Henry Drummond, whom he eagerly defended against orthodox attack, and George Adam Smith. Moody's sermons were sold widely in English, and in German, Danish and Swedish versions.

For further reading, see the official *Life of Dwight L. Moody* (New York, 1900), by his son, W. R. Moody (b. 1869), and the estimate in Henry Drummond's *Dwight L. Moody: Impressions and Facts* (New York, 1900), with an introduction by George Adam Smith.

Stay Awhile

The following devotional article is from the "Our Daily Bread" devotional for Sept. 13, 2017. It was written by Davis McCasland. The focal passage is Hebrews 11:8-13.

During a discussion of The Lord of the Rings movie trilogy, a teenager said he prefers his stories in books rather than movies. When asked why, the young man replied, "With a book, I can stay there as long as I want." There is something to be said for the power of lingering in a book, especially the Bible, and "inhabiting" the stories there.

Hebrews 11, often called "the faith chapter" of the Bible, mentions many individuals by name. Each of these people traveled a road of difficulty and doubt, but many of them chose to obey God. Scripture describes those who lived by faith in this way: "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth" (v. 13).

How easy it is to rush through our Bible reading without pondering the people and events in the text. Our self-imposed time schedule robs us of going deeper into God's truth and His plan for our lives. Yet, when we are willing to stay awhile, we find ourselves caught up in the real-life dramas of people like us who chose to stake their lives on God's faithfulness.

When we open God's Word, it's good to recall that we can stay as long as we want.

The Limousine Ride

The following cute story was submitted by Cynthia Ward.

Billy Graham was returning to Charlotte after a speaking engagement and when his plane arrived there was a limousine there to transport him to his home. As he prepared to get into the limo, he stopped and spoke to the driver.

"You know" he said, "I am 87 years old and I have never driven a limousine. Would you mind if I drove it for a while?"

The driver said, "No problem. Have at it."

Billy gets into the driver's seat, the driver gets in back, and they head off down the highway. A short distance away sat a rookie State Trooper operating his first speed trap.

The long black limo went by him doing 70 in a 55 mph zone. The trooper pulled out and easily caught the limo,

See *The Ride* on p. 3

The Ride, from p. 2

then got out of his patrol car to begin the procedure. The young trooper went to the driver's door and when, the glass was rolled down, he was surprised to see who was driving. He immediately excused himself, went back to his car and called his supervisor. "I know we are supposed to enforce the law.... but I also know that important people are given certain courtesies. I need to know what I should do because I have stopped a very important person."

The supervisor asked, "Is it the governor?"

The young trooper said, "No, he's more important than that."

The supervisor said, "Oh, so it's the president."

The young trooper said, "No, he's even more Important than that."

After a moment, the supervisor finally asked, "Well then, who is it?"

The young trooper said, "I think it's Jesus, because he's got Billy Graham for a chauffeur!"

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 10/1 Al Page (belated)
- 10/23 Janet Jenkins
- 10/26 Flossy French
- 10/28 John French



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 correct the oversight.

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 Oct. 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

