



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2018

He said, "It is finished"

From the Pastor's Desk

Important Words of Departure: The Seven Last Statements of Jesus on the Cross

Have you ever been in one of those awkward moments when you know the conversation is over but you do not know how to end it so that you and the other party can go on his or her way? I don't know about you, but my phone skills are the worst when it comes to ending conversations. Often I will say "see you soon," and when the person repeats it I still say "okay bye."

Isn't the statement "see you soon" a form of "goodbye," so why do I feel compelled to still say it even though I used a euphemism to achieve that goal already? It's similar with other catch phrases like "catch ya later," "peace out" (younger person phrase), "adios," "so long," or "see you on the flip side" (my generation's phrase).

You know, while I'm thinking about it, why do we take the time to say anything when finishing a conversation anyway? Does proper etiquette dictate that we need to? Is it a compulsion to have closure? Do we feel somehow more connected by saying our goodbyes? Are we worried that not enough has been said? Are we afraid we may never see that person or talk to him or her again?

Well the answer to the question of course is all of the above and probably more than I listed. Though saying "goodbye" is generally the last thing stated it is important to make sure we say all we needed to say before leaving someone, hanging up on them, or completing an e-mail conversation. Generally last things need to be said.

Resurrection Sunday (or Easter) is on April 1st this year so I decided to write about it in this month's newsletter. I thought it appropriate to focus for a moment on the seven last sayings of Jesus on the cross. Those words of finality that was important for Him to say out loud for the world to hear him and to complete prophecy.

The first saying we are going to look at is Matthew 27:46 where He cries out "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When we consider what Jesus says here, He is in immense pain and agony on the cross. Jesus expresses the pain of God the Father turning away from Him because of the curse of bearing all the sin for all time was upon Him. It was a feeling of loneliness like Jesus had never felt before in His relationship to the Father in Heaven.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Mar. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 18, Noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. - Weds. Night Bible Study

must read to the end to see that the psalmist placed his eternal trust in the God whom he felt had forsaken him. Jesus, in quoting the first verse of the psalm under Jewish tradition, is actually referring to the whole psalm and its meaning. What a wonderful reality that, no matter how dark things may seem, God guarantees us victory in Christ.

The second saying by Jesus is found in Luke 23:34 where He says to God, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Those who crucified Jesus were not aware of the full scope of what they were doing because they did not recognize Him as the Messiah. Their ignorance of divine truth did not mean they deserved forgiveness, yet Christ's prayer in the midst of their mocking Him was an expression of the limitless compassion of divine grace.

Jesus knew that many who were there would one day be saved by the very salvation He was achieving and wanted them to have the opportunity to repent from the sin they committed against Him. How wonderful it is to know that, even in the midst of great pain and agony, the love of God is greater than anything we could do against Him. So great that He will overlook our sin and forgive it when we come to Him in repentance.

The third saying is towards the repentant thief who was dying next to Him. When the thief asked Jesus to remember him when He goes to into His kingdom Jesus said in

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

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response, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). This was a statement given to a repentant dying man who trusted in the salvation that Jesus was offering. The dying thief at that moment realized who Jesus really was and placed his hope in Christ. What a wonderful passage that shows us that it is never too late to come to Jesus for salvation. It is also a passage that indicates that no sin is too great that our Savior cannot overcome it when we approach Him for forgiveness.

Jesus' fourth saying was given to His mother Mary and to John, the beloved disciple who were standing near to Him at the foot of the cross. In John 19:26-27 Jesus looked upon them both and said, "Dear Woman, here is your son!" and to John "Here is your mother!" In this statement Jesus was fulfilling an earthly duty to make sure His mother was cared for. This was the general responsibility of the oldest son of the family and, with none of His half-brothers present, Jesus entrusted His mother to His close disciple to care for her in His absence. It is so amazing to see that no detail was too great or too small for Him to take care of before He died. Jesus knew that He would be ascending to Heaven after His resurrection, so He made sure that one who believed in Him would care for His mother. He desired a faithful follower and true believer to take care of one of the most precious people in His earthly life, His own mother, Mary.

The fifth saying is a practical one that fulfills prophecy from the Psalms. In John 19:28 he stated out loud, "I am thirsty." The statement prompted the Roman soldiers to give Him a mixture that would enable Him to dull the pain, but Jesus refused it. The statement is often spiritualized to represent His desire for the salvation of others. Some scholars have speculated it represents the true thirst of a sinner seeking redemption. Other argued that, aside from the practical, it represented a need to be relieved from the tortures of Hell itself.

No matter the interpretation, one thing is for sure, Jesus bore the cross and pain so that we would never feel it and have the need to cry out "I am thirsty," for He already did that for us through the salvation He provides.

Jesus then cried out in His sixth saying, "It is finished!" This statement, found in John 19:30, indicates that there is no more need for the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. Jesus is the Lamb who took away the sin of the world. It also indicated that there was no need for any further work to be added to what He had fulfilled in its entirety.

Thus no one can come after Him claiming to be the Christ, for the work was sufficiently completed through the spilling of His blood and His death on the cross. It is always important to remember that there is no further thing we need to do for salvation than to simply accept the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross. There is no other means by which man can be saved.

The seventh and last saying was, "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit." This statement is in Luke 23:46 in which Jesus willingly gave up His life. No one took it from Him.

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Billy Graham, Evangelist to the World

[The following message came via e-mail from Samaritan's Purse.]



Charlotte, N.C., Weds., February 21, 2018

My father, Billy Graham, went into the presence of the Lord this morning.

The Bible tells us in Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them" (NKJV).

Many have said that his death ends an era, but he would be the first to say that when God's ambassadors die in Christ, the Lord raises up others, because the preaching of the Gospel will go forward until the end of the age. God's blessing continues as He opens doors for the Gospel around the world.

My siblings and I would appreciate your prayers in the days ahead as we honor a man who served the Lord with his life, loved his family, and was always grateful for God's faithful people who supported him in the work of the ministry in Jesus' Name.

As we lay to rest this very public ambassador, please pray with us that the testimony he leaves behind will touch many lives and point them to salvation in Jesus Christ. My father's journey of faith on earth has ended. He has been reunited with my mother and has stepped into the eternal joy of Heaven in the presence of his Savior, in whom he placed his hope.

If you would like to know more about my father's life, share a memory, or read public visitation details, please visit <http://www.BillyGraham.org>. God bless you, and thank you for your prayers for our family.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham

Billy Graham at the 9/11 Services at the National Cathedral

Billy Graham, called America's Pastor, was known as a spiritual counselor to American Presidents from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. The following little known story

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was retold on Feb. 21 on Fox News by Karl Rove, who had been deputy Chief of Staff under President George W. Bush -ed.

On Sept. 14, 2001, three days after the 9/11 attacks, there was only one civilian plane in the skies over the United States, Republican strategist Karl Rove said Wednesday — and that was the one carrying the Rev. Billy Graham from North Carolina to speak at services at Washington, D.C.'s National Cathedral.



"Two of my deputies were in charge of the service at the National Cathedral, and they suggested that Billy Graham be asked to participate," recalled Rove on Fox News' "America's Newsroom," talking about his memories of the evangelist, who died early Wednesday morning.

"He readily agreed," Rove continued. "The difficulty was that we had to get him to Washington, D.C. On the morning of that service, one civilian aircraft was in the skies above the United States." [All aircraft were still grounded.]

Rove, who was deputy Chief of Staff under then-President George W. Bush, said one of his aides was on an open line, listening to communications, and making sure that Graham's aircraft was handed off from air traffic controller to air traffic controller and was not be impeded in its trip to Washington.

"One aircraft, one civilian aircraft, is in the skies above the United States, and it bears Billy Graham," said Rove.

"Nobody who saw him preach that day in the National Cathedral can forget the sense of comfort that he was giving an entire nation that was deeply grieving and with many fearful," said Rove.

He noted he had met "America's pastor" an event at the Texas state capitol, when George W. Bush was being inaugurated as governor in 1995.

"Billy Graham had played an important role in bringing President Bush to Christ," said Rove, and he presided over Bush's inauguration.

"My job was to meet Graham in his room and convey him through the back halls of the back elevators of the hotel to this ballroom, so we got to spend a few moments together," said Rove. "I have only twice in my life felt like I was in the presence of, when I was with a human being, that I felt I was in the presence of the eternal. Billy Graham was the first time and there was something about the man. He was gentle, he was kind, but there was something seriously about this man that gave off the sense of godliness and service."

The other person to have such an impact? Pope John Paul, who Rove met twice while at the White House. "You could sense these were men of God," said Rove. "These were people who were deeply led by the spirit of our Lord."

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He instead surrendered His spirit to the Father in complete trust that the Father would honor His work on the cross. We know He does, for three days later the Father approved of the sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead.

We can trust that the Father in His righteousness will always honor those who have received salvation through Jesus Christ His Son. We too can commend our spirits into the loving care of the creator of the universe who loves all who have loved His Son.

It is amazing to look at the last things Jesus had to say before dying. No simple goodbyes, but words that had great meaning that needed to be said. And what may be the most important words are those that were not said. For instance, Jesus never said to the angels, "Get me off of this thing, I'm done!" He never said, "Cursed are all of you for rejecting Me." He did not scorn, mock, or rebuke anyone as He hung there.

Instead, we see that, by His love, He remained on the cross that He easily could have gotten off of, if He really wanted to. He completed the work that the Father had for Him to do. Aren't you glad He did?

For those of us who are saved in Christ, we are saved because He did endure the pain and suffering. We are saved because He did complete that important work. We are saved because He loved us even when we did not love Him.

Thank God we have these last seven sayings to see how great a love the Savior has for us.

Enjoy the upcoming Resurrection Sunday,

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

Come on up the hill Saturday morning March 3rd at 8:00 a.m. and enjoy a home-cooked breakfast (food for the body), and some good fellowship.

This will be followed by an engaging Bible discussion (food for the soul). We are currently working our way through the Book of Romans. This letter consists of profound theology and an impressive style that puts it in first place among all of Paul's writings.

It's a time of fellowship for the guys and we always have a good time. Bring a friend!



Cartoon submitted by Cynthia Ward.

Fellowship Events

On Sunday March 18 at midday we are holding our Spring Business Meeting. But first we will enjoy a potluck lunch. There is always enough food to go around so visitors are welcome to stay for the lunch.

At this semi-annual business meeting, we will review current income vs. expenses and discuss the status of the 2018 budget. Other topics may be presented as needed.

Property and Space Patrol

February brought us one snowstorm that dropped about six inches on a Saturday night, which was inconvenient. This required a departure at about 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning with Rachel riding shotgun.

The plowing took until 9:30 a.m. to complete. Strong sunlight helped melt the driveway by the end of Sunday Service.

✝ Pastor Al

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



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please let the editor know.



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 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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