



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 17 No. 5

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

May 2018

ASK GOD FOR a DIVINE CLEANING

From the Pastor's Desk

Receiving A Divine Cleaning

Psalm 51:10

Well the word yesterday (April 26, 2018) from WMUR Channel 9 news regarding Lake Winnepesaukee was "Ice Out." Yup, those are two words that many New Hampshireites long to hear every spring; they declare that the M.S. Mount Washington can travel to all five of her ports, Weirs Beach, Wolfeboro, Alton Bay, Meredith and Center Harbor, without hitting any ice.

Spring has officially begun in the Granite State. Oh, it's been a long winter hasn't it? I don't know about you, but I am ready for some warm weather; walks along the beach, treks through the woods, and soaking in the sun.

One of the ways in which we can soak in that sun is yard work. A few years back, Connor and I decided to rake the back yard a little late into the spring season and when we did we uncovered swarms of gnats that just engulfed every breath we took. So this year I decided to rake early and beat the bugs before they could nest and hatch.

It is amazing what accumulates in a yard during the winter months. We had rocks that mysteriously appeared, branches blown down from high winds, food wrappers from God knows where, leaves beyond one's ability to count, and even a soda can. On top of that there was two years' worth of leaves that were wet, moldy, and hard to rake. It took a few hours, but you know there is just something satisfying about cleaning up a mess.

After we were done with this year's raking, I mentioned to Connor how much cleaner and better the yard looked after being raked and picked up, to which he heartily agreed with me. I learned a long time ago that cleaning up anything can be cathartic and helpful in life. I also learned that cleaning up things is a good metaphor for what needs to happen in our lives spiritually as well.

King David wrote Psalm 51 in which he reflects on Nathan confronting him about his sin with Bathsheba. It is a gripping psalm of remorse and anguish from David. Mind you, David is not in anguish because he got caught, he is in anguish because he truly recognized how vile his actions were in the whole incident.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

May 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

May 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

May 28 – Memorial Day

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

He knew he disappointed God. In his sin, he committed adultery with Bathsheba, she became pregnant, and David tried to hide it. When that didn't work, he had Bathsheba's husband Uriah killed so that he could have her for himself and hide the pregnancy. It was truly an ugly, filthy, dirty, moldy back yard of a heart for David.

And when he was confronted, he repented of it immediately, for which God immediately forgave him, but there were consequences to come.

As David wrote this psalm, he contemplated his actions in which he failed God. He begged God to overlook his sin and hide the iniquity he committed. And then in a moment of stripped pride and humility, David cried out in verse 10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." David would go on further to ask God to not remove His Spirit from him, but to remain close to him.

It is a great psalm and I encourage you to read it in its entirety when you get the chance. But notice what David asked of God, he asked, "create in me a clean heart."

Our lives are full of sin. Like the winter yard in which things are broken and blown over, trash just seems to accumulate. If left unchecked, our hearts can get moldy spiritually speaking, and we need to have it raked and cleaned up.

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

However, we cannot do it ourselves, we need God to come along and make it clean for us. All we have to do is just ask Him and He will.

What's in your spiritual backyard? What has blown in over the last several months that is just littering your heart? Has something blown over you and is now taking up space and it no longer needs to be there?

Ask God and He will clean it up for you; He will give you a divine cleaning. And when He does, you will have a renewed steadfast spirit within you for the things of God.

Sin often stops us up and prevents us from basking in the full sunlight of God's love, and instead maintains a winter's grip on our hearts. However, if you invite God to clean up the mess you made and look to Him for cleanliness in Christ, He will remove all the debris from your heart and renew you to Himself.

I don't know about you, but I enjoy having a backyard that is clean and pleasant to walk around in. I imagine that God likes a clean spiritual backyard to walk around in as well, so let Him clean it up for you so that both of you can enjoy the space together.

God bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

The date of the next Men's Breakfast is 5/5, an interesting repetition of digits that can only occur on certain months of the year due to the constraints that (1) it must occur on the first Saturday, and (2) the latest day that Saturday can fall on is the 7th. So what months can have a Men's Breakfast date with repetitive digits?

While you are pondering that, be sure to set your alarm clock to get you up early so you can attend the next Men's Breakfast on 5/5.

Property and Space Patrol

The Spring Cleaning Day on April 28 was a success. We installed the air conditioners in the sanctuary, vacuumed the whole place top and bottom, emptied all the trash barrels, and straightened all the chair rows.

Outside we raked out the sod that had been pushed up by winter's plowing, picked up all the brush that had dropped on the front and rear lawns.

Having started at around 8:00 a.m., it was good to learn that we accomplished all that by 11:00 a.m.

Many thanks to those who helped out.

✠ Pastor Al

The Early Days of the Faith

Timothy, a True Child of the Faith

[All scripture references come from the NASB, 1997]

During Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14:6-21), he stopped at Lystra and Derbe. At Lystra after Paul healed a lame man, the people mistakenly thought he and Barnabas

were gods. Jews from other towns later came and stirred up violence to the point of stoning Paul. Amazingly, Paul got up and went back into Lystra. Paul garnered many believers there and Timothy may have been one of them.

In Acts 16:1-3, there is this account. "Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek."

From the preceding passage, we learn the following:

- Timothy had a believing Jewish mother and a Greek father.
- He was a native of Lystra, a city of Lycaonia along the inland route from Tarsus to Ephesus, and about 150 miles west of Tarsus. This is in south central region of modern-day Turkey where there is a present-day village called "Klistra."
- He was well respected by other believers there.
- Due to pressure from the local Jews, Paul circumcised Timothy even though this was not a Christian doctrine.

Paul wrote to the Philippians that he was sending Timothy to provide them with encouragement. Timothy was with Paul when he was in prison in Rome. (Phil 2:19-22)

After the events of Acts 28 (the final chapter), it is believed that Paul was released from the Roman prison and Timothy had traveled with him, eventually staying at Ephesus to deal with problems there.

Paul included Timothy in his greeting to the Corinthian church (2 Cor. 1:1). This means that he was with Paul when the apostle wrote that letter from somewhere in Macedonia (2 Cor. 2:13; 7:5). Paul was waiting for Titus to arrive so that Titus could carry that letter to Corinth.

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy in which Paul called him "my true child in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:1) and "my beloved son" (2 Timothy 1:1). In 2 Timothy, Paul wrote of Timothy's faith which Paul knew came from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Paul emphasized that Timothy had been taught the scriptures since his childhood which led him to salvation through faith in Christ. (2 Timothy 1:5)

When Paul found himself in the Roman prison again, possibly after a 4th missionary journey, he lamented that many people had left him except for Luke. He pled with Timothy, "Make every effort to come to me soon..." (2 Timothy 4:9) Paul continued with this in v 4:13: "When you come, bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments." His final request was in v4:21 to "Make every effort to come before winter."

Paul knew his time was nearly done. His concern for the churches during Nero's reign led him to strongly encourage Timothy to persevere in the faith.

Timothy served Paul to the very end, and continued to serve the Lord in Ephesus into his old age.

✠Michael Frascinella

New Books from SBC

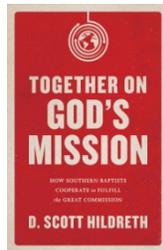
Baptist Press announced two new books. "SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference," emphasizes the vital role that individual Southern Baptists have in the life of their Convention.



In "SBC FAQs," Keith Harper, senior professor of Baptist studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), and Amy Whitfield, SEBTS Director of Marketing and Communications, seek to explain how the 173-year-old Convention operates through a series of questions and answers.

Knowing that many Southern Baptist church members lack a general understanding of the purpose and practices of the convention, Harper and Whitfield wrote "SBC FAQs" to bring awareness of how the SBC operates and remind readers that individuals have a voice and are vital to its decision-making process.

While Harper and Whitfield seek to bring awareness by providing the "what and how" of the SBC one question at a time, Scott Hildreth, the George Liele director of the Lewis A. Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies, provides the "why" in "Together on God's Mission: How Southern Baptists Cooperate to Fulfill the Great Commission."



Hildreth sets forth the reason behind the Cooperative Program (CP), emphasizing the biblical, theological, historical, and practical basis for the SBC's primary funding mechanism.

"SBC FAQs" and "Together on God's Mission" are both available at amazon.com and lifeway.com.

God's Will for Seniors

[The following amusing story was sent in by Cynthia Ward.]
Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then, God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find as you age you are getting up and down more, remember that it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you may mutter under your breath.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

5/22 Rachel Page

5/26 Michael Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates 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 May 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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