



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2018

Read the Whole Counsel of God

From the Pastor's Desk

Desiring to Read God's Word

This week I finished my goal of reading through the entire Bible from cover to cover in one year. Some might think that it is quite a feat of endurance in reading, or that I am somehow spiritually gifted in trudging through long passages, or even that I have some ability to speed read. Though those things would be cool, none of them apply to me. I didn't learn to discipline myself to read from the Bible at an early age, nor was it something I even really considered when I went into the ministry, that is until one of my professors talked about his reading regimen in class.

It was Year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Eight that I was taking Introductory to Hebrew. No not the book of Hebrews, instead it was the language of the Jews. It was early one morning that Dr. Draper came into class and shared with us how he had just finished reading through the Bible again. It was like his fortieth time in his commitment to studying God's word. He then encouraged all of us to take on the challenge, both as Christians and especially as ministers, to read through the Bible once every year. For some reason his charge took hold in my heart and I then committed myself to the beneficial reading of the whole Bible each year.

Well, here it is twenty years later and for the most part I have read through the Bible each year since 1998. In my efforts to read God's word I have read many translations: New American Standard, The New International Version, The English Standard Version, The King James Bible, The New King James Bible, The New Living Translation, The Douay Bible (Catholic Bible), The World Translation Bible (another Catholic Bible), and a few others have all been by my reading chair for the last twenty years. Because of the various translations I have read through often jokingly tell others that is why I cannot quote from the Bible as well as I probably should.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 4, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Aug. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Aug. 25 – Old Home Day, Memorial Field, Pembroke

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion

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

Though there is no Biblical command in Scripture that states, "Thou Shalt Read the Entire Bible in One Year," there are however several other passages that encourage us to take in the whole counsel of God by reading His entire word. Deuteronomy 30:14 states, "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it." Psalm 119:11 says, "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You," and in verse 16 the psalmist says, "I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word." In 119:50 it says, "This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me."

Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe." Lastly, in Hebrews 4:12 the writer states, "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as

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Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (All Scripture quotes are from NASB.)

Again, none of these passages state that we must read through the entire Bible every year, but they do point to how important it is to keep His word near to our hearts. How reading it leads us to observing it, which leads us to greater life in Him. How the word is to be a treasure that we keep close to our hearts that we would not sin against Him. How His word comforts us, revives us, and saves us. In His word we are convicted of sin and pierced through the heart when we fall away from Him.

You see, if you don't read the whole counsel of God, that is, if you don't read through the entire Bible regularly, then you will not be able to fully uphold in your life all that the Bible, the word of God, anticipates from you and expects of you.

I can't even begin to tell you the immense benefits I have received from observing and applying this practice each year. From it I am able to find passages so much quicker, I am able to retain a full scale direction of Scripture, I am saturated in His truths, I am learned in His commands, I am prepared for the trials of life, and so much more.

It isn't hard to commit oneself to reading through the Bible, all you have to do is commit to reading just three chapters a day and keep tabs on each book you read. You don't even have to start at Genesis and read straight through to Revelation.

The first time I read through the entire Bible, I jumped all over the place marking in the Table of Contents at the beginning of the Bible which ones I read. Now please do not think that I write this to brag about what I have accomplished, for how can someone read God's word and feel an over sense of pride or arrogance about such things? Just the opposite, I am humbled that God has allowed me to read His word this many times, and I pray that I get to read it that many more times to come.

Instead I write to you about my experience so that, like my professor who challenged me, I now challenge you. Read the whole counsel of God's word by reading through His entire Bible. It is His revelation of Himself to us and as such reading it a hundred times in life would be a worthwhile effort, for His word never comes back void.

Happy Reading,

✠Pastor Jim

Bible Statistics

There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible, with 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 chapters in the New Testament. Simple math then tells us that, to read the entire Bible in one year (365 days), you need to read about 3.25 chapters per day.

For a simple front to back approach, try three chapters a day to start and up it to four per day after six months. If you start your day by reading a daily devotional, they usually have a Bible reading plan for each day. Use the technique that best suits you. --Ed.

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday August 4th at 8:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast is the event of the day. Be sure to set your alarm clock and join the guys for this event. There is always good food to share as well as fellowship. There may even be talk of pre-season football.

After breakfast, we'll turn to Paul's Letter to the Romans for study and discussion. We are up to chapter 12. Don't miss it!

Property and Space Patrol

It's been so dry, except for a few brief storms that rolled through, that mowing was required only once this month.

Nothing else to report.

✠ Pastor Al

Martyrs for Christ

Submitted by Pastor Al

During the 1960s, Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo), was in turmoil. Just a few years before, Belgium had granted the nation its independence after years of corrupt colonial rule. The Belgians had not trained Africans to run the new country.

Compounding the problems of running the large nation were age-old differences between rival African ethnic groups and the ambitions of European settlers in the Katanga province.

Then as now, the central government could not control the rebel groups who roamed the countryside. The Simba rebels committed numerous atrocities. Several Christian missionaries died or were brutalized during this violent period.

Bill McChesney was one of them. Bill was born on July 21, 1936. Just five feet two inches tall, he was a wiry young man with a sunny heart. In fact, everyone who knew him used to call him "Smiling Bill," and the one word which best described him was "exuberant."

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He became a missionary with the Worldwide Evangelical Crusade.

Before he left as a missionary to the Republic of Congo (as Zaire was then named), he wrote a poem which he titled "My Choice." His poem was not a masterpiece of English literature; great poets might sneer at it as doggerel; but it was the sublime submission of a Christ-centered soul. In it Bill described the comfort he would like to live in. Then he hung his head in shame, remembering all that Christ had done for him. He concluded by saying,

If He be God, and died for me,
No sacrifice too great can be
For me, a mortal man, to make;
I'll do it all for Jesus' sake.
Yes, I will tread the path He trod;
No other way will please my God;
So, henceforth, this my choice shall be,
My choice for all eternity."

The Simba held a number of missionaries captive with Bill McChesney. Several times, they made terrifying visits in which they rehearsed killing Bill and the other missionaries. But each time, the rebels left them unharmed.

On November 24, 1964, the rebels took Bill McChesney to prison. His friend, Jim Rodgers, a solemn British missionary, would not be parted from Bill and leaped into the truck with him. Bill was seriously ill with Malaria and needed someone to help him. Even so, the rebel soldiers beat him mercilessly the whole way. Jim had to carry him into the prison.

The next morning, when Bill acknowledged that he was American, a rebel colonel ordered him killed. Jim stood beside him. "If you must die, brother, I'll die with you." Attacking Bill mercilessly with clubs and fists, the rebel mob quickly killed him. He was just 28 years old.

Jim laid his body gently to the floor. The rebels then knocked Jim down and trampled him to death.

The Point of No Return

The following article comes from the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for May 9, 2018. The Scripture reference is James 3:1–12.

It wasn't as simple as just crossing another river. By law, no Roman general could lead armed troops into Rome. So when Julius Caesar led his Thirteenth Legion across the Rubicon River and into Italy in 49 BC, it was an act of treason.

The impact of Caesar's decision was irreversible, generating years of civil war before Rome's great general became absolute ruler. Still today, the phrase "crossing the Rubicon" is a metaphor for "passing the point of no return."

Sometimes we can cross a relational Rubicon with the words we say to others. Once spoken, words can't be taken back. They can either offer help and comfort or do damage that feels just as irreversible as Caesar's march on Rome.

James gave us another word picture about words when he said, "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell" (James 3:6).

When we fear we have crossed a Rubicon with someone, we can seek their forgiveness – and God's (Matthew 5:23–24; 1 John 1:9). But even better is to daily rest in God's Spirit, hearing Paul's challenge, "Let your conversation be always full of grace" (Colossians 4:6), so that our words will not only honor our Lord, but lift up and encourage those around us.

Glimpses into our Religious Heritage

Excerpt of a Message from John Adams to the Officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, dated October 11, 1798.

"Gentleman,

While our country remains untainted with the principles and manners which are now producing desolation in so many parts of the world; while she continues sincere, and incapable of insidious and impious policy, we shall have the strongest reason to rejoice in the local destination assigned us by Providence. ...

"Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

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



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that is 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 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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