



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2018

FOCUS ON YOUR FAITH

From the Pastor's Desk

Keeping Focus

1 Timothy 1:3-4

Here we are again, another election cycle for our country and in just a couple of weeks we will be casting our votes to determine who will hold political office in our towns, state, and country.

I don't know about you, but sometimes I just get tired of all the hoopla that surrounds our political mega-machine called government. He said vs. she said vs. they said, fake news, immigration issues, social agenda, twitter bombs by the president, and false claims by those who hold prominent positions are beginning to cause in me a complete shut down and forget it all.

However, you know as well as I do that I can't lock my doors and ignore politics any more than you can either. With that being said, I wonder if we as Christians in America pay too much attention to politics and social issues to the point of ignoring what God wants us to truly focus on.

A couple of weeks ago I started preaching through the Pastoral Epistles and I started out with 1 Timothy. As I came across 1 Timothy 1:3-4 this past week I was struck by what was written by Paul. Paul wrote to Timothy, "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith." (NASB)

Now it is clear Paul is encourage the young pastor to combat false teachers in the church at Ephesus so much so that he tells Timothy do not let those in the church focus on such things too much less they neglect the most important thing, "furthering the administration of God which is by faith."

What the false teachers were doing was allowing themselves to get caught up in other things rather than spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ or taking care of the church. They were doing what was considered religious, but they were not doing anything that was truly Godly.

So true for us today, isn't it? If we are not careful we can allow ourselves to be caught up in endless issues as well.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Nov. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Nov. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Nov. 6 – Election Day

Weekly:

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

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

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. – Bible Study Series on Isaiah

Issues such as the environment, social welfare, legal welfare, child welfare, animal welfare, politics, religion, education, sports, stock market, money, oil speculation, theories, statistics, philosophies, etc.

Keeping with the theme of politics, I confess that I haven't been on *Facebook* much in the last several months, but when I have logged on often I find a lot of Christians spending more time in criticizing certain politicians, certain political parties, certain political agendas more than they are in sharing the love of Christ with Scripture or a testimony of His grace in their lives.

Why is it that Christians would rather boycott political preferences than promote the furtherance of the Gospel? Is it because they have got caught up in modern day discussions that are akin to that of secular myths, genealogies, and strange doctrines? And is the result the same as it was in Paul's day? Have we as Christians forgotten to further the administration of God through faith?

With that in mind I have to ask an important question of all of us, knowing that at this moment there is a large caravan of immigrants traveling to the United States by way of Mexico.

Are you more concerned about them illegally getting into the country creating a political whirlwind, or are you instead

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

Pastor’s Desk (from p. 1)

more concerned for their need of salvation? What drives you more, politics or the Great Commission?

As an American, I can get frustrated by the political climate and issues of this generation, but as a Christian the word of God calls me instead to rise above it and look upon national issues with that of the spiritual lens of His love for all.

I am not saying that we as Christians should not have a political opinion, for anyone who knows me knows that I have strong conservative convictions regarding our government, but what I am saying is that instead of being known for our politics, the Lord would rather have us known for His work and love in the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I would like to share something with you. What you sometimes hold on to so strongly politically can shut the door of one’s heart to hear you talk about things spiritually. This should not be.

In the passage quoted above, Paul cries out to us in his letter to Timothy in which he calls on Timothy and to all who read this letter, “Keep Focus.” Keep focus on your faith. Keep focus on your calling. Keep focus on the Gospel. Keep focus on God. Keep your focus on the things that are heavenly and pay less attention to the things that draw you away from Him. Here’s the secret, if you keep your focus on His Kingdom and His righteousness then you have obeyed the furtherance of the “administration of God which is by faith.”

On a side note let me encourage you to consider carefully who you vote for this upcoming election. I fear, as probably many of you do as well, that we as Christians do not have anyone we can get behind who is really for us as believers. However, as Americans it is our duty to vote according to our conscience and moral code.

Let me spur you on to choose individuals who most closely align with what Scripture teaches and who hold to a strong Christian ethic and morality that honors our God and our Savior Jesus Christ. May you be led by the Holy Spirit on this upcoming election and may God’s grace be upon our country as we continue to live out the great American experiment called “Democracy.”

Blessings,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men’s Breakfast



On Saturday November 3rd at 8:00 a.m., the guys get together for Men’s Breakfast. We each try to bring something to share. This time of year, the conversation could range from politics to the Patriots to the Red Sox making it

to the World Series or elsewhere.

After breakfast, we continue our discussion of Paul’s Letter to the Romans. It’s a good time to fellowship in a casual atmosphere and then to see what we can learn from the Scriptures.

Fellowship Events



On Sunday October 28 there will be a Potluck Lunch right after the Worship Service.

This is to be followed by the semi-annual business meeting at which the main topic should be the 2019 budget.

Property and Space Patrol

The Fall Cleaning Day on October 13th went well despite the light rain and drizzle that dampened our outdoor work. The A/C units were removed and stored and the church was given a good cleaning inside.

Outside, we put shovels in the sand barrels, then tackled the job of repairing the sagging granite steps along the front ramp. This involved cutting back the asphalt on each side the granite step, digging a trench on each side of the step, leveling the step, and then filling the trenches with concrete.

Broken asphalt and gravel were dumped into a bucket tractor and trucked several times to the rear of the property. Dozens of bags of concrete were mixed, poured into the trenches, and troweled until smooth.

Needless to say, it took the crew a few days to recover from all that manual labor. But the Lord protected us and no one was injured.

✠ Pastor Al

Of Clocks and Calendars

The following article appeared in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for June 3rd. The scripture of the day was from Psalm 62, and the author of the article was Bill Crowder. It seemed appropriate since our attention at the start of November focuses on the change from Daylight Time to Standard Time.

My father died at 58 years of age. Ever since then, I pause on the date he died to remember Dad and reflect on his influence in my life. When I realized I had lived more of life without my dad than with him, I began pondering the brevity of my own life.

On reflection, we may wrestle with both an event in time and the feelings it stirs within us. Though we measure time with clocks and calendars, we remember times because of events. In the moments of life that trigger our deepest emotions, we can experience joy, loss, blessing, pain, success, failure.

The Scriptures encourage us: “Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8). This confident statement did not occur in a time of ease. David wrote these words while surrounded by enemies (vv. 3–4). Still, he waited quietly before God (vv. 1, 5) reminding us that God’s unfailing love (v. 12) is greater than any of the times of struggle we may face.

See *Clocks* on p. 3

Clocks (from p. 2)

In every event, we have this confidence: Our God stands with us, and He is more than adequate to carry us through all of life's moments. When the times of life threaten to overwhelm us, His help will be right on time.

Fall Back

This year the switch from Daylight Time to Standard Time occurs late, on Sunday November 4 at 2:00 a.m. Before you hit the sack, turn your clocks back one hour, thereby giving you an extra hour of sleep. If you fail to reset your clocks, you will arrive an hour early to church.

While traveling in Pennsylvania a few years ago, my family stopped at a diner in West Chester, Penn. (NW of Phillie).

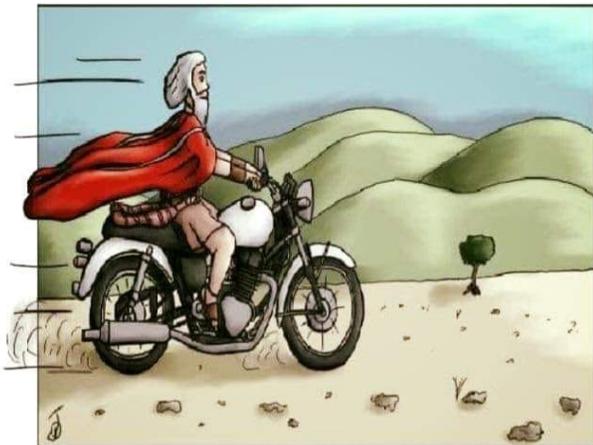


The sign said "Open 25 hours."

When asked what it meant, the manager said that, in the fall when the clocks changed, that was the one day that they were open 25 hours. Fair enough.

Quiz

DID YOU KNOW THAT MOSES WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE?



IT'S IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THE ROAR OF MOSES'S TRIUMPH COULD BE HEARD ALL OVER ISRAEL.

This cartoon was submitted by Cynthia Ward but it's not clear what scripture this statement refers to. It is left to the reader to identify the book, chapter, and verse.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

11/29 Michelle Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:

11/28 Jack & Cynthia Ward

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 Nov. 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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