



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2019

Enjoying the God Connection

From the Pastor's Desk

Enjoying the God Connection

Matthew 1:1-17

T-shirts can be funny in the right context, but just as weird or off in the wrong context. I remember a t-shirt someone wore that had an arrow pointing right or left and it said, "I'm with stupid." Another t-shirt was a set for a couple in which one said, "He's with me," while the other stated, "She's with me too."

We have many things in our society that either declare, state, or show that we are joined in friendship, a relationship, or marriage with others. It's our way in which we can be clear that we have no problem being associated with that particular person or group. This of course could be either a good thing or a bad thing, if for no other reason we tend to be judged by the company we keep. Thus, as humans who are social beings, we join various groups like a church, lodge, gang, union, or club to show that we enjoy being in the presence of others who are like-minded.

So it is easy to see that we enjoy the company of others, but has there ever been a time in which you may have been afraid to tell others you like to be in the company of Jesus? Was there a time in which someone called you on the spot about your faith and you refrained from aligning yourself outwardly with your Savior? Did you get scared in sharing your faith? Well if you have backslidden in your testimony of Jesus take heart, Jesus is not afraid of being connected with you.

How do I know this? If for no other reason than the Bible tells me so in two genealogies that are found in the New Testament in which Jesus isn't afraid to be associated with the likes of us. If you are like me, you may tend to simply gloss over those long lists of so-and-so begot so-and so in the Bible.

However, in Matthew there is a genealogy in which we see from Jesus' bloodline that He is not shy about who He is connected to. Take a minute and read Matthew 1:1-17 and you will find some interesting individuals. Did you read it? Now let's consider David for one moment who is mentioned in verse 6. Yes, he was considered a man after God's own heart, but we also know that he had an affair with Bathsheba in which he eventually conspired to kill her husband, Uriah,

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb. 2, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Feb. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 24 – Potluck Lunch & Business Meeting

Weekly:

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

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

so that he could take her for himself and conceal the fact she was pregnant. Sounds a little scandalous right?

But if you read Matthew 1:6 you will find Bathsheba by name in his bloodline. If that isn't enough to show you that God enjoys being connected with you, let's not forget about David's great-great-grandmother, Rahab, stated in verse 5. Before she married David's great-great-grandfather Salmon, she was a prostitute living in Jericho, but because of her faith in the God of Israel, she hid the spies and saved her family and was allowed to join the Israelites. Interesting, no?

If you look more intently into Jesus' bloodline you will find King Manasseh in verse 10. He was a wicked king who wholeheartedly caused the kingdom of Judah to commit idolatry against the God of Israel. His sins were so bad that God would not overlook them and four generations later He commissioned King Nebuchadnezzar to haul those in Judah off to Babylon as punishment for those sins.

Remember, though Manasseh led the Israelites as king, the whole lot of them willingly sinned against God too and even the great reformation of King Josiah did not stop God from pronouncing punishment on them. Another king that sinned greatly was Manasseh's son Amon who was exceedingly wicked in God's sight as well.

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

When we consider the list given to us in Jesus' genealogy we see that the reality is, if you do a deep dive into the history of each individual mentioned, you will find each person flawed, marred, and sinful at some level in which God could have simply stepped away from Israel and denied them all, but He didn't because of His covenant with them.

So what can we take away from the knowledge that God doesn't remove Himself from being connected to you? How can we enjoy the God connection in our lives?

Well, first we see that God is faithful to His covenant even when we are unfaithful to Him. The Bible teaches us that God loves us more than we can even begin to grasp or understand. He loves us so much that He will always be by our side claiming us as His own because we have claimed His Son as our Savior. Thus Jesus stands closer to us than a brother and will never leave us nor forsake us even if we fail in this area.

Second, when we share in this wonderful covenant of salvation, we are protected even when we slip up in not faithfully holding to our testimony. What does this mean for us? This means that we do not serve a God who is waiting to strike us down for every little failure of faithlessness towards Him. It means God's love towards us will continue and that He will be patiently waiting for us to come to Him in repentance for our sin or transgression.

Lastly, it means that, even though you may find at times you are insecure in your relationship with Him, He is not insecure in His relationship towards you. This means that He will always claim you as His. He will always call you His child, His own possession, His love, His friend, His joy, and His faithful.

What a wonderful God we serve that loves us so much that He will always be there for us even when we find ourselves not there for Him.

Here's something to consider: are you enjoying this God connection in your life? When you come to a saving faith in Christ Jesus, it is for eternity. That means the connection will always be there. God will never hang up on you, He will never uncouple his love for you. He will never unhitch his passion for you. He will never disconnect His grace towards you. He will never switch off his concern for you. He will never, ever, ever, say to anyone else that He is not with you, for He will always claim you as his own.

Oh what a wonderful God we serve! Oh what a wonderful Savior we have in Jesus! Oh what a wonderful relationship the Holy Spirit has given to us! May the Lord be praised always and forever, Amen!

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday Feb 2nd (which is also Groundhog Day) join the guys for some good grub and good fellowship. Let Pastor Jim know what you can bring to share with the others.

The major topic during breakfast might just be about Sunday's Super Bowl in Atlanta between the Patriots and the Rams (just might be).

After breakfast, we will pick up with the Gospel of Mark, which we started discussing in January. It's believed to be the gospel that was the source for the other synoptic gospels of Mathew and Luke. So it should be an engaging and enlightening discussion.

Fellowship Events

On March 24th, we are having a potluck lunch and then our semi-annual business meeting. Since it's right after St. Patrick's Day, the main course is to be corned beef and cabbage with all the other good stuff that goes with that meal.

Plan on joining us even if you can't stay for the business meeting.

Property and Space Patrol

The major activities consisted of cleaning up after snowstorms. A few small storms came through early in January. One nasty storm that ended with sleet lasted from Saturday Jan. 19 through Sunday Jan. 20 and forced us to cancel Sunday services. A day of rain on the 24th washed away most of that snow. Another moderate snowstorm came at month's end.

Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow, which predicted an early Spring. The first few days of February will be in the 50s, but don't count on Phil's prediction.

✠ Pastor Al

Bloopers from Church Bulletins

The one about electric girdles is hilarious! Who proofreads these bulletins anyway?

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Next Sunday, Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

Don't let worry kill you—let the church help.

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon from E.J. Stubbs.

The Pastor would appreciate if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

Thursday at 5 p.m., there will be a meeting of the little mother's club. All ladies wishing to become "little mothers" will meet with the pastor in his study.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

See *Bloopers* on p. 3

Bloopers (from p. 2)

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m.. Please use the back door of the church.

The Rev. Smith spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m.. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

Jean will be leading a weight management series Wednesday nights. She uses the program herself and has been growing like crazy!

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church. Music will follow.

Thursday Night—Potluck Dinner. Prayer and medication to follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

This being Easter Sunday. We will ask Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.

Conversation Clues

This short bit of advice written by Heather Pike appeared in the March 2019 issue of the Focus on the Family monthly magazine.

"Whenever I heard my daughter speak to her friends, her response had little to do with what they were talking about. So when she and I were alone, I pointed out that being a good friend meant being a good listener. I reminded her to:

- Make eye contact with the person talking. This forced her to give the speaker her undivided attention.
- Give a short response whenever someone finished speaking – even if it was just to say "cool" or "bummer" – to let the person know she was listening to him or her.

By practicing these two habits, my daughter slowly became a more engaged listener and a better friend."

Biscuits

The following encouraging story was found on the web and submitted by Cynthia Ward. Despite all the blessings that God sends our way, we sometimes feel that things aren't quite going the way we planned. Sometimes we expect certain things to happen in the way we hoped or in the order we dreamed about. Read this story and maybe it will give you a new perspective on how God is working in your life.

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

Tune in to Gospel Radio

In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM. For example, on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. the locally produced "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a wide variety of southern and country gospel music. During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly.

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to anyone who is celebrating another orbit around the Sun. If that's you, please let the editor know.



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

2/2 Frank & Nanette Dawson

2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

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 Feb. 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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