



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 18 No. 4

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

April 2019

Our Time Is Fleeting

From the Pastor's Desk

The Evanescence of Life

James 4:14

Have you ever driven down Route 3 in Pembroke or Allenstown and seen the great big billow of smoke coming from the scrubber system at the Merrimack Power Station in Bow, NH? Given the right position you can see the stack pouring out massive plums of white smoke from parts of Concord and even Hooksett, NH on a cold winter day or even a scorching stretch of summer heat when the local region requires an extra spike of energy for electrical customers.

Though I have worked at the power station, I've never been to the top of that stack, but I know individuals who were part of its construction. The scrubber system is the process to reduce carbon in the air from the coal that the plant burns to produce electricity. Before that system was in place, the plume wasn't quite as white as it is now, instead it was very gray and black. Now that the scrubber system is in full swing, the billowing white smoke disappears quicker than it used to, but still it takes some considerable time to dissipate.

Here's something to compare the white smoke of the power station to: it is a cigarette. I myself have never been addicted to cigarettes, but I have known many individuals in my life who were.

When they light up a cigarette, the smoke that it generates is far smaller than that of a smoke stack at a power plant. Even if you were to get five hundred people together who smoke and asked all of them to light up at the same time, it would not come close to the amount of smoke or length of time that a stack produces.

The amount of material in a cigarette isn't nearly as large as that of which a power station uses. One thing is for certain, the smoke that a cigarette generates is here one minute and then gone the next, unless you are in a closed off room.

To compare that even further, let's consider a cigarette to something even less flammable and smaller in smoke, say a candle wick. Though it keeps a constant flame it produces virtually no smoke in comparison to that of a smoke stack or cigarette.

Think of this way, our lives are measured as mist compared to all eternity past and future. Our short 1-100 years on this

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Apr. 6, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Apr. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

April 14 – Palm Sunday

April 21 – Resurrection Sunday

Weekly:

Tuesday Night Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

earth is nothing more than a blip on the radar of God's history.

Let's consider for a moment some of the other creatures God has put on this earth. Did you know that a Long-finned Eel can live up to 106 years; or that the longest living Galapagos Giant Tortoise lived to be 152 years; or that a Bowhead Whale and a Greenland Shark's lifespan is up to 200 years; or that an Ocean Quahog (clam) can live up to 400 years; or how about that the Immortal Jellyfish, which is a particular kind of Jellyfish, can regenerate so well that it is biologically considered immortal? Let us not forget the lengthy ages recorded also in Genesis in which Methuselah lived to be 969 years old.

I use these to point out that even though such creatures and individuals have lived on the face of the earth, their lifespans are nothing more than a vapor when considered to all of time past and future.

So what can we learn from the passage out of James? Well first we can learn that we do not have all the time in the world to get the important things in life done. Life is precious and excruciatingly short. Such a verse should help us alter our way of thinking and action to live a life that is

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

more meaningful to us and to others who are part of our lives.

Second, we learn that we cannot control the events of tomorrow, for God is the one who is sovereign and in control of the flow of history. Like James says, we may not have a tomorrow, for we do not know what it will be if it will be at all.

Third, compared to the backdrop of all of history, the majority of mankind will be nothing more than a supporting cast to the ones who are remembered. Such a reality should not cause us consternation, but instead should push us toward the Love of Christ and to work hard for His kingdom, for we know all that we do in the here and now for His glory will be remembered when time is no more.

Fourth, though the current physical span of life is short, we know from Scripture that there is eternal life waiting for us, a life in Christ that will go on into eternity.

Thus, what we do here should be reflective of what we will be like when we are with Him for the coming age. So our steps should be measured and weighed keeping in step with God's word so that we show ourselves to be His children.

Often it is hard to consider our mortality, but a verse like this one in James causes us to consider how much time we have on this planet. It helps us to reflect and adjust where we need to so that we are in lock step with our Savior Christ Jesus.

We who are saved in Christ ought not to fear death, but instead should wait for the time in which our God calls us home to be with Him. There, we will have no barriers preventing us from seeing Him face-to-face.

Embrace the fact that your time is fleeting and use your life for His purpose and pleasure that you may store up a treasure that will last into an eternity that cannot be measured. May the grace of God be eternally with you.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

Come on up the hill on Saturday morning April 6th 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 won't be waiting for any groundhogs to see their shadow, for sure!

We are into a new study for 2019 using the Gospel of Mark. Written by John Mark and based on his close association with the apostle, Peter, it should promote interesting discussions.

This is a time of fellowship for the guys and we always have a good time.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

This series started on March 19 and meets at 6:30 p.m. We are studying Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Esther, Nehemiah, and Malachi. These books are all related and chronological in that order. They range in date from 538 BC to about 415 BC over a 123 year period.

Some of the books will be an overview (Esther) and others more comprehensive. The study cover a period of at least 12 weeks.

✠ Pastor Al

Fellowship Events

On March 24th after the Worship Service, we enjoyed a corned beef and cabbage dinner in keeping with St. Patrick's Day, but a week afterward. One disappointing aspect was that there was no mustard to slather all over the corned beef and veggies. Check out this online recipe:

<https://www.cooks.com/recipe/cm9kh4vp/irish-corned-beef-and-cabbage-with-mustard-sauce.html>

After filling ourselves with all that good food, we held our spring business meeting and discussed finances and upcoming events.

Property and Space Patrol

The major activity in March was plow, plow, plow.

Note that the church sign could not change since December because the letters have been frozen in the tracks, the snow has been too deep, and the weather too cold.

Mild weather allowed for a new message recently.

✠ Pastor Al

No Gossip Guidelines

This bit of advice was written by Sandra Samoska and appeared in the February/April 2019 issue of the Focus on the Family monthly magazine.

"I tell me kids that, before they offer an opinion, especially about their friends, they should ask themselves three questions:

1. Is it true?
2. Is it kind?
3. How would you feel if it was said to or about you?

If their answers are negative to any of those questions, they need to keep their opinion to themselves. By doing that, they have become more trustworthy friends."

The Greater Glory

The following story appeared as the January 6, 2019 entry in the "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklet. Written by Mart DeHaan, it compares the glory of Rome and the Glory of God. Read John 17:1-24 and then read this story.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world." - Luke 2:1

Caesar Augustus is remembered as the first and greatest of the Roman emperors. By political skill and military power he eliminated his enemies, expanded the empire, and lifted Rome from the clutter of rundown neighborhoods into a city of marble statues and temples. Adoring Roman citizens referred to Augustus as the divine father and savior of the human race. As his forty-year reign came to an end, his

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official last words were, "I found Rome a city of clay but left it a city of marble." According to his wife, however, his last words were actually, "Have I played the part well? Then applaud as I exit."

What Augustus didn't know is that he'd been given a supporting role in a bigger story. In the shadow of his reign, the son of a carpenter was born to reveal something far greater than any Roman military victory, temple, stadium, or palace (Luke 2:1).

But who could have understood the glory Jesus prayed for on the night His countrymen demanded His crucifixion by Roman executioners? (John 17:4-5). Who could have foreseen the hidden wonder of a sacrifice that would be forever applauded in heaven and earth?

It's quite a story. Our God found us chasing foolish dreams and fighting among ourselves. He left us singing together about an old rugged cross.

Rescued

Pastor Jim submitted the following amusing anecdote.



A man was marooned on a desolate island. After he had been there for five years he was found and rescued.

As he climbed into the rescue boat, the curious rescuers noticed three grass huts on the beach. "We thought you were alone, so why are there three huts," they asked.

The man replied, "The first hut was my home, the second one was my church."

"What about the third hut?"

"Oh, that's the church I used to belong to!"

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 the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

4/6 Ruth Bubacz



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

If that's you, let the editor know about it.

4/28 Al & Rachel Page

4/28 Peter & Julie Jenkins

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 Apr. 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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