



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 18 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2019

We Owe a Debt We Cannot Pay

From the Pastor's Desk

Immeasurably Blessed

Ephesians 2:4-10

Celebrations are fun aren't they? We have many different kinds of celebrations throughout any given year in America. Skeptics say that the proliferation of these days is nothing more than a conspiracy by the "Greeting Card Companies," but I tend to lean on the idea that people just want an excuse to celebrate.

Just recently in our country we observed Father's Day, a day in which many dads were honored by their children with presents such as the ubiquitous neck tie, a new lawn mower, a desired power tool, or a gift card to his favorite restaurant. I myself received some presents, one of which was a card from my eldest daughter, Amanda, with a gift card in it.

If you know me or my kids, then you know that the card is not a simple straight up stoic greeting card, in fact the card she gave me was quite funny. The card said, "Dad, thanks for everything. I will never be able to repay you. Literally, I can't repay you. I owe you, like, a billion dollars at this point. Happy Father's Day." (Recycled Greeting Cards, A Smyth Company, Nampa Ca.)

That card, though funny in concept, got me thinking about our relationship to God and what we owe Him. If we allow ourselves for a moment to consider all that God has done for us before knowing Christ, then we recognize that He has dealt with us kindly and immeasurably.

He gave us life, strength, intelligence, and passion. He has provided a home, resources, and family to help guide us and direct us. He has blessed our socks off in a general revelational sense. Now factor in your salvation in Christ. How much more could we possibly pay Him back? That would be like owing him billions of dollars to the 100th power and still not touch the amount of debt we owe Him.

Here is the truth of the matter, our sin-debt is a debt that we could never, ever, ever in a gazillion years ever hope to pay back. And when one considers what Jesus did when He saved you, you have to ask how can you measure, financially or spiritually, being saved from eternal damnation and hell? It is an impossible blessing to be repaid. All we are left with is humbly bowing to our God and King

Upcoming Events and Meetings

July 4 - Independence Day

The 243rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

July 6, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

July 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Weekly:

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

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

in recognition of His Immeasurable blessing. Thus, what we really owe Him is our love, fidelity, and homage.

Let's consider for a moment what Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:4-10. The passages says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Did you catch some of the important aspects about the debt we owe? First, Paul reminds us that God is a merciful and loving God who intervened and rescued us from our sins and from death making us alive in Christ.

Second, in Jesus we have grace beyond measure. In the future time to come, God will raise us up, and give us place in His kingdom. We will be objects of His affection, and He will seat us next to Christ receiving the blessings that is due our Savior; immeasurable blessings that will be given to us.

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)

Lastly, these blessings we will receive are not by any doing on our part, for the faith we have unto salvation is a gift directly from God. Thus, our forgiven debt of sin is because God has intervened in our lives and shown us His divine mercy. God's mercy is given to us so that we can be about the work that He designed for us to accomplish in Christ Jesus to bring glory to Him.

So as we consider the debt we owe Him, how could we ever repay such a debt? The answer is we can't. Guess what? We don't have to. God has made a way for us through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Thus in Christ our immeasurable debt is blasted away by the immeasurable blessings in Christ that we receive. He wipes the ledger clear from any marks and declares "Paid in Full." Paid in Full by His blood atonement. Paid in Full by His love. Paid in Full by His mercy. Thus we never need to worry about how to pay back our creator for the debt we incurred, but simply to look at Christ and kneel before the Savior who has given us the mercy, grace, and atonement we needed to have the debt cancelled.

Though we can never pay back this debt or earn our salvation, what can we do to show appreciation for what He has done for us? First, be a forgiving person. As you have been forgiven, give forgiveness freely to others. Second, be merciful to those whom you feel may or may not deserve it. Third, love others with the love of God. Last, be that witness that declares that Jesus is looking to immeasurably bless everyone who comes to saving faith in Him.

Pass on this message and may the Grace of God be upon you all.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

Come on up to the church on Saturday morning July 6th at 8:00 a.m. and enjoy a home-cooked breakfast (food for the body), and some good fellowship. After breakfast, join in an engaging Bible discussion (food for the soul).

We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Mark. Written by John Mark and based on his close association with the apostle, Peter, it has promoted interesting discussions.

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

Property and Space Patrol

The air conditioners are in place and just in time for the summer heat. Mowing grass continues weekly. It is hoped that the higher temps will slow down the grass a tad.

✠ Pastor Al

The Origin of Independence Day

Do they have a 4th of July in England? Of course they do, it comes after the 3rd of July! Henceforth the holiday is called Independence Day, not the 4th of July.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented a brief resolution and urged the Second Continental Congress,

which was convened in Philadelphia, to declare independence from England.



The resolution, seconded by John Adams, had three parts:

- Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.
- That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.
- That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

The declaration was set aside while the resolution of independence was debated for several days. On July 2, the resolution was approved by twelve of the thirteen colonies. (New York's delegates were waiting for instructions.)

A Committee of Five was appointed and it selected Thomas Jefferson to compose the original draft of the document. The Declaration was a formal explanation of why Congress had voted on July 2 to declare independence from Great Britain, more than a year after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail on July 3 about the resolution of independence:

"The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, *by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty*. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams's prediction was off by two days. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it by a vote of 9 out of 13 on July 4th.

Copies were printed and distributed throughout the colonies. George Washington directed that it be read to the troops of the Continental Army. One copy was sent to England. (It might have stated: Dear King George, get over it!)

See *Independence Day* on p. 3

Independence Day, from p. 2

From the start, Americans celebrated their independence on July 4, the date shown on the Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution was approved in a closed session of Congress.

The term, Independence Day, was first used in 1791, and Independence Day celebrations became common after the War of 1812, the second conflict with Great Britain. Today, the day is marked by parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks.

Vanity on Fire

The following "incendiary" article appeared in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for June 25, 2019. The focal passage of scripture was Matthew 5:21-30. It was written by Remi Oyedele.



In February 1497, a Monk named Girolamo Savonarola started a fire. Leading up to this, he and his followers spent several months collecting items that they thought might entice people to sin or neglect their religious duties—including artwork, cosmetics, instruments, and dresses.

On the appointed day, thousands of vanity items were gathered at a public square in Florence, Italy, and set on fire. The event has come to be known as the Bonfire of the Vanities.

Savonarola might have found inspiration for his extreme actions in some shocking statements from the Sermon on the Mount. "If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away," said Jesus. "And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away" (Matthew 5:29–30).

But if we interpret Jesus's words literally, we miss the point of the message. The entire sermon is a lesson on going deeper than the surface, to focus on the state of our hearts rather than blaming our behavior on external distractions and temptations.

The Bonfire of the Vanities made a great show of destroying belongings and works of art, but it is unlikely that the hearts of those involved were changed in the process. Only God can change a heart. That's why the psalmist prayed, "Create in me a pure heart, O God" (Psalm 51:10). It's our heart that counts.

Hole in One

This cute story was submitted by Cynthia Ward.

A pastor decided to skip church services one Sunday and go play golf. He told his assistant he wasn't feeling well. He

then drove to a golf course in another city thinking it would be safe since no one from his church would be there.

As he swung from the first tee, a strong gust of wind caught his ball. It carried the ball an extra 100 yards and dropped it right in the first hole, for a total of 450 yards! It was an astounding Hole in One for the pastor.



An angel asked God, "What did you do that?"

God smiled and said, "Who is he going to tell?"

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:

- 7/10 John Bachand
- 7/19 Frank Dawson
- 7/21 Florence Omar
- 7/22 Charles Thomas



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the any people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please notify the Editor.

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 July 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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