



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

October 2019

ROCKS, ROOTS, and PSALMS

From the Pastor's Desk

[The following article is a golden oldie from October 2009.]

Trials in the Mountains of Life

Psalm 23

A few weeks back a group of us from the church went on a mountain hike at Mt. Major. It started with a couple of guys getting together to work on bringing the youth out for a day to go hiking, but it ended up being much more than that. We were told that it was an easy hike up a mountain and that for the most part it would be relatively painless.

Now when someone tells you something is easy, it is important for you to ask that person to define easy in the context of "their" easy. This is something I wished I had done with one of the members of the church before we committed to going. Would it have changed my mind? Probably not, if for no other reason than that my male ego would not let me back down from such an "easy" challenge.

When we got there and started toward the trail it was all well and good till we turned the corner and looked up a nearly forty-five degree slant with ankle breaking rocks and toe busting roots from the trees. As we moved along it got easier for only about fifteen minutes till we came up to another nearly forty-five degree slope with similar conditions. As we continued the climb we eventually ran out of trail and ended up climbing straight up a smooth rock face of the mountain. After a solid hour plus we ended up conquering the mountain and we stood on top victorious looking down upon all we survey. Can I get a hardy grunt? Okay an "Amen" would be better.

It was all good till we had to go back down the mountain. To top it off we took a different trail on the way down. By the end of the day I was tired and so were the kids that went with us. It was nice and quiet when we got home that afternoon. The reason why it was quiet was because I closed the door to my room and napped.

The hike that we took had its potential problems. There were rocks to fall over and roots to trip over. There were potential slipping hazards as well as falling down the side of the mountain a great distance due to some narrow trail edges. We also faced the possibilities of people falling on us or rocks rolling down upon us. We faced hazards that were

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Oct. 3 – Take Your Bible to School

Oct. 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Oct. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Oct. 20 – Lunch and Business Meeting

Weekly:

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Sundays, 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

of the body and mind. Many were hurting in the knees or legs or backs and others were weary from the long walk.

There were many things to stand in our way of reaching the goal that was set before us. But all in all we made it together as a group, looking out for each other along the way. People were in the front running on ahead. Some were in the back, but one in particular purposefully stayed there so as to be sure no one fell behind.

Often the group had to stop to wait for a reunion before going on ahead. We stayed as a group and we succeeded as a group. The most important thing is that we all made it safe and sound back to our cars and ultimately to our homes.

The trials in the mountains of life are similar to that walk of hazards we faced. No one knew this better than King David. In Psalm 23 he wrote about the pitfalls and trials in life:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,

For You are with me; Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

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Pastor's Desk (from p.1)

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
 You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

In this psalm David recounts all that God had done on his behalf. God had given David tremendous victories in life Trials (from p.1)

even though many of David's problems came as a result of his own sin. Yet when life threw a rock at David, God was there to help shield him. When David tripped, God caught him. When David fell, God was there with a hand to help him back up. When he grew tired or weak, God was there to give him strength. When his body hurt, God restored him. When he grew mentally and spiritually tired, God renewed his soul.

David knew of the times God was there and he found rest in God. At the end of the psalm we find David not only taking great assurance in the fact that he will dwell in the house of the Lord, but it is also an assurance of victory in life for the Lord.

Our walk in life is very similar to that hike we took and to the life that David experienced. Life throws us rocks to knock us down. It places roots along our walking path to cause us to fall. We sometimes face things in life that seems almost on the edge of our hopes and our sanity. Sometimes people are in our way or some may actually cast a stone or two our direction, whether by accident or design. We face the hazards of growing weary and losing strength because sometimes the obstacles in our way are too great to overcome.

But through the grace of God we overcome and find victory. Like standing atop a mountain which was conquered, God helps us do the same in the hike of life. When we stand victorious on the mountain of life and look down upon our trials we realize that they are small in comparison to what God has out there for us.

May we rest in God's great strength to get us through any trial or difficulty in life and not let the trials in the mountains of life trouble us or bring us down. May His grace sustain all of you in those difficult times.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday Oct. 5th at 8:00 a.m., join us for a hearty Oktoberfest. Not quite, but we will all bring something to share and have a hearty Fall Breakfast and a robust Bible discussion.

We are working our way through the Book of Mark as our discussion subject. Mark moves quickly through ministry of Jesus, focusing on many of His miracles. Pastor Jim has commented that scholars believe the book was actually composed by the apostle Peter and recorded under Mark's name.

While Mark's gospel may move quickly, we are moving through it at about a chapter per meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the Word in a relaxing, congenial setting.

Fellowship Events

On Sunday October 20 at midday, we will have a Potluck Dinner followed by our semi-annual Business Meeting. Bring some food to share, whether it be a main dish or side dish, and join in the feast.

After filling our tummies and getting kind of sleepy, we will try to conduct the Business Meeting.

Property and Space Patrol

Autumn leaves are falling but mostly along the main road. Hopefully the prevailing wind will move them farther down the road. Another mowing will be attempted soon once repairs have been completed on my truck.

The only thing needed for this Fall is to uninstall the air conditioners and store them. Let me know if you can help.

✠ Pastor Al

The "I Am" Statements

In John's gospel, he recorded events that demonstrated that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. He also recorded the seven "I am" statements that Jesus used as metaphors to describe Himself.

"I am the bread of life" meaning He is the source of spiritual life (John 6:35-58).

"I am the light of the world" meaning He is the source of life and guidance (8:12, 9:5).

"I am the gate for the sheep" meaning He is the protection from danger (10:7-10).

"I am the good shepherd" meaning He is the provider and protector (10:11-14).

"I am the resurrection and the life" meaning He is the provider of eternal life (11:25).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" meaning He is the one true way to know God (14:6).

"I am the true vine" meaning He is the source of life and spiritual health (15:1).

At the end of chapter 20, John tells us of his purpose in writing his gospel.

"These are written that that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (20:31)

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 "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a variety of southern and country gospel music. During the week, listen to 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:

10/1 Al Page

10/23 Janet Jenkins



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month: If that's you, let us 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 Oct. 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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