



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 19 No. 1

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2020

Search for God's Eternal Favor

From the Pastor's Desk

What Are You Seeking After?

Matthew 6:33

So here we are, Christmas has passed and the New Year is upon us. As you reflect on Christmas I just need to ask, did you get what you wanted? What was it that you really wanted more than anything else?

Was it a new television, game console, or computer? Did you want some clothes, shoes, or household goods? Did you hope for some cologne, perfume, jewelry, or some other kind of bling? Maybe your sights were a little higher and you hoped for a new car, vacation, or major bonus. What were you looking to get this past Christmas and did you get it?

And now that the day has passed and the presents have been exchanged and opened, are you satisfied with what you received? Are you grateful? Are you happy? Did these presents give you more joy and contentment in your life? Did you find some level of unexpected fulfillment in the things you gave and received?

Or has it left you a little spiritually vacant and empty? Spiritually poor or bankrupt? Spiritually depleted?

There are many things in this world that we chase after and some of the most fleeting items are those we desire to be given to us in a form of a present or gift. What are you hoping for now that Christmas is over and what are you hoping for out of life in general? Or maybe better asked, what are you seeking after?

Is it something that can be nicely wrapped up and placed under a tree, or given to you at your birthday, or presented to you on some other special occasion? Too often our hearts chase after things that are too far for us to grasp at and in the long run we end up being greatly disappointed with what we are left with; either because it wasn't what we truly wanted, or we realize that it wasn't what we thought we needed, or it just didn't measure up in fulfilling what our hearts longed for in the first place. Many of us have felt this frustration in our lives at some point in time, and now that we know what it feels like to be unfulfilled with disappointed things, we are forced to ponder what it is that we truly seek after or search for in this life.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Jan. 4, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The first event of the New Year.

Jan. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Jan. 11 – March for Life

11:15 a.m. - Rally at the Concord State House;

11:45 a.m. - March down Main St. to St. John's Church
See article on page 2.

Weekly:

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

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

Let me share a passage with you found in Mark 6 in which Jesus teaches us that we are not to worry about the things we cannot change and the things which we do not presently have. In this passage Jesus tells us that those who are not believers (Gentiles) chase after such various things hoping to find fulfillment of their needs in pursuing the bobbles of this world.

In reflection of His statement Jesus says to His followers in verse 32 that God already knows what they need, thus indicating that the followers of God need not vainly rush to find or obtain such things. Then in a moment of great spiritual clarity He says to them further in verse 33, "But seek first His (God's) kingdom and His (God's) righteousness, and all these things (necessities in life) will be added to you." (NASB)

What a profound statement given to us by our Lord and Savior. Here in this passage He reveals that our focus is not to be chasing or seeking after the things of this world, things that we need to eat, clothes for ourselves, and things that aid us in our lives; but to chase after the things of God such as righteousness, His kingdom, and the things that bring Him glory. If we then do that, God will give us that which we

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)

need in return. So we see in God’s economy, meaning the way in which He governs things to happen, that our job as Christians is not to pursue things of this world, but to pursue that which brings Him glory.

Too often many Christians in this world are placing the proverbial cart before the horse when it comes to the needs of life. They want to first seek after that which makes them comfortable, secure, rich, or affluent before dedicating themselves to the work of the Lord.

However, in this simple passage that speaks against worry, what we also find is the order in which God wants us to conduct our lives. An order that says no matter what I have now, no matter where I am socioeconomically, no matter if I have position or power, no matter if I have nothing at all, I will serve the Lord in what I have, in where I am, and in what I am able to do. Meaning that, if we put our God first in all things and His eternal plans are paramount in our lives, then the temporal things of this present life will be either fully met or seen in perspective as unnecessary. That we would come to realize that some of the things we used to chase after in this life are meaningless and that our true joy can only be found in our service to our God and King.

So in this New Year what are you going to dedicate yourself to? What are you going to seek after? What is going to be the order of your life? Will you seek or chase after the things of God? Are you going to pursue His righteousness and His glory so that you will be a conduit of grace and mercy to others? Are you going to put aside the temporal things you are desiring now for the things that are eternal?

This New Year you have a decision to make. You can either go on seeking to find pleasure and fulfillment in the emptiness of this world, or you can find true joy and completion in serving Christ and the mission of the Gospel. What will you do? What will you seek after now? May what you search for be God’s eternal favor so that you may know the rich blessings and pleasure of your God this New Year.

God bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men’s Breakfast



The first men's breakfast of the year takes place on the first Saturday, January 5th at 8:00 a.m. Bring something to share and we'll have a good time together. Maybe we will dream up some

New Year's Resolutions and see if we can keep them.

After breakfast, the Bible discussion picks up at Mark chapter 8. This begins with the major miracle where Jesus feeds the 4,000.

NH March for Life

On January 11, 2020, the New Hampshire Right to Life organization is holding a Right to Life Rally on the steps of the Capitol Building and a March for Life along Main Street down to St. John's Church on the south end of town.

Go to <https://nhrtl.org/mfl2020/> for details of the event. The Rally begins about 11:15 a.m. as participants gather at the Capitol and the March commences at about 11:45 a.m.

Most of the participants are from local churches and your editor plans to be there. The weather is usually very cold so you are advised to dress in layers to avoid getting chilled.

At the end of the March, St. John's provides hot beverages, sandwiches, and soup to thaw out the marchers.

Property and Space Patrol

December ended with one more snowstorm on the Monday before New Year's Day. This one was particularly a problem since it was what they called "a wintry mix" in that it was not very deep but consisted of bazillions of tiny ice balls that made walking and driving very slippery. Please be careful out there.

✠ Pastor Al

Read the Bible in One Year

Last summer, I finished an inspiring project: reading the Bible all the way through, from Genesis to Revelation. You might call this a long obedience in the same direction, to coin a phrase.

The first thing needed was to analyze the situation. How many books and how many chapters were involved in this endeavor? With the help of a few web sites, it turned out that there are 929 chapters in the 39 books of the Old Testament and 260 chapters in the 27 books of the New Testament. That added up to a whopping total of 1,189 chapters. Wow! With 365 days in the year, this means you need to read 3.25 chapters a day to keep on track. Now three to four chapters a day sound a little more doable.

Next, you need a way to keep track of your progress. That's where this handy two-page checklist becomes, well, handy.

Read the Bible in One Year - 3-4 Chapters Per Day
Cross out the chapter numbers as you read them. Read from any order that the Spirit leads you.

Book	Total	Chapter Numbers
Genesis	50	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
Exodus	40	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
Leviticus	27	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
Numbers	36	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
Deuteronomy	34	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34
Joshua	24	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

This two-page checklist is designed to help you stay on track and see your progress on a daily basis. Some days you can read three chapters, some days you can go for four. When you reach Psalm 117, you are at the halfway point.

The checklist can be found on the Hillside web site on the Resources page. Print it out, fold it, and keep it in your Bible for instant use. A pen or pencil is also recommended.

What I Learned from Noah's Ark

Pastor Al sent in this interesting list of things called "Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark."

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

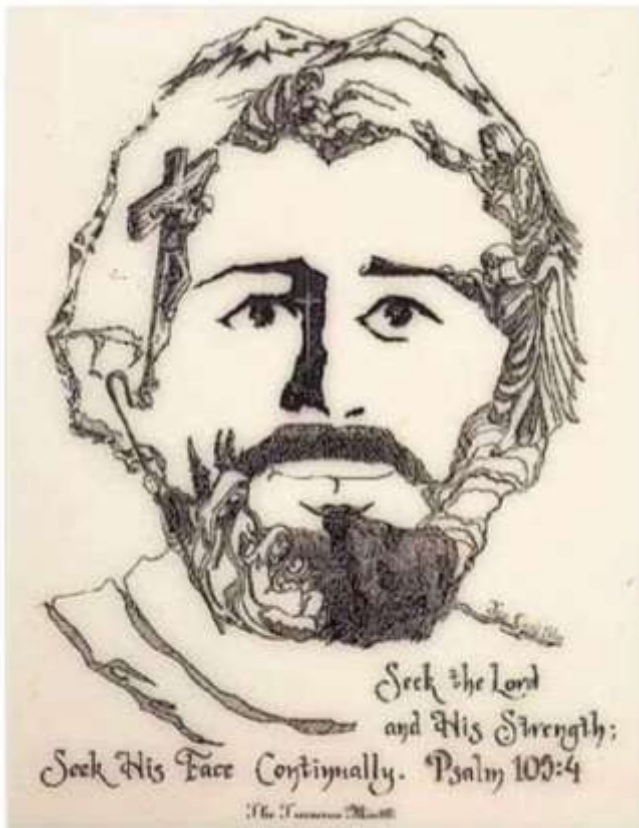
TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Amazing Drawing of Jesus

This drawing was sent by Cynthia Ward.

The longer you look at this picture of Jesus, the more you will see. Look at the lines the artist drew and you will see scenes from Jesus' life.



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:

1/10 Peter Jenkins

1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson

1/21 Cynthia Ward



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please send your date to the newsletter editor so it can be included.

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 Jan. 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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