



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 19 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2020

## WAIT FOR THE LORD

### From the Pastor's Desk

**Isaiah 40:30-31** "Yet those wait for the Lord, will gain new strength, and mount up with wings of eagles."

Seems like I've spent my life waiting for something. And I still find myself waiting!

Waiting in the chow line, the pay line, the shots line, the traffic, babies to be born, car to be paid off, kids to be in school/out of school. The list is endless, daily.

We want it to happen and ASAP! We want to know how it is going to come out.

God has perfect timing for everything and we have to learn to be content in all situations while moving forward. God's provision is already in place and we cannot adjust His timing. Many times, after seeing the outcome we have stated: "If I had just waited!"

That's the natural human nature. Becoming dependent on the Lord takes learning.

King Saul had the entire Hebrew nation under his control. All he needed to do was to wait for the Lord's direction.

In 1 Samuel 10:8, Samuel gave specific directions from the Lord to King Saul: "And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you should do."

Those are pretty simple directions. I'm sure that registered on Saul's mind. But did it really matter to Saul? We look ahead to the gathering at Gilgal, seven days later.

In 1 Samuel 13:8-14, Saul grew impatient. The seven days had come and the seventh day was about to pass. Saul and his army were being hard pressed. He needed to take action right away. He was greatly outnumbered. He had 3,000 troops (v 2). The Philistines had 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen (v 5). His men were deserting and hiding in caves. (v 6)

He decided that Samuel was not going to show up. The sun was setting Saul ordered the burnt offerings and the peace offering be brought to him. (v 9)

As soon as he made the burnt offerings, Samuel arrived. (If Saul had just waited as directed. (v 10) I wonder how Saul greeted Samuel. "Hello Samuel. I'm so glad to see you!" Our human nature: "Not my fault!"

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### June. 6 – Men's Breakfast

Canceled for this month.

#### June. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### June. 14 – Flag Day

Proudly fly the flag.

#### June 20 – First Day of Summer

Praise the Lord for the summer season.

#### June 21 – Father's Day

Thank the Lord for our fathers.

#### Weekly:

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

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

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

Samuel: "What have you done?" (My father applied that question to me a few times. I tried to cover up just like Saul.)

I can see Saul's trembling hands and the look in his eyes when he told Samuel, "The people were scattering and YOU did not come in the appointed days." Notice how Saul placed the blame on Samuel. "Not my fault! YOU didn't come. (It's your fault)" (v 11)

"I forced myself to offer the burnt offering" (v 12)

Samuel: You acted foolishly! (You should have waited.) The Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever, but now ... (v 13-14)

Are you in a holding pattern waiting for the Lord's direction? God doesn't expect us to sit and stare and just wait but to keep busy with life as we wait. Family, eating, fellowship, work, all the things that make up our lives.

*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)

Be certain that the decisions that you make are made with God's wisdom.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Doesn't the Bible give us wonderful directions?

✠ Pastor Al

## Men's Breakfast

Due to ongoing concerns about the continued effects of the Wuhan Virus (AKA Covid-19), the June Breakfast has been canceled. We pray that it will be safe to hold come July.

## Property and Space Patrol

We're into mowing season. Pollen is flying everywhere. But the dandelions look healthy.

✠ Pastor Al

## Farewell, Ravi Zacharias, an Indispensable Christian Giant



by Jim Daly

President of Focus on the Family

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias who passed away on May 19 after a brief but very public battle with cancer.

I'll be forever grateful to have met Ravi, who was always a gracious gentleman. He was a guest on our radio program and appeared on Focus' award-winning "The Truth Project" with Dr. Del Tackett. Millions in our audience appreciated his brilliant and passionate work explaining the Bible and promoting objective truth and morality.

Ravi touched the hearts and minds of so many with his lifelong work sharing and witnessing to the Christian faith. He impacted countless lives with his ministry and was an ardent defender of Truth in a culture sorely in need of it.

While we mourn Ravi's death, we know that our loss is Ravi's gain. I along with millions of other Christians will be eternally grateful for Ravi's clarion voice and faithful witness.

The world will not be the same without Ravi Zacharias. Please join me in praying for Ravi's wife, Margie, along with their three children, Sara, Nathan, Naomi, along with their extended family.

Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.

## Origin, Meaning, Morality, Destiny

Reprinted from "Wilmington For Christ"

(<https://www.wilmingtonfav.com/spiritual-journey/origin-meaning-morality-destiny.html>)

Every morning before I rose, I would listen to several short Christian programs on WVNH (91.1 FM) between 6:30 and 7:00. One was a 15-minute broadcast called "Just Thinking" and featured world renowned Christian Apologist and Evangelist Ravi Zacharias. His was the kind of thought-packed speaking, slow in delivery but often surprisingly complex, that you wished you could rewind the radio and listen to him again until you could fully grasp the content.

The following fascinating discussion first appeared possibly in 2018 and is reprinted here from the foregoing web site.

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The Discussion:

Anyone can claim to be the only path to God. In fact, quite a few crackpots have made that assertion throughout history. The real issue is why anybody should believe Jesus was telling the truth when he said it.

"On what basis do you believe this claim by Jesus is true?" I asked Zacharias.

"Ah, yes, that is the heart of the question," he replied, his head nodding. "On one hand, you can say that the resurrection of Jesus established him as being the son of God. If that's true, then all other faith systems cannot be true, because they each assert something contrary to his divinity. And of course, the historical record concerning the Resurrection is extremely compelling.

"On the other hand, you can approach this issue by looking at the four fundamental questions that every religion seeks to answer: Origin, meaning, morality, and destiny. I believe that only the answers of Jesus Christ correspond to reality. There is a coherence among his answers unlike those of any other religion."

That was a bold statement. "Can you back that up with examples of how other faiths fail those tests?"

"Consider Buddhism," he replied. "Buddha's answer on the question of morality does not cohere with his answer concerning origins. You see, Buddhism is technically nontheistic, if not atheistic. But if there was no Creator, from where does one arrive at a moral law? Or consider the Hindu version of reincarnation. If every birth is a rebirth, and if every life pays for the previous life, then what were you paying for in your first birth? You see-incoherence dominates."

He was quick to add that he was not trying to denigrate those religions. "Great scholars will tell you there is incoherence," he said. "Even Gandhi said that if he had his way he would expunge some of the scriptures from Hinduism, because they are so contradictory with each other. By contrast, Jesus provides answers to these four fundamental questions of life in a way that corresponds with reality and has internal consistency, unlike any other faith system."

*See Origin, Meaning on p. 3*

## Origin, Meaning, from p. 2

That statement invited challenge. "Go through each one," I said, "and tell me how."

"Fair enough," he replied. "Concerning origins, the Bible says we are not identical with God—contrary to the Hindu claim—but we are distinct from him. In other words, we didn't bring ourselves into being, but we are a creation of God. Since we were created in his image, this accounts for human beings having a moral point of reference. No system is able to explain this except the monotheistic ones. Even naturalists have no explanation for humanity's moral framework. However, this moral framework corresponds to the reality of human experience.

"Also, Christianity says we rejected the divine will. The tempter in the garden said if you eat this fruit, you will become as gods, knowing good and evil. The implication is that you become the definer of good and evil. Humanism was born right there; man became the measure of all things. This willful rebellion and rejection of God corresponds to reality. As Malcolm Muggeridge said, human depravity is at once the most empirically verifiable reality but also the most philosophically resistant.

"Next, the issue of meaning. Here again, the Christian faith stands without parallel. The simplest way to describe it is that God does not call us to meaning by asking us to be good people. He does not call us to meaning just by telling us to love one another. It is only in the experience of worship that meaning comes to be. Only something greater than pleasure can provide meaning, and that is the perpetual novelty of God himself in worship. The Bible tells us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and only when we've done that can we begin to love our neighbors as ourselves. This also corresponds to experience.

"Next, Christianity says morality is not culturally based, but instead it grows out of the very character of God. Otherwise, you end up with the dilemma from philosophy of old: is the moral law over and above you, or is a moral law subject to you? If it is over and above you, where do you find its root, then? The only way to explain that is to find it in an eternal, moral, omnipotent, infinite God who is inseparable from his character. Thus, Christianity explains morality in a coherent manner.

"Finally, destiny is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the historical event that proved his divinity and that opened the door to heaven for everyone who will follow him. Where else do you have anything that comes close to claiming this?"

"Billy Graham once told of meeting Konrad Adenauer, the mayor of Cologne who was imprisoned by Hitler for opposing the Nazi regime and who later became the highly regarded chancellor of West Germany from 1949 to 1963. Adenauer looked Graham in the eyes and asked, 'Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead?' Graham said, 'Of course I do.' To which Adenauer replied: Mr. Graham, outside of the resurrection of Jesus, I do not know of any other hope for this world.'

"He was right. Because the Resurrection is an actual historical event, we can be forgiven, we can be reconciled

with God, we can spend eternity with him, and we can trust Jesus' teachings as being from God.

"One of my friends was a Muslim convert who was later martyred. I remember visiting him in the hospital after his legs had been blown off, and he said: 'The more I understand of what others have claimed and taught, the more beautiful Jesus Christ looks to me.' I've never forgotten that, and I believe that to be absolutely true.

"No man spoke like Jesus. No one ever answered the questions the way he answered them, not only propositionally but also in his person. Existentially, we can test it out. Empirically, we can test it out. The Bible is not just a book of mysticism or spirituality; it is a book that also gives geographical truths and historical truths. If you're an honest skeptic, it's not just calling you to a feeling; it's calling you to a real Person. That's why the apostle Peter said, 'We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.'<sup>14</sup>

"He's saying, 'This is true. This is reality. This can be trusted.' And, yes, this truth excludes that which is contrary."

## Famous Quotes on Faith and Freedom

In the spring of 1630, John Winthrop on the good ship Arbella, led a fleet of 11 vessels and 700 passengers to the Massachusetts Bay Colony where he was to be appointed Governor. From the deck of the Arbella, he gave a sermon that was meant to be a model for the Puritans who would settle there.

"...for we must Consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword through the world, we shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the way of God and all professors for God's sake; we shall shame the faces of many of God's worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into Curses upon us till we be consumed out of the good land whether wee are going:"

You might recall that phrase "city on a hill" since it harkens back to Jesus's words as recorded in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:



6/4 Nanette Dawson

6/8 Gail Frascinella

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



6/6 Jim and Michelle Robertson

6/22 John and Tracey Bachand

### 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/>.

### 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 June. 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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