



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 19 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2020

AN INCONVENIENT WOODCHUCK

From the Pastor's Desk

Receiving Heavenly Wisdom from the Father

James 1:5

We have a woodchuck problem! When I say "we" I really mean me, in that it is causing some level of consternation in my life. About a month or so ago Pastor Al planted a garden for me and the family. His instructions were to water it and the garden would grow.

Well just a day after Pastor Al planted the six tomato plants, that pudgy little woodchuck showed up in the middle of the night and nipped the entire top off one of the cherry tomato plants. If that wasn't enough, the next day he stripped clean the three garden tomato plants of all their leaves and left behind only the stalks. So there it was six plants, four mutilated.

Though frustrated I wasn't deterred, for I kept watering the whole area and wouldn't you know it, the three garden tomato plants re-leafed and the cherry tomato plant started growing again. In addition, the cucumber plants started to grow and leaf, along with the zucchini, and summer and winter squash.

Those plants were starting to look quite healthy and it looked like we could expect some really good produce in the very near future, that is till one day Michelle looked down at the garden from the kitchen window and saw what could only be described as a Beatrix Potter moment.

There was the woodchuck in the middle of the garden facing her direction holding on to the leaves of the squash and munching away with great animation and efficiency a salad prepared for him and him alone, at least that's probably what he was thinking.

It took him two days to run through all the leafy plants leaving behind a wasteland of stalks. To say the scene was pathetic is an understatement. Devastation! Anguish!! Frustration!!! All these and more filled my mind and I thought to myself in a Caddy-Shack-ish-way that the vermin needs to die. Yes I desired to channel my inner Bill Murray groundskeeper in which I wanted to shove dynamite down each woodchuck hole and blow up the home of the vermin that dared to cross me.

Alas, after I came to my senses, I decided to groan about it instead and then tell Pastor Al what happened. The next day

Upcoming Events and Meetings

July 4, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Canceled so that you can celebrate Independence Day.

July 4 – Independence Day

July 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

July 29 – National Lasagna Day

Thank God for Italian food!

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

he took a look at the wasteland of stalks and mentioned the need to put a little garden fence around the area to keep the woodchuck out. He also mentioned that smoke bombs were at his disposal and the inner Bill Murray in me started to surface again, but I repressed it and just listened to other ideas he had.

The next day after that, Pastor Al showed up and installed the little fence and as he was finishing up, I met him at the garden. That's right, I know how to show up just when the work is finished. We noticed that some of the stalks of desolation were showing some life of re-leafing, so there appeared to be hope after all.

This is still an experiment in the works. I don't know if I will enjoy anything other than tomatoes from the garden, but hopefully this solution of Pastor Al's, not including the death of the bane of my existence, will bring about some level of produce.

All joking aside, life is full of various events, you never know what you will be faced with when you wake up each and every morning. To be honest, the woodchuck is a small inconvenience in my day, for many more problems plague

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

this world than small pesky nuisance creatures I have to deal with.

Our world is faced with many immediate trials, from the virus pandemic, to a rise in bigotry, to hostility in politics, and hostility between nations, even a moderate drought. Thus a right perspective is called for when dealing with issues in life. What we really need is wisdom in how to take care of these various trials we experience.

Though I enjoy reading the entire Bible, one of my favorite books is the Book of James. It is full of just so much practicality and insight that one cannot walk away from it and not be motivated to enact all the precepts and truths found in it.

In James 1:5 is a great verse that speaks to those of us who at times of stress need practical insight into how to handle the problems we face. James wrote, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." Take that in for just a moment, reread it and pause to contemplate what it declares.

God in heaven is waiting for you and I to come to Him in faith asking for wisdom and, because He is such a gracious God, He will give it to us generously, not shunning us for asking for such a thing from Him. What James is telling us is that God will grant to us heavenly wisdom and perspective in our earthly problems. Let me tell you, it doesn't get any better than that.

What does this heavenly wisdom from above do for us? Well first it reveals to our hearts the true reality of our problems, in other words, some issues in life are really not that big of a deal. It's human nature to make mountains out of molehills when we are faced with some level of adversity. Receiving wisdom from on high provides a heavenly perspective that enables us to rightly and proportionately respond to those things that we face day-in and day-out.

Secondly, the wisdom God provides from on high enables us to distinguish between what is of earthly importance and what is of heavenly importance. Some trials brought into our lives are completely earthly in that we deal with issues because we are in a fallen world in need of grace.

However, some other issues we face may be of heavenly importance. It could be that the person we are fighting with needs to see the love of Christ in us instead, or our loss in life is to test us in our faith, or the difficulty with our kids might actually be a test to stand for God's word in their lives as they are listening to the world instead. Having heavenly wisdom enables us to have discernment in knowing how to approach the problems with a keener insight.

Thirdly, when we gain heavenly wisdom from God we can glorify Him for giving us the victories we experience. It's human desire to allow pride to take the lead in boasting how we figured something out, or overcome difficulties with sheer will, or cunningly out-maneuvered our problem and found a way out or around it.

See Pastor's Message on p. 3

Men's Breakfast

Because July 4th falls on the first Saturday of the month, this month's Men's Breakfast is canceled. Hopefully we can plan on meeting again in early August.

Property and Space Patrol

No news to report this month. Mowing the lawn continues. Pray that the Lord brings some soaking rain to cut down the chance of brush fires.

✠ Pastor Al

High Court Affirms Religious Access to State Programs

June 30, 2020

WASHINGTON (BP) -- The U.S. Supreme Court narrowly upheld Tuesday (June 30) a state tax credit scholarship program that includes religious schools, thereby maintaining its recent support of the right of faith groups to participate in government programs.

The high court voted 5-4 to overturn a Montana Supreme Court decision. The Montana high court invalidated the entire program in a 2018 opinion because the law includes religious schools. In overturning a lower court decision, the Montana justices said the plan violates the state constitution's "no-aid provision" regarding religious schools. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said the Montana high court's decision violated the First Amendment clause that guarantees the free exercise of religion.

Religious freedom advocates widely applauded the court's ruling. [The four dissenting justices need to go. --Editor]

For the complete story, go to:

<http://www.bpnews.net/55027/high-court-affirms-religious-access-to-state-programs>

Flip the Penny Game

This game was in the *Focus on the Family Magazine* for May 2020. It involves a husband, a wife, a penny, and a car. It was subtitled "Date Night Challenge" and was written by Leah Gibson.

Shortly after my husband, Josh, and I got married, we learned about the Penny Game. The gist of the game is to hop in the car with your spouse and flip a penny. Heads means the driver turns left, and tails means the driver turns right.

The next rule before you head out is to choose how many flips you will make before reaching your unknown destination. The final rule is that you have to carry out your date wherever the penny takes you.

Our date location just happened to be a gas station parking lot! Josh went inside the adjacent convenience store and bought snacks and a blanket. We had the most romantic picnic ever because we learned a secret: it's not about where you go or how much you spend; it's about the person you are with and God's love that binds you together.

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
- 7/22 Robert Thomas



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the people who are celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please let the Editor know so he can announce it here.

Pastor's Message, from p. 2

However, we Christians realize that we are not as smart as we like to think we are, we know this because the Holy Spirit lives within us and guides us into a greater understanding of our fallenness. Thus through wisdom from God we in turn learn humility that leads us to glorify God when He enables us to get through our problems successfully.

Lastly, wisdom from God also brings about peace in the midst of the difficulties. When we go to the Father and ask for His wisdom it produces a peace of mind because He transforms our mind in such a way that we can handle the problems with clarity of thought and calmness of emotions.

Thus, we will not be tossed about like a boat on the ocean that is not anchored down, instead we are individuals moored to the rock that is Jesus Christ and it is He that enables us to withstand the storms we overcome.

Yes, life bring about lots of problems from pesky woodchucks to tremendous difficulties, but God will give us wisdom from on high to help us through those trials and tribulations so that we can stand in the midst of the storm or get through it and be at calm waters.

Trust in this promise given to us Christians who have received the salvation of Jesus, the Son of God. Because we love the Son, the Father desires to give to us generously the wisdom we need to overcome in this world and to be a witness of His merciful help when we find victory through His help.

Give glory to God for He is the one who sustains us, shields us, provides for us, and enables us to find peace in Him in the midst of any trial we may face every day.

✝ Pastor Jim

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.



Happy Independence Day!



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Modeling the truth of God's Word



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