



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 19 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2020

## PINE NEEDLES OF SIN

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### The Battle to Keep Sin Out of Our Lives

Romans 7:14-25

I swear those pine needles will be the death of me, at least that's what I thought soon after I cleaned my office carpet. Many of you know that my office is above the garage at the parsonage, Michelle calls it my treehouse because my entrance is surrounded by many trees and a couple of pine trees are in the mix.

Well all year round I experience the not so delightful panoply of falling pine needles along with their variously developed cones. What tends to happen is that the needles tend to collect quite heavily on my upper deck entrance way and every time I open my door "swoosh" a bunch of pine needles swoop in and litter the entrance.

I have done just about everything one can do to remove them from vacuuming the carpet to sweeping the stoop off, but there they are the next morning waiting for entrance into my office's clean floor. More times than not I just give up the battle and let it collect to the point that it has tracked to every area of the office. I swear those pine needles will be the death of me, at least that's what I think.

You know sin in our lives can be very similar to those dreaded pine needles canvassed about my office floor. No sooner that you've seemed to have swept out those thoughts of anger, lust, and greed, then "swoosh" those same thoughts invade the clean floor of your mind. No sooner have you removed the temptations you so easily are entangled by, then "swoosh" in comes more temptations at the stoop of your mind in which you have to fight even more of them away.

What can be done? How does one get a clean heart and mind and then keep it clean? How does one fight the two natures, redeemed and sinful, to get out from under the onslaught of sin and its temptation? Well the good news is that there is a way, but the bad news is that it's a fight that won't end till the time you get to stand before Jesus in heaven.

Romans 7:14-25 gives us the needed words that the Apostle Paul recounts about his own battle with the pesky pine needles of sin in his life. He wrote: "For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do,

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Sept. 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### Sept. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Sept. 11 – Remembering 9/11/2001

#### Weekly:

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

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

#### Tuesday Weekly Bible Study

This ended in August. It will resume with a new topic later this year.

I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin." (NASB) From Paul's writing we can see that the sweeping out our sin is the work of Jesus, but keeping it clean is the work we must do by living in the righteousness and holiness imputed upon us. However the new life we have in Christ, who swept

See *Pastor's Desk* on p. 2

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | Vacation Seven Things | 9/11 | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

### Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

away or vacuumed up the sin needles in our lives, is couched by the ever present reality that we live in an environment that produces constant sin in the flesh.

Thus our two natures, redeemed and sinful, are constantly at war, with one trying to clean out the sin while the other keeps opening the door letting it in. It's like both members of the "Odd Couple" live within our being.

Felix wants to keep everything clean, while Oscar can't help but be all messed up. The difference is that in the end the Felix, meaning the one who concurs with the Law of God and embraces His full cleansing and washing away of our sin, will win out. Though we fight it now, we will not fight it when we are forever in the presence of Jesus Christ our Lord.

So let's not grow weary in trying to live holy lives. Let us not be impatient with ourselves when we slip up and fall into sin. Let us not give up with the daily task of sweeping clean our heart and mind for Christ.

May we all recognize that the battle is already won, but we must keep pressing on fighting the good fight against our sin natures so as to be the right and proper representatives of our Lord Jesus to the world around us, so that when others see us, we resemble Christ in all we do.

God bless,  
✠ Pastor Jim

### Men's Breakfast

We will meet for Men's Breakfast once again on September 5th at 8:00 a.m.. Let Pastor Jim know what side dish (like eggs, toast, muffins, bacon, or sausage) you can bring to the event.

After breakfast, we will resume our long interrupted discussion of the Book of Mark.

So come for food, fellowship, and Biblical enlightenment.

### Property and Space Patrol

With the dry weather continuing except for a few showers here and there, the lawn mowing has slowed down. Next will come the season of falling leaves.

✠ Pastor Al

### Pastoral Vacation Time

In the middle of September, Pastor Jim is planning to take a two-week vacation. To help out in his absence, he has engaged his brother, Pastor Ken Robertson, to cover for him. Pastor Ken will be leading the services on Sept. 13th and 20th. Pastor Jim will return on Sept. 27th.

Pastor Ken is the recently retired Senior Pastor of Harvest Baptist Church in Hooksett. You may recall seeing him a few times recently when he attended Sunday Services here.

### Seven Things God Hates

During the Sunday School discussion at the end of July, we covered parts of Proverbs chapters 15 and 16. In the midst of the lesson pages, was Proverbs 16:5, which stated "Everyone

with a proud heart is detestable to the Lord." Two pages later, we encountered an insertion that referred back to chapter 6. It was called "Six Things That God Hates" and referred to Proverbs 6:16-19.

In ancient Hebrew poetry, there is a style called synonymous parallelism which starts with a statement followed by a repetition in slightly different words. In this case, the first part says there are six things that God doesn't like, and the second phrase "ups the ante" by saying there are seven things God can't stand.

The following text is a rendition of Proverbs 6:16-19 as a Technical Writer would compose it. This rendition prevents you from mistaking how many items are in the list.

There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

1. Haughty eyes,
2. A lying tongue, and
3. Hands that shed innocent blood,
4. A heart that devises wicked plans,
5. Feet that run rapidly to evil,
6. A false witness who utters lies, and
7. One who spreads strife among brothers.

### Remembering 9/11



On September 11th, it will have been 19 years since Islamic terrorists attacked the United States and used passenger jets to kill almost 3,000 Americans and other nationals in hateful acts of destruction at New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in a field in Shanksville, Penn.

The events are seared into our memories and we can all recall what we were doing that day under a clear blue sky. Sadly, the struggle against these terrorists continues to this day, but, thank God, we have never experienced another attack like 9/11.

We should also note that people born since 2001 have no memory of the event. Find a documentary of 9/11 and have your children watch it. Tell them that this is what evil looks like. In the words of American philosopher, George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

*See 9/11 on p. 3*

**9/11, from p. 2**

Today, the Freedom Tower stands in Manhattan near the site of the original two towers, piercing the sky at 1,776 feet tall, a number which is a deliberate reference to the year of our Independence Day.



The annual "Tribute to Light" display in lower Manhattan was initially canceled due to coronavirus excuses, but public outcry brought it back. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation will put on a "Towers of Light" memorial on Sept. 11, 2020. The Foundation's tribute will include a live reading of victims' names, which was canceled at the official ceremony.



The Foundation stated on 8/22 that they will illuminate the sky in Shanksville, Penn. and at the Pentagon with "Towers of Light" displays in memory of those lost on 9/11.

**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:

9/1 Julie Frascinella

9/1 Mark Guzior

9/22 Julie Jenkins



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

9/7 Fred & Virginia Smith (moved to Texas)

**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 Sept. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler, 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.



**Hillside Baptist Church**  
**547 Pembroke St.**  
**Pembroke, NH 03275**

*Modeling the truth of God's Word*



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

