



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 20 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2021

## BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### No Other Place I'd Rather Be!

Psalm 84:10

If I pressed you to give me an answer, where would you say is the best place for you to visit in the world? Would it be Disney World? How about Hollywood? Maybe for you it's on the beach along Hawaii's beautiful coastline. Is the best place on earth for you snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia, or is it climbing the highest peak on earth, Mt. Everest? Would visiting the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids of Egypt, or Buckingham Palace be any of your favorite places to see?

I ran into some retired friends today and they told me they were getting ready to take their small RV Camper and go and camp on the shores of each of the five Great Lakes. They're going to work their way first to Lake Superior along the Wisconsin state coast and then lake hop all their way to each of them finishing with Lake Ontario.

I suggested that they should scoot along the upper New York State line and finish their trip with a solid period by camping along Lake Champlain. To which one of them smiled and thought that would be neat and the other said they had only two months and had to get back. Knowing this couple, I believe that visiting all these sites together is their favorite place to be.

I ask this question because I came across a beloved psalm today in my daily Bible reading that struck me more than it has in the past. It is Psalm 84, a psalm by the sons of Korah, and they proclaim in verse 1 (ESV) "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!"

What a wonderful thought to begin any praise given by the people of God. A statement that expresses complete adoration for the joy it must be to exist in the presence of God.

In verse 2 the psalm kicks it up a notch by declaring, "My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God." The psalm moves from just simply declaring the greatness and divine grandeur of God's dwelling place to utterly and completely desiring to be there as well.

This section is finished off in verse 4 where they declare "Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 6 – Anniversary of D Day 1944

June 14 – Flag Day

#### Weekly:

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

New series examines the Books of Job and Ecclesiastes.

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

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

Currently studying verse 3:16 in each book of the Bible.

your praise! Selah." This could mean the Temple found in Jerusalem or it could be a reference to the people of God who are ushered into His eternal presence. Either way those who are invited into the presence of God to sing His praises are indeed blessed.

Verses 5-9 focus on the people of God asking for God's blessing, protection, and benevolence, while verse 10a proclaims the most notable verse from this passage and declares "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere." Then the psalm finishes off in two and half more verses in which they declare the blessings on those who trust in the Lord.

I want to focus for a moment on verse 10a. Let's ponder upon that statement one more time. "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere." Better than a thousand days on the beach in the Caribbean? Better than a thousand days in a luxury hotel in Rome? Better than a thousand days skiing in a Norwegian resort? Better than a thousand days of Super Bowls? Really? The answer of course by the psalmist(s) is yes!

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Property & Space Patrol | Christians on Twitter | Facing the Battles | Gospel Radio | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

In order to understand the fullness of this statement, a person must first be in a right relationship with the Lord, and I mean more than being saved, I mean loving God so much that to be in His presence is all that matters to you.

In order to adopt this mentality one has to have a strong relationship with God in such a way that God is everything to you. That His love is greater than any spouse, child, or parent in your life. That His glory is all you seek to praise. That His divine nature and majesty is something you truly want to behold and in turn adore Him endlessly for the rest of eternity.

But even more so, it is to know the wonder of what it would be to live in His courts. As Americans we live in a democratic republic in which the notion of royalty is a distant idea at best to our experience and way of life.

However to those who live under a monarchy, one of the best places one can ever visit is to be invited to the court of the King or Queen. To be invited to visit with them, to stay in the palace overnight, to dine with them, and to have them one-on-one to yourself is the highlight of a subject's very existence.

The court of the Royal Highness is a true blessing that any subject of the land could only dream of receiving in this lifetime. So when the psalmist(s), the sons of Korah, sings this psalm one has to realize that they know full well what they are saying regarding what it would be like to exist in the court of His Royal Highness, the Highest of all Kings, God Almighty.

The fact remaining for many of us is that we will not fully understand the importance, significance, or even the majesty of the court of God until the day we are ushered into His presence for eternity. On that day we will be welcomed into His court, be greeted by our Savior Jesus Christ, and be shown a dwelling place for us to remain in His presence forever. It will be on that day when we realize in full measure how much more wonderful it is to be in the court of our God. It will be on that day we will realize that just one day in our God's presence far outweighs a thousand, million, trillion, quadrillion days elsewhere.

Why will that be the case? For on that day we will fully know our place in His presence and we will fully know why it was we were created: to worship Him.

When we enter into our worship, adoration, and praises of Him we will know true fulfillment and that can never be found anywhere else no matter how many days we are given to explore this earth to find it.

Being in the presence of God is the utmost a person waits upon in this life, and when it is all said and done knowing what awaits me, I can truly say that when I get to be in the courts of God forever, that there is no other place I'd rather be than to be with our eternal God and Savior.

Blessings,  
✠ Pastor Jim

## Property and Space Patrol

Pastor Jim & son Connor installed the air conditioners in the sanctuary. The front of the church has been mowed three times and the rear of the property once.

A large limb that split halfway up a cherry tree has been sawed down. Trees have been trimmed, and scattered branches and limbs have been collected and hauled off to the Dirt Doctor for free disposal. Summer is in full swing with all the yard work we can handle.

A professional company was brought into remove mold from the parsonage cellar and church. Somehow this was accomplished at NO expense.

The parsonage roof needs to be resingled very soon.

✠ Pastor Al

## The Good Work of Southern Baptists Is Now on Twitter

An article by Laura Erlanson on [www.baptistpress.com](http://www.baptistpress.com) shows how Southern Baptists are using the Twitter hashtag #ThisistheSBC to identify positive stories about their faith, ministry, or church.

The article starts off this way:

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NASHVILLE (BP) – On a website that often makes social media look terribly anti-social, many Southern Baptists have been sharing some positivity with the Twitter hashtag #ThisistheSBC.

As the 2021 SBC Annual Meeting looms (it's June 15-16 in Nashville), social media posts and conversations about the SBC and even about individual Southern Baptists can be harsh. To be sure, there are a lot of causes for division. But one thing it seems everyone can agree on is the kingdom effectiveness of Southern Baptist churches.

Pastors, laypeople and even some SBC entity heads have tagged posts with #ThisistheSBC as they feature the churches where they got saved, got baptized, were called to ministry, or served in ministry – or even all of the above.

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For the full story go to:

<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/twitter-hashtag-focuses-on-the-good-work-of-southern-baptists/>

## Facing the Battles with God's Help

The following story, written by Arthur Jackson, comes from the *Our Daily Bread Devotional* and focuses on Psalm 11. Read the Psalm and then read this story.

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The heroic deeds of U.S. Army soldier Desmond Doss are featured in the 2016 movie *Hacksaw Ridge*. While Doss' convictions wouldn't allow him to take human life, as an army medic he committed himself to preserving life even at the risk of his own. The citation read at Doss' Medal of Honor ceremony on October 12, 1945, included these words:

See *Battles* on p. 3

## Battles, from p. 2

“Private First Class Doss refused to seek cover and remained in the fire-swept area with the many stricken, carrying them one by one to the edge of the escarpment. . . . He unhesitatingly braved enemy shelling and small arms fire to assist an artillery officer.”

In Psalm 11, David’s conviction that his refuge was in God compelled him to resist suggestions to flee rather than face his foes (vv. 2–3). Six simple words comprised his statement of faith: “In the Lord I take refuge” (v. 1). That well-rooted conviction would guide his conduct.

David’s words in verses 4–7 amplified God’s greatness. Yes, life can sometimes be like a battlefield, and hostile fire can send us scattering for cover when we’re bombarded with health challenges or financial, relational, and spiritual stresses.

So, what should we do? Acknowledge that God is the king of the universe (v. 4); take delight in His amazing capacity to judge with precision (vv. 5–6); and rest in His delight in what’s righteous and upright (v. 7). We can run swiftly to God for shelter!

## 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:

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 Pastor Jim and Michelle Robertson

## 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 Baptist Convention of New Hampshire, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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