



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 20 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2021

## CONTEMPLATING THE PASSAGE OF TIME

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Time Sure Flies

James 4:13-15

Have you looked at the calendar lately? The year of our Lord 2021 is already more than half way over! Time does indeed march on. As I was sitting in my office contemplating how fast this year has passed by, I was also reminded by the fact that I will be celebrating a milestone in my own life this upcoming January. I will be enduring the dreaded fifty years of age and although I am not afraid of birthdays, it does cause me to stop and reflect where the first half of my life has gone.

We tend to live in stages and, as I found myself categorizing my life in those stages, I was drawn into a sober state of mind. A lot has happen to me since I was a young boy. The dreams of my youth have changed through temperance and maturity. The desires of my young manhood have been replaced with a concern for family needs. The goals of pursuing further education are beginning to ebb with this passing time. Now I look forward, planning the continued maturation of my children and the time of retirement, which is still a ways off.

Time often passes too quickly. It is one of those amazing things in life that, although we experience, it we tend to miss how fast it goes by. It seems slow while you endure it, but when you look back at where the calendar has gone you realize that a week, or month, or even a year has passed by quicker than your experience seems to remember. Why is that?

I once heard someone say that as you get past the midpoint in life that there are fewer days ahead than behind. When you are young your whole life seems before you and unending, without restraint or limitations. When you are in your twenties and thirties life seems still long, but you begin to realize your mortality especially as loved ones from the previous generations in your family begin to pass away. When you hit your forties and fifties you are totally aware of your limitations in life and by this point you normally realize that you have not accomplished all you had wished nor will you be able to before the older years take over. This is why so many people tend to go through a mid-life crisis.

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Sept. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Sept. 11 – 20th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on the United States**

#### 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**

Currently moving through the New Testament.

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The reaction to the crisis is the attempt to gain control of what most feel they have lost. Often in mid-life new goals are set, new careers are sought, and the old is discarded. Without proper thought and consideration of those around you this time of life, if one is not careful, could destroy all that has been achieved or for what is hoped to be achieved. Then when you hit your sixties and seventies life is passing at even a quicker pace. The goals in life that are achieved are thought of with great memories; the goals unachieved are accepted as opportunities lost.

At this age most come to grips with whom they are and how they have lived. It is too bad that often we have to achieve the golden years to achieve a level of peace regarding who we are in this world and in the sight of God.

I am reminded of a passage in the New Testament book of James. In chapter 4 there is a passage that talks about plans of tomorrow and the passage of time. In verses 13-15 James says, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

*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)

Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.'" (NASB)

This passage teaches us a couple of lessons. First, that our time on earth is very limited when weighed against all eternity. Our lives which can span the time of no more than 120 years is nothing more than a puff of wet air.

Have you ever taken one of those decongestant mists and sprayed them ahead of time see what it was you were about to shoot up your nose? You squeeze down on it and when you spray there is a wet mist that puffs into the air. No sooner do you spray it, than the puff disappears and the wetness dries out.

That duration of time is likened to your life in the sight of God. That should sober each and every one of us to the point that we begin to really take stock of what we look to accomplish in life, in what we really hope to achieve, and who to achieve it for.

Let me encourage you to look back on your life and examine where you have been, who have you glorified, and who have you done all your achievements for. Then look forward to future plans. What will you achieve? Where are you going? Who are you doing it for?

This leads into another lesson in this passage. Second, when planning your future you are to figure God into the equation. We are told in this passage to do so for we do not know what tomorrow holds, but God does. So wouldn't it be wise to consult God in all matters of future plans? It is a terrible thing to go your entire life and not consider what God wants of you.

Your decision to change jobs or careers, your decision to have another child, your hopes in retirement, your ambitions in life, are all those parts and more shrouded in the glory of God and His plans for your life? If you don't consult God beforehand you might happen to line up with His will for you, but wouldn't it be better to check with Him in prayer and counsel first so that you have the assurance of the Holy Spirit that you are walking rightly before Him? I hope and pray that you will feel led to consult God before you decide to do anything in life.

Have you felt that time is going faster than it should? Do you feel it ebbing away faster than the evening tide at Hampton Beach? Do you feel you are losing grip of the life that you have? Then slow down for a moment and consider God and what we are told in James' passage.

Let us go to our Savior first and then make our decisions. When you do that then you will be better prepared to look back upon your life and see how God has led you, directed you, and even sometimes carried you through the quick passing of time.

May His grace fall upon you and may His love overshadow you and may His hand guide you throughout the whole of your life in service to Him.

God bless,

✠ Pastor Jim

## Property and Space Patrol

The grounds were mowed three or four times in the past month. Pastor Jim asks if anyone could donate a cordless weedwacker and extra battery for cutting back growth along walkways and places the riding mower can't reach. A tool that uses an extension cable would be too cumbersome to use around the church property.

The parsonage is to get an additional layer of insulation in the attic to help cut down on heat loss. The basement walls and floor are to be painted with mold resistant paint and forced hot water baseboards are to be installed to keep the basement dry and prevent the mold from coming back. All this is a blessing from an anonymous donor. May the Lord bless the donor!

✠ Pastor Jim

## Ten Essential Truths

The following article on the wisdom of the Book of Ecclesiastes comes from the final pages of the Summer 2021 edition of our "Explore the Bible Personal Study Guide" that we finished on August 29th. In case you may have missed the last lesson, this article is printed here for your personal study and reflection.

In **Ecclesiastes chapter 12**, the Teacher looked back at life and emphasized the importance of finishing well, giving us wisdom that will help us live our lives well. The Book of Ecclesiastes as a whole teaches at least ten essential truths for living life "under the sun":

1. Anything that does not have eternal value has really no significant value. Everything humans achieve appears and disappears like a breath on a cold morning. Only what God does is lasting (**Eccl. 1:1-11**).
2. The wise person will find meaning in life through faith in God. All other pursuits to discover meaning in life—such as education, wealth, recreation, work, and power—are dead ends (**1:12-2:26; 5:10-7:6**).
3. Time is a gift from God. Wise people use time as God made it to be used—doing the right things, at the right times, in the right ways (**3:1-15**).
4. Obedience to God is more important than religious expressions of devotion. What's more, God expects His people to have integrity and keep their promises to Him as well as to others (**4:13-5:7**).
5. Wise people trust God and His sovereign will for their lives (**7:11-14**).
6. God is not impressed with human efforts to achieve righteousness; He is pleased with humble devotion to Him (**7:15-18**).
7. Wisdom involves recognizing one's own sin and leads to having compassion on others who also are sinners (**7:19-22**).

See *Essential Truths* on p. 3

## Essential Truths, from p. 2

8. Wise people live their lives with a proper perspective of their mortality. They realize life is precious and that their window of opportunity is short-lived (11:7-12:8).
9. Wise people enjoy the life and blessings God has given them (2:24-26; 3:12-13,22; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:1-10; 11:7-9).
10. Wise people fear God and obey His Word, realizing they will give an account to Him for how they lived their lives (12:9-14). This was Solomon's final conclusion.

## [Not] Believing Our Own Spin

I recall a number of occasions when politicians were shocked to find that they lost their elections by huge margins. These politicians could not believe they lost because they were so confident of their position on the issues, and in their marketing efforts to communicate those positions. In short, they had begun to believe their own spin, and were shocked to find out that others did not believe it nearly as strongly as they did, and voted for the other candidate.

While we can clearly see this in politics, it actually happens in a lot of areas of life. I've known sports fanatics who were so convinced their team was going to win a national title, only to be eliminated in an earlier round. I've known aspiring musicians who were sure they were headed to stardom that never actually released an album. And sadly, I've known pastors who were sure they were going to be the next Billy Graham, and then were disappointed when their church never broke 100. When we start believing our own spin, it can lead to terrible disappointment.

Perhaps, instead of focusing on spin, we might instead focus on the motivation behind what we are trying to accomplish. If we are really focused on "winning" then failing to win really does seem like a failure. If we are focused on being the "biggest" or the "best" then failing to achieve that really disappoints us. But what if our focus was on something different?

I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to the church in Colossae when he said, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17, ESV). If my motivation is to bring glory to myself, then I become very disappointed if I fail to reach all my goals. But if my life goal is to do things in the name of the Lord, giving God thanks for whatever the results are, I think it changes my perspective.

I can still set smaller goals, and work hard to achieve them, but I know that those smaller goals themselves will not be the real goal of my life. The real goal is to bring honor to the name of Christ as I work toward the smaller goals, and that changes everything.

I might lose an election, but if the Gospel is proclaimed in Word and deed, it is still worthwhile. My sports team may get eliminated, but if the Christians on the team displayed Christlikeness, the impact is eternal. My favorite musician

may never hit stardom, but if he or she sings to the glory of the Lord, somehow it doesn't matter how many albums are sold.

If my church is proclaiming the Gospel in an effective way that is consistent with biblical teaching, then I can rest in confidence that whether 20 come to Christ, or 200, or 2,000, it brings glory to the Lord and I can give thanks to Him for His work of grace.

Let's be careful not to believe our own spin. We will not always achieve our goals. We will not always be the best, or the winner, or the "success" as the world defines it. But we can always bring glory to the Lord and give God thanks for every step in the journey, and that will bring great comfort and joy to us both in this life, and in the life to come.

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This article, written by Dr. Terry W. Dorsett, Executive Director of the Baptist Convention of New England, was published on the BCNE web site on Aug. 12, 2021.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

9/1 Mark Guzior

9/22 Julie Jenkins



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, let the Editor know.

## 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.

## 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/>.

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 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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