



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 2

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2022

Be an Instrument of God's Grace

From the Pastor's Desk

Life-Giving Spiritual Cravings

1 Peter 4:4-5

Ever feel a little Nutty? I know that I get to feeling a little nutty about two or three times a week, so when that happens I reach over to the right on my desk and grab my can of mixed nuts. Though I enjoy a medley of nuts, I really like pistachios the best and for some reason, the one's you have to shell seem to taste better than the pre-shelled kind.

After much research and counsel, one of the important things to do when you have any kind of medical condition, mine being type 2 diabetes, is to eat healthy. Thus, whole foods are essential to one's diet. So, whole peanuts are better than peanut butter. Fresh or packed olives are better for you than olive oil. Fresh fruit is always better for you than any kind in a can. Basically anything healthy is far better than junk food. Now many of you reading this article knows me and at times my weight was, let's just say, larger than life. However, it might surprise you that I was never a big candy, chips, or junk foods fan. That isn't to say that I didn't have some once in a while, but for the most part my problem was I couldn't resist second and third large helpings at the dinner table.

I love fried chicken, pizza, pasta, tacos, and every other kind of fast food that can pack on the pounds. All that to say it's been two years now and I have been able to keep off the eighty pounds I lost. Now I find I enjoy things like mixed nuts more now than before. Strange how the taste buds can change, adapt, and develop new cravings when one eliminates all the other junk in life.

Well the Bible has a verse that tells us that change comes to us when we receive Jesus as our Savior. It's something that can happen quickly, but more times than not, the deeper long lasting spiritual changes in life happen gradually over time and through much effort.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day

Feb. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday

Feb 26 – Purim, the Feast of Lots

Celebrating Jewish salvation from destruction in ancient Persia (see the Book of Esther).

Weekly:

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

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

In 1 Peter he writes to us Christians about the need and necessity to be holy for our God is Holy. To live a life for Christ and walk in a manner of righteousness that exemplifies him in all our dealings. So when he gets to chapter 4, he reminds us that, at one time, we lived a hedonistic lifestyle that truly depicted our lostness, but now that we are in Christ we are called to put away all that sinful debauchery and glorify our Savior by making holy decisions. Thus, when we do, he tells us in 4:4-5 that our friends, those whom formerly joined in sin with us, are surprised that we “do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *us*; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

Did you catch the terminology of our former way of life? Peter used the term “run.” We used to run with, choose to be with, desire to be found among, sought to be counted with, we use to “run” with them into the

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

same amount of sin and dissipation they are still doing. That means we used to crave a different way and manner of life that did not reflect holiness. We used to desire to be a certain way against God. We sought to live according to our way of wants and likes pleasing ourselves.

That is until we met Christ Jesus and He showed us our deep and troubling spiritual condition, a condition worse than any medical condition we can have in the flesh. And when God confronted us in our sin we saw that drastic changes needed to be made in our lives or we were going to die in such a wretched and rotten state. So we turned to Christ and He did a spiritual cleansing, healing, and regeneration of our very being. Now that Christ is in us and that the Holy Spirit is working in and through us to bring about our Savior's will, our cravings of the sin we used to run to now cause us to look the other way because Jesus enables us to say no to the sin we used to so quickly join in. You know what? Our spiritual taste buds have changed. Our cravings are now for Christ. Our wants and likes are folded into Him and His will for us and now we seek to be holy for He, our God, is holy.

Wow, what a transition and change that takes place in the believer. It used to be spiritual junk in and spiritual junk out, but now it is holiness in and holiness out. But did you catch what Peter said about those who are still in their sin? Well there are a couple of things to note.

First, he says they don't get you anymore. Meaning your change is so great and so diametrically different from them that they are shocked you don't enjoy what they still enjoy. They don't understand how you lost your zest and lust for the pleasures of life. They don't get why you shun what is only natural to the appetite of the flesh and soul. So they are dumbfounded by it and thus they will shun and malign you in reply.

However, what they fail to recognize is that they are the ones still in slavery to their sin, trapped in their fallenness, and only think they are living life to the fullest, but in fact they are on a one way ticket to Judgment Day and rejection by God.

Second, in their rejection of you, they will not be able to deny something on that Judgment Day and it is this, that they had the will of God and the declaration of His word proclaimed to them, thus they will be without excuse. They will give an account of themselves and they will have to admit that they knew of the gospel lived out in you and through your living testimony. For when you live for Christ you display a change of holy cravings in you that did not reflect the sinful cravings in them.

So we learn from this passage that a change that God wrought in you is for the purpose of a testimony against those who reject Him and His salvation through Jesus Christ His Son. What an astounding reality. God makes you holy because you cannot make yourself holy apart from Him and when He does this change in your life, you begin to desire what He desires. You want what He wants. You choose to now run with Him and towards the things that are righteous.

Is this a change you've experienced in your life as a Christian? Do you desire the things of God over that of your own sinful inclinations? Do you crave what you used to crave in the flesh over that in which you should be craving in Christ?

Let me encourage you today to start making the changes necessary in your life to show the change Christ started in you when you first came to Him in faith. Oh, you were regenerated, you were made new, you are a new creature in Christ, but maybe you just haven't begun to purposely live that way for Him.

Now is the day for such a change, for when you begin to desire the things of Him over that of your earthly and fleshly desires, then you will be an instrument of true grace towards others. You will have found a faithful testimony of how Christ changed your life and produced in you the Life-Giving Spiritual Cravings that lead to a life that is Holy.

✠ Pastor Jim

Property and Space Plowing

Plowing has been a challenge this year. My 2005 Dodge Ram that I had bought new has had a lot of abuse. It has 157K miles on it, mostly doing charitable work, like plowing the church and working on disaster relief.

I hooked up the plow for a test on October 1st and found that there was no electric power to operate it. Being beyond my repair ability, I made an appointment to have the wiring checked out. The next available appointment was October 19. We prayed for no snow until I could get the truck fixed.

The first storm was on December 19. The plow worked fine until I plugged in the salt spreader, which blew a fuse. The plow was on the same fuse! After replacing the fuse, I was off and running. I haven't tried the salt spreader since then.

Plowing was successfully completed on December 28, and January 7, 11, and 17.

At about 6 p.m. on January 17 on my way home from plowing, I started to get a loud rumbling in the drive train. On Route 28 in Chichester, with a loud thrashing,

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the drive shaft U-joint failed and I was stuck. A tow truck picked me up in about 1/2 hour. The drive shaft was beat up beyond repair. The mechanic found a new one in the Midwest and it took a week to arrive. The truck was ready for the next storm on January 30.

The cost for repairs: plow wiring harness installed for \$955, towing and new drive shaft for \$420.

As I write on Friday, Feb. 4th, snow is falling, so I will be plowing today. Pray for the truck.

✠ Pastor Al

How to Drop a Grace Bomb

In the latest issue of Focus on the Family Magazine, a story by Patrick Linnell explains "an explosive new way to share God's love with others." The new way is the "Grace Bomb."

He stated that "a Grace Bomb is an intentional act of love motivated by Jesus and prompted by the Holy Spirit. It's a tool that can help break the ice with our neighbors through God's kindness and offers an outlet for creativity." The article was slanted toward people with young children who would perform the grace bombing, but can still work for adults.

We are to notice people by becoming more aware of their needs and their situation. The next step is to pray and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit as to how to bless these people.

Before acting on any ideas, you need to create cards that state "You've been Grace Bombed!" Among the ideas discussed in the story are things like this. Learn more about the cashier you always talk to at the local store and listen for clues as to how you can bless that person. Bake some treats and take them to the local police station to thank them for protecting your community. If a crew is working on the road nearby on a hot day, bring them bottles of ice water to refresh them.

In all these cases, give out the Grace Bomb card and explain that you are doing good works to honor God's command to love your neighbor.

Turning from Conflict

This story is from the *Our Daily Bread Devotional* from November 2020. It relates a graveside tribute that Albert Einstein of $E=mc^2$ fame gave in 1928 to Dutch physicist Hendrik Lorentz who made fundamental contributions to the theories of light and electricity.

Read Ephesians 4:26-32 and then read the following story by Patricia Raybon.

In his graveside tribute to a famous Dutch scientist, Albert Einstein didn't mention their scientific disputes. Instead, he recalled the "never-failing kindness" of Hendrik A. Lorentz, a beloved physicist known for his easy manner and fair treatment of others. "Everyone followed him gladly," Einstein said, "for they felt he never set out to dominate but always simply to be of use."

Lorentz inspired scientists to put aside political prejudice and work together, especially after World War I. "Even before the war was over," Einstein said of his fellow Nobel Prize winner, "[Lorentz] devoted himself to the work of reconciliation."

Working for reconciliation should be the goal of everyone in the church as well. True, some conflict is inevitable. Yet we must do our part to work for peaceful resolutions.

Paul wrote, "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry" (Ephesians 4:26). To grow together, the apostle advised, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" (v. 29).

Finally, said Paul, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (vv. 31-32). Turning from conflict whenever we are able helps build God's church. In this, indeed, we honor Him.

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 mornings at 6:30 a.m., enjoy "The Brinkman Adventures," a lively well-done radio drama. 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 anyone celebrating another orbit around the Sun. Is that you?



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

- 2/2 Frank & Nanette Dawson
- 2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

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 Feb. 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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