



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2022

BE THE AROMA OF CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk

Are You Sweet Smelling?

2 Corinthians 2:14-16a

Years ago when I first came to Hillside Baptist, my office was situated in the basement of the parsonage and, like many basements in New Hampshire, a dampness resided in the air, especially during the summer months.

Often that dampness had a pungent and musty smell that would repel most anyone who would dare walk into my office. Often when I went down to my office I would be struck by a wall of weird smells in which I was uncertain of the origins to those uninviting nuggets of gaseous aroma.

One of the things I learned to do was to adapt and overcome, so when I would go into my office I would strike a match and light an aromatic candle. The candles I chose would often be a pleasant and sweet smell of apricot, mango, vanilla, or my favorite at that time was Macintosh Apple. What I found nice about these candles was that they were stronger than the residing smell in my office and often they emitted a pleasant smell that wafted out into the rest of the basement. I found that for the time I was in my office the odiferous smells of that gnarly basement were masked by a sweet aroma and of course I enjoyed that over and above the usual mustiness that lingered within the basement.

As I consider this illustration on pungent smells, I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a. The NIV translates this passage, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Aug. 27 – Pembroke and Allenstown Old Home Day

Weekly:

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

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

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – Tuesday Night Bible Study

God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other the fragrance of life."

Much like the candle burning in my office, the smell of Christ is far sweeter than our aroma without him. Our sin and selfishness often leaves a stench of odor that God cannot tolerate and when the smell reaches His nostrils He cannot tolerate the pungent residue of sin that resides upon our hearts and souls. With Jesus all things are sweeter and when we have Christ's atonement upon our souls we are sweeter in the eyes of the Father.

What I think is most interesting about this passage is the result of the aroma of Christ in our lives. To those who refuse Him and resist His offer for

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

salvation the aroma of Christ in us is repulsive and is a reminder of their deadness before God. The proclamation of Christ and our witness is the "smell of death" to those who are choosing to go it alone without Him, which is such an interesting phraseology that Paul chose in this passage.

I have seen bodies after one dies and there is no question that if one waits too long to have funeral, there is a lingering smell that is totally indigenous to a decaying body – it is unmistakable to the senses. In this passage Paul tells us that this decaying smell is the smell that fallen individuals have upon their soul when they purposefully refuse the message of Christ and the salvation He offers. When they smell the aroma of Christ in us it is the smell of death to them. Yet to those individuals who readily receive Christ's salvation through the one who brings the message, it becomes the fragrance of life to new believers. A fragrance that is a pleasant and clean smell, which is the aroma of life and vitality that springs up from within for all eternity.

Perhaps another way to look at this analogy of the aroma of Christ is like that of a stagnant pool versus a lake. The stagnant pool has nothing feeding it except rain water in which there is no spring that comes up from within it, no river entering into or exiting it, no supply of fresh water to replenish it. The pool of water is stagnant and useless and often smelly breeding bacteria, a pool filled with mosquito larva and insects.

Such a pool is unlike a lake that has springs welling up from within, tributaries entering and exiting, and rain water rushing into it through the filtering of natural means. The stagnant pool has limited life, often is dead and shallow. The lake has life teaming through it and is alive with activity and is full of fresh water.

That is the difference between one who receives Christ and one who rejects Him. The one who rejects is dead and has no life within him, while the one who receives Christ has life teaming through him and is alive with the sweet fragrance that reaches the senses of the Father in heaven.

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Property and Space Patrol

In the month of July the yard was mowed three times.

Two large ash tree branches fell on the power lines next to the church after a storm. This caused a great strain on all three lines and blocked the entrance to the parsonage driveway.

Eversource promptly removed them the next day.

✠ Pastor Jim

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to these people who celebrate another orbit around the Sun:

8/9 Nathan Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month.

If that is you, please let the editor know about it.

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 mornings at 6:30 a.m., enjoy "The Brinkman Adventures," a lively well-done radio drama. In the wee hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings, if you can't sleep, tune in to Praise & Worship music.

During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly. In the evenings catch the latest episode of "Adventures in Odyssey."

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

Pastor's Desk, from p. 2

As we read and understand this passage in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a about the aroma of Christ, one must understand that this aroma is only effective if expressed by the believer. If a believer is busy trying to fit in with the world, then one's aromatic effectiveness is diminished and repressed. In order for the aroma of Christ to waft unto others, for death or for life, we as believers must first live as Christ would have us. We must be that witness of His to all who are around us. We must be believers who live according to His will and commands as laid out in His word. We have to be willing to take a stand for the truth of the message of Christ and the message of salvation.

Often many Christians do not want to offend and thus through Christ be an aroma of death, but would rather be on the sidelines and not make a stand so that they can maintain the status quo with friends and family. Some believers go purposefully out of the way not to be offensive and thus they never ever retain the fragrance of Christ on their hearts or in their lives. To which I can relate to such hesitancy, but we must never forget that to be a Christian is to be one who is an agent of offense.

Christ is offensive to those who reject Him. His fragrance is the stench of death. If this is the case, which it is, then we must be His agents and thus profess the Gospel as given to us by the word of God which is the fragrance of life to us and an aroma of death to those who reject Him.

My prayer for you today is that you learn to be the aroma of Christ in your life whether it is the stench of death or the sweet smell of life.

May you know rejection and ridicule for Christ.

May you know what it means to be mocked for standing up for what is truthful and right.

May you choose to serve Him over and above that of the collective communal thoughts of peace within our society.

May you be that candle in this world that burns so sweetly that God the Father takes pleasure in the aroma of Christ upon your life and upon your soul.

✠ Pastor Jim

Jesus Is Our Peace

The following story comes from the Our Daily Bread devotional booklet for July 29, 2021. It was written by Con Campbell. First read Ephesians 2:11-22 and then read the story.

A monk named Telemachus lived a quiet life, but his death at the end of the fourth century changed the world. Visiting Rome from the East, Telemachus intervened in the blood sport of the gladiatorial arena. He jumped over the stadium wall and tried to stop the gladiators from killing each other. But the outraged crowd stoned the monk to death. The emperor Honorius, however, was moved by Telemachus' act and decreed the end of the 500-year practice of gladiator games.

When Paul calls Jesus "our peace," he refers to the end of hostility between Jews and gentiles (Ephesians 2:14). God's chosen people Israel were distinct from the nations and enjoyed certain privileges. For instance, while gentiles were allowed to worship at the Jerusalem temple, a dividing wall restricted them to the outer court—on punishment of death. Jews regarded gentiles unclean, and they experienced mutual hostility. But now, because of Jesus' death and resurrection for all, both Jew and gentile can worship God freely through faith in Him (vv. 18–22). There's no dividing wall. There's no privilege of one group over the other. Both are equal in their standing before God.

Just as Telemachus brought peace to warriors through his death, so Jesus makes peace and reconciliation possible for all who believe in Him through His death and resurrection. So, if Jesus is our peace, let's not let our differences divide us. He's made us one by His blood.

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.

Sermons are also recorded weekly and published on the web site as podcasts in MP3 format.

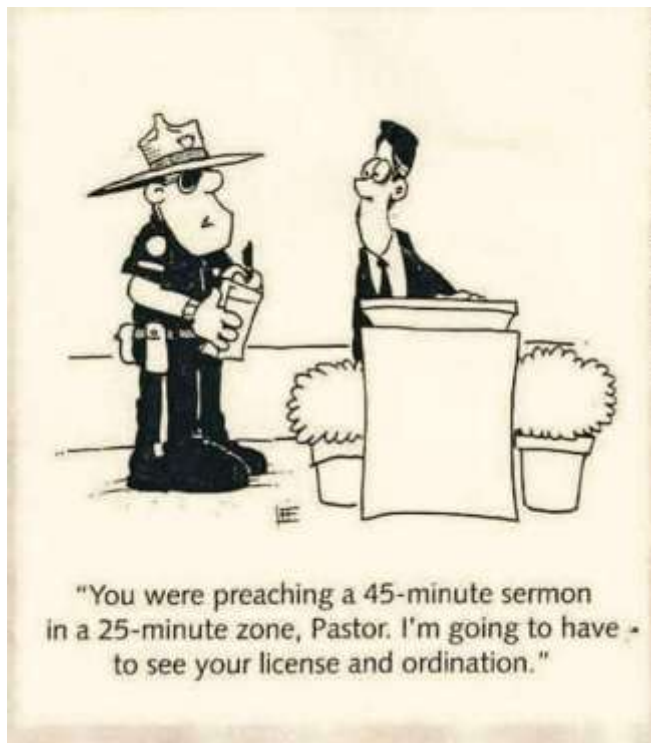
Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Aug. 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.

A Little Bit of Humor



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