



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2022

Will You Accept Christ Today?

From the Pastor's Desk

Being on the Right Path

Proverbs 14:12

The other morning I was going about my daily routine, I got my breakfast, drank my coffee, cleaned up my mess, and headed out to go up the outside stairs to my office over the garage. My focus in the moment, like many mornings, was taking in the beautiful scenery the deck provides at the parsonage. I wasn't really looking straight forward in my pace for my head was swiveled over to the yard and the gorgeous morning sunlight.

As I turned the corner to go up the stairs I stepped on the first step with much vigor and forward momentum only to be surprised by an industrious spider who had built herself a large web spanning from rail to rail down to the stair tread. Now mind you that artful work glistening in the early morning light was not there the night before, but low and behold it was there in its entire splendor threatening to ruin my day if I didn't dodge it quick enough.

As I contorted my body to evade the web and very large spider, at least it was to me, I recognized that the little arachnid was just as much in a hurry to get out of my way as I was hers. She was at the very center of her web and couldn't move fast enough to the top and over to the rail to get out of my sight lines.

I was able to avoid colliding into the web and as I stepped back I noticed the beauty of her design. It was a very large intricate structure with the sole purpose of death and catching her prey. And you know what? Catching her prey she did, for smack

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Sept. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Sept. 11 – 21st anniversary of 9/11

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. – Weekly Bible Study on hold until Sept. 20

in the middle of the web was where she was at in the process of enjoying what she caught the night before when I disturbed her.

So what did I do? I did what most sensible individuals would do when confronted with an eight legged pregnant monster like her, I shoed her to the deck level and stomped on her with the intensity and ferocity of a thousand earthquakes. All that was left of her on my right shoe was goop and gack to which I proceeded to swipe it off using that first step that I quickly jumped off of to get away from her.

As I was going up the stairs I was thinking about that poor little defenseless fang-toting hairy-legged monster that I dispatched with great cunning and power. What exactly was I thinking about regarding that moment? I was thinking that, though she was able to catch her prey as she

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Events | Property & Space Patrol | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

intended, she in fact picked the worst possible spot on the entire deck, the spot where she would encounter humanity, namely me.

She didn't choose the corner of the eaves of the building, she didn't choose under the deck where there was a similar span and opportunity to catch prey, she didn't choose in between the vertical spindles under the rails, no she chose smack dab in the middle of the walking path and she paid the heavy price of her life for such a foolish decision.

Many such encounters and events in life ought to remind us of the word of God. Years ago I was reading C. H. Spurgeon's book on "Lectures to My Students," and in his book he talked about the minister's need to keep his eyes open to everyday moments that provide reflection of God's word.

So after I had righteously conquered my evil foe on the battle ground of wood and nail, I thought about the passage in Proverbs 14:12 that says, "There is a way *which seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (NASB 1996)

What does that mean? It means that humanity plans and plots throughout life thinking that the decisions being made apart from God seems right in all that they are doing, but ultimately because God has no part in those decisions, it leads to their ruin and even death.

There are many things in life that individuals think are right, humanly speaking, I mean after all if they didn't perceive the rightness of their thinking they would change it, right? However, left to themselves they will continue to move forward and never consider the ways or will of God in their plans.

There are many people out there who will never consider the long-term eternal effects of their life decisions because they either live in the moment or they don't believe God, if there is one, cares what they do. Thus they go about their daily lives with no concern of the divine rightness or wrongness of their decisions unless it may affect someone else in their lives.

This is never more dangerous than when it comes to the eternal state of a living soul. The world says there are many ways to heaven, and a resounding

See Pastor's Message on p. 3

Sunday School Topics for the Fall

This Fall we will examine the Old Testament prophets of Amos, Jonah, Hosea, and Micah. In our Sunday School sessions, we will study how God sent them to warn Judah and Israel that judgment was coming. Their messages still resonate today because God takes sin seriously, and He will take action to bring individuals and nations back to Him.

For the northern Kingdom of Israel, the Assyrians attacked around 740 BC and took the people into exile. For Judah, the Babylonians attacked in 587/586 BC and took many of the people captive into Babylon.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The study sessions are currently on hold but are scheduled to resume on September 20th.

Property and Space Patrol

The lawn was mowed two time this past month and Pastor Al and I trimmed low hanging tree limbs and picked up fallen brush in the yard. We then made a run to the Dirt Doctor on Route 106 to dispose of the brush.

Pastor Al also fixed a door in the downstairs ladies restroom.

✝ Pastor Jim

Traveling Mercies

The following somewhat humorous travellog comes from the Our Daily Bread Devotional for July 17 of this year. Read the focal scripture passage in Deuteronomy 2:1-7 in which the Lord gave Moses some travel directions, and then read the story.

You might start your journey in the southwest United States in a dusty town called Why, Arizona. Heading cross-country would take you through Uncertain, Texas. Bearing northeast, you'd make a rest stop in Dismal, Tennessee. Ultimately, you'd reach your destination—Panic, Pennsylvania. These are real places across the landscape of America, though not likely a trip you'd ever choose to take.

Sometimes this is exactly what the journey of life feels like. We easily identify with the Israelites'

See Traveling Mercies on p. 3

Pastor's Message, from p. 2

chorus throughout all religions cries “amen” to such a statement. To the human mind it makes sense that all roads lead to God, but it is surface level understanding at best and it seems right to such people; in the end their perceived understanding of God is wrong, thus it leads to death.

How terrible it is for individuals to go their whole life thinking they are right with God and that they have figured another way to heaven apart from the eternal cleansing work of the blood of Christ Jesus, but in the end only to find when they stand before Him in heaven He will not acknowledge them for their sinful pride of going it their own way. Such belief leads to death.

Oh they who proclaim many ways to heaven think they are right, they believe their reasoning is sound, they even assert the wisdom of their ways in contrast to the narrowness of Bible thumping Christians, but what they perceive as true is not and ultimately has dire and deadly consequences when it is all said and done.

When I think about that vicious arachnid and her belief that her way was the right way to survive and thrive in this life I am reminded that in the end her approach led to her death and she is no more. A day of ruin and destruction by way of a righteous right foot came upon her with much pain and turmoil in her short lived existence here on earth and that death is final. So too many people will hope in the day to come that they were good enough, or they did enough good things to outweigh the bad, or that God is a loving God who will not cast them away from Himself, or that as long as they had faith in faith itself that everything will work out then they will be fine.

Such thinking will in the end lead to eternal death. Not the death of dying in the flesh, for everyone will be raised to life again on the Day of Judgment, but the second death that Revelation tells us falls upon those who do not know Christ and then are sent to eternal punishment for their sin, for they did not trust in the Lord Jesus as their Savior to atone for their very souls. I'm sure such people are living their lives now in way that seems right to them, but the warning is given, in the end it leads to death.

However, it doesn't have to be so for the warning is given in Scripture to repent of your sin, turn to Christ for salvation, and be born again into new life eternal with Him, and you will be saved from that eternal death.

Will you accept Christ today as your Savior? I pray you will for you will no longer be on a path that leads to death, but on the right path God has placed before you leading to life eternal with Him.

God Bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Travelling Mercies, from p. 2

tough life in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 2:7)—life can be hard. But do we see the other parallels? We create our own itinerary, turning from God's way (1:42–43). Like the Israelites, we often grumble about getting our needs met (Numbers 14:2). In our daily fretting, we likewise doubt God's purposes (v. 11). The story of the Israelites is repeated over and over in our own.

God assures us that if we follow His path, He'll deliver us into a far better place than Dismal. He'll provide and we'll lack nothing we really need (Deuteronomy 2:7; Philippians 4:19). Yet as much as we already know this, we often fail to do it. We need to follow God's roadmap.

It's a bit more of a drive, but another six hours by car would take you from the town of Panic to the place known as Assurance, West Virginia. If we let God direct our paths (Psalm 119:35), we'll journey in joy with Him at the wheel – blessed assurance indeed!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

9/1 Mark Guzior

9/22 Julie Jenkins



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on any people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please let the editor know so we can celebrate it with you.

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/>.

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 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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