



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2023

Forgiven and Forgotten

From the Pastor's Desk

Divine Forgetfulness Over Your Forgiven Sins

Isaiah 43:25 & Psalm 103:12

This past week Pastor Al and I did something unusual this time of year here in New Hampshire. What did we do? We did some yard work in the midst of the month of February. We have had an unseasonably warm winter this year and it carried over into this past month, which gave us some opportunity to get a leg up on the immense yard work throughout the cleared four acres of property.

What kind of work was it? Well it was the kind of work that I most often wished someone else had to do. However, when finished it was pretty rewarding to see some of the final results.

Due to the various winter storms and dying trees around the yard we picked up ample amount of fallen branches. We also picked up debris and trash throughout the front yard. We had to pull out the chain saw and cut up some of the larger branches as well as cut down overgrowth around many of the trees.

To save some other trees we cut invasive vines and pulled them out of the branches, some of which reached up to fifty feet high into the trees. We cut the trunk of larger vines that were choking out the base of some of the trees. We even had to cut out some old Christmas lighting that was left behind and over the last decade began to move upward as the tree grew.

Some of the vines were easy, others were full of pricklers, and some even had uneatable berries on them, all of them were hard to handle.

We loaded everything into Pastor Al's trailer and took all of the brush and branches and hauled it all

Upcoming Events and Meetings

March 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

March 8, 7:00 p.m. – Weds. Bible Study starts up

March 12 – Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) starts

April 2 – Palm Sunday

Weekly:

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

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

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

to the Dirt Doctor off of Rt. 106 to never be seen again, at least by us.

That brush and debris is a perfect illustration of how sin is in our lives. Think of your soul as the ground in which the seed of sin lives and acts regularly in your life. The good tree is the work that God does within you which is healthy, fruitful, and productive.

couple of ways, first it tends to creep into your heart in ways that, if left unchecked, can kill the roots, inner trunk, and branches of your spiritual tree.

Eventually over time dead branches begin to fall off when the winds of life and difficulty come your way leaving much brush and debris upon the

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Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

fallow ground of your soul. Branches, leaves, and bark begin to be scattered all over the place possibly indicating a potentially larger problem of sin and spiritual decay in your walk with the Lord.

Secondly, the seed of sin can also sprout up like an invasive vine that seeks to destroy that spiritual tree by squeezing it from without at the trunk, or slithering up along the various branches reaching to the up and destroying you from top to bottom.

Such sinful vines can be full of the pricklers of pleasure and avarice which can hurt you all the more when you try to remove them. Some vines have poisonous and uneatable berries that prove out the unhealthy course of action you've taken in life, actions that are less about God and more about you.

Thus when you try to remove them on your own, you end up dealing with a tangled mess that wraps you up, clings to you, and sticks you hard in places that cause you to bleed and be in pain.

As I was thinking about the process of cleaning things up both physically and spiritually, I was reminded of a theological truth about the forgiveness of our sin which is found in Isaiah and in Psalms. In Isaiah 43:25 God tells the nation of Israel, "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." (ESV) And then in Psalm 103:12 David declares of the mercies and forgiveness of God writing, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (NASB 95)

So taking those two passages together regarding forgiven sins, God almighty blots out such sins for His glory and for His sake when we come to Him in repentance to be remembered no more by Him. He does this by casting them away from Himself as far as the east is from the west. Here it is in a nutshell, God enacts divine forgetfulness over your forgiven sins.

Biblically speaking, what needs to happen is to go to God for forgiveness, not to be freed again from the initial forgiveness we received at our salvation, but for the forgiveness that we need because we still live in this fallen flesh that pulls us in the opposite direction of God's will for our lives.

When we seek forgiveness for those sins that are produced from wantonness and earthly pleasure God comes into our lives and picks up all those fallen branches sin has produced. He also cleans the surface of our souls by removing debris and brush. He cuts the vines of sinful passions and pleasures at their base and pulls them divinely off of us freeing us from their grip. When He is done He hauls them off into oblivion never to be seen again, by Him or by anyone else.

Thus when the process is complete no one, not you, the devil, or any other fallen angel can ever bring an accusation of that sin against you ever again, because God has no knowledge of that sin for it does not exist.

When we think of sin in our lives, it is the seed that sits plenteous and deep within our very souls. When we come to him in repentance for salvation, we are granted that eternal forgiveness over our transgressions, sins, and iniquities.

However as Scripture teaches us we are still in the flesh and we war within our flesh with the seed of sin even though the seed of God lives within us.

So we will inevitably commit sinful acts against God in our daily lives, some intentional others unintentional. However, all can be eternally forgiven and forgotten if we just repent and seek the Lord's forgiveness. Thus, when we do, He remembers His own word and promises and then forgives and forgets accordingly.

What an amazing God we worship, one who loves us so much that He chooses to look upon us as pure individuals in Christ Jesus His Son and remembers our sins no more. All praise and glory and majesty to Him we give, Amen.

✠ Pastor Jim

Property and Space Patrol

A few times the driveway and parking lots needed to be plowed. February seemed to be ending with several back-to-back snow falls.

As mention in the Pastor's Message, the previous mild weather motivated us to clear out a lot of fallen branches and cut out a good many bittersweet and other vines that had been wrapping around and choking many of the trees. Thank God that the Dirt Doctor accepts such material.

✠ Pastor Jim and Al

Welcome Eastern Daylight Time



Early Sunday morning, March 12th, we all switch to EDT. Before you hit the sack on Saturday night, make sure you **set your clocks ahead one hour** (spring forward) or else you will be an hour late to church services.

This means we will be four hours behind Greenwich, England instead of five hours behind. Greenwich is the international home of Universal Time and is designated as the prime meridian, which is 0° longitude.

The loss of one hour of sleep will be offset by more evening daylight. On March 11, sunset will be at 5:47 p.m. EST. On March 12, sunset will be at 6:48 p.m. EDT.

Come on, Springtime!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 3/13 Robyn King
- 3/30 Amanda Robertson



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

- 3/4 Tom & June Cairns

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 March 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.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

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