



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 22 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2023

31 Days of Proverbs

From the Pastor's Desk

A Great Message from a Great Proverb

Proverbs 30:7-9

Have you ever eaten a fortune cookie after gorging yourself at a Chinese food restaurant? I find it interesting that they now have lottery numbers on one side while on the other is the fortune. In reality, the so-called fortune is more liken to a proverb doctored up and modernized for our westernized culture.

One cookie may have a fortune that says, "He who smiles much receives many smiles in return." Another may say, "You are ambitious and many good things will happen to you." Perhaps another may say, "One who eats much food must buy a new belt."

These of course are not just a little funny, but also proverbial in nature. The beauty of this style of fortune telling is that all you have to do is observe the world around you and it is easy to fabricate one, for that is what I did with all three fortunes above.

Much of ancient literature is filled with proverbs from many different cultures and periods of human history that are beautiful and artistic in nature, but there is only one type that is truly God inspired. Those of course are the ones within the canon of Holy Scripture.

The greatest compilation of such proverbs is easy to find, all you need to do is just look in the table of contents under the Old Testament heading and you will find the name of the book is Proverbs. Better still, open the Bible near to the middle and

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Aug. 26 – Old Home Day, Memorial Field, Pembroke

Aug. 27 – National "Just Because" Day

Weekly:

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

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

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

you probably will open up to it or the book of Psalms which is the book just before it.

The Proverbs in Scripture are far different from those you might hear from other cultures. Most proverbs from history are wise sayings that have a general truth to them that if observed then what is stated is likely to happen within reason. What makes the proverbs in Scripture so much more important is that they are wisdom from God that leads to godliness, which ultimately leads us to a position of being able to please God and acknowledge His divine guidance in our lives.

One of my favorite proverbs is not from Solomon, who wrote the majority of the proverbs, but from Agur. The passage is found in Proverbs 30:7-9.

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)

He wrote,

“Two things I ask of You,

Do not refuse me before I die:

Keep deception and lies far from me,

Give me neither poverty nor riches;

Feed me with the food that is my portion,

That I not be full and deny You and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’

Or that I not be in want and steal,

And profane the name of my God.” (NASB)

Notice that in this passage the wise Agur asks God for two things. First, he asked God to keep deception and lies far from him. This is indeed a wise request, for lies and deception can lead one away from worshipping the true God of all creation.

Agur knew that lies are the seedbed of discontent and deception is the seed of waywardness, and this he did not want to happen to him. Therefore, his request is one that many of us should also strive to beg of God, to keep deception and lies at bay lest they lead us astray.

Second, he asked God for the middle ground in his finances and wealth. He did not want too much or too little. Wisely, he recognized the eternal truth that if one feels fat and happy he or she will potentially deny that there is a God, for such a person may believe they no longer need His assistance. Such an attitude smacks of self-reliance, which is pride and God opposes the proud in heart.

At the opposite end of that pendulum is the aspect that if one does not have enough one might steal what he or she needs. To Agur that was also deplorable for such behavior profanes the righteousness of God and in action demonstrates to those watching that he does not trust God to provide.

Notice this two-fold proverb is one that points to eternal truths. I do not know about you, but the last thing I want is to be around those who lie and deceive, nor would I think anyone would want to be around me if I was a deceiver.

Such individuals are considered ungodly and to be avoided for the sake of one's own protection and sanity. Also, too much or too little of money and

provisions can lead one down a path that is despicable to man and is obviously opposite of God.

This is just one demonstration of such wonderful proverbs in the word of God, proverbs that are more than just quip sayings and fun platitudes, but instead Godly ones that guide us to Godly living.

I leave you with this, if you have yet to notice the structure of the book of Proverbs then take a moment to see how many chapters are in this wonderful book. To help you along I will let you know that there are thirty-one, pretty much one chapter for each day of the month.

That gives you one chapter of proverbs for a day to educate and to encourage yourself in the Lord. If you have never done so, then let me encourage you to consider reading through the book of Proverbs in one month.

Since the month of August has thirty-one days, it would be a good time to try it and, who knows, you might find a few favorites of your own.

May the Lord bless you on your journey of discovering Him more and more each day.

✠ Pastor Jim

**Property and Space Patrol**

Grounds keeping tasks for the past month included: mowing the lawn, putting new numbers on the buildings and mailbox, and regular cleaning occurring in the church building.

See Property & Space, p. 3

Property & Space, from p. 2

The fire alarm system was inspected and many things need to be addressed.

Two trees need to be removed in the front of the property as well as having several dying ash trees removed throughout the property.

✝ Pastor Jim

When You're a Home-School Parent

Your kids don't know the answer to, "What grade are you in?"

You can take a family trip off-season and not miss out on schoolwork.

You add a new bookshelf to your collection every year.

You care more about the point of an experiment than the mess it is making.

Morning and afternoon breaks are for sibling playtime.

Lunch time is family time.

Snack time is part of a child's chemistry experiment.

Character matters regardless of the academic subject.

You and your kids can read the Bible and pray during the day.

Your kids are motivated to get their schoolwork done so they can play.

Your kids have more time for after-school activities and friends because their schoolwork is done.

Pajamas are your school uniform – for students and the teacher.

You have time to study your children, to know what they need, and how best to deliver that knowledge to them.

You relearn math, history, and English, and find it fascinating as you teach these subjects to your children.

Another adult wonders out loud what it is that you do all day, and you laugh.

[This story comes courtesy of the Aug/Sep issue of *Focus on the Family Magazine*.]

✝ Skay Johnson

WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREAT OUR CELLPHONES?

WHAT IF WE...

...CARRIED IT WITH US EVERYWHERE?

...TURNED BACK TO GO GET IT IF WE FORGOT IT?

...CHECKED IT FOR MESSAGES THROUGHOUT THE DAY?

...USED IT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

...SPENT AN HOUR OR MORE USING IT EACH DAY?



[All graphics courtesy of Tom Cairns]

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 8/12 Virginia Smith
- 8/13 Stephanie Carpenter
- 8/16 Brenda Thomas



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

Maybe it's too hot to get married in August.

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 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.

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