



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2023

LOSE YOUR LIFE OF HIS SAKE

From the Pastor's Desk

The Christian paradox that the world does not understand

Luke 9:23-25

There is a paradox in our region of the world that largely goes unnoticed by many individuals in our society. You yourself may not have given it much thought, but I guarantee that if you have lived here at any length that you have experienced it at one point or another. What is this paradox I speak of?

Well it goes like this, how is it that in the spring time, after the winter cold has been endured, that we find that 50-60 degree weather is akin to a heat wave, and that later in the year, after we have enjoyed the summer heat, that 50-60 degree weather feels like freezing temperatures?

In the spring we shed jackets, roll up the sleeves, and slow down to bask in the warmer temperatures; while in the late fall we scramble to find our winter gear, jack up the heat in the house, and move a bit more briskly from one place to another. The paradox is how can the same temperature be both hot and cold? I don't know about you, but it is aggravating to experience that paradox every year.

As I consider this paradox, there is a profound one in Scripture that the world just cannot understand about the Christian life. It is found in Luke 9:23-25; "And He (Jesus) was saying to *them* all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Nov. 4 – Turn clocks back 1 hour

Nov. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Nov. 5, midday – Potluck Lunch & Business Meeting

Nov. 11 – Veterans' Day

Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 24 – Black Friday (avoid shopping)

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 Stud: Book of Revelation

he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?" (NASB)

Jesus clearly tells us in this passage that the Christian life is marked by a desire to lose one's life so that he or she may be saved in Him.

The first step is to deny oneself. In other words it means that all that you hold dear in this life; your passions, drive, desires, and self-importance must be sacrificed. You must put to death those inclinations within you and instead follow Jesus' will for you. You must be ready to subject

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

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yourself fully to His leading in your life and hold your own self as nothing to the point you are will to die daily for Him.

By giving yourself to Him fully you are essentially ending your life, the old self is crucified and the new self is born anew in Christ. By losing your life and following Christ you in fact will save it for eternity.

But the one who refuses to do this often does so because he or she is unwilling to give up his or her life for Jesus. Thus, the unsaved ends up holding tightly to what he or she has going on in this life living for self and the desires of eyes and flesh. In the end the attempt to keep or save one's life results in losing it for eternity.

This paradox is hard for fallen humanity to embrace, if for no other reason than it runs counter intuitive to what a person should do in this life. No one is righteous, not even one, for we pursue with gusto the pleasures of this life.

So when the gospel is presented unexpectedly to someone who is not looking for it, that person is confronted with the truth of their sin. As the Holy Spirit presents this truth, the individual is tasked with answering or rejecting the call – a proverbial spiritual fork in the road.

One way leads to dying to self and living in Christ, the other way leads to living for self and dying apart from Christ in the end.

To the one who has been waiting their whole life for the good news of the gospel, joy is found in the dying of oneself for Jesus, for in Him is life eternal.

But to the one who is fully self-absorbed and narcissistic, the good news is at minimum an annoyance and at worst an affront to their sensibilities and thus they outright reject Jesus and instead embraces the here and now. They choose their life as it is and cash out for the temporary pleasures of this world and in the end find eternal death and separation from the grace, love, and mercy of God.

As Christians we sit back in wonder why someone would even consider this immediate exchange for life now and end up choosing death in the long

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Time Change

On Saturday night Nov. 4th before bedtime, be sure to set your clocks back one hour as we transition from Eastern Daylight Time to the dreaded Eastern Standard Time.



If you don't do this, when you think you are on time for the 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, you will actually arrive at 8:30 a.m. and have to sit in your car waiting for someone to open the church.

If you do correctly set your clock back one hour, then you will get an extra hour of snoozing. How great is that? But it will suddenly be darker earlier at the end of the day.

Or you could take advantage of that extra hour and vacuum the house or do a load of wash before you leave for church!

Fellowship Events

On Sunday November 5th, the church will hold a Potluck Lunch right after the Worship Service.

If you are a member or wish to be a member, stay for the

Business Meeting in which the major agenda item is to approve the 2024 Budget as developed by the Finance Committee.

Property and Space Patrol

The following items describe building and grounds activities for the past month.

- A general cleanup of the church is being done every couple of weeks.
- There was no need to mow this past month; it will get a last mowing soon.
- We have received four bids for the replacement of the parsonage roofing. The Finance Committee has decided on which bid to propose at the next business meeting.
- We have consulted with two foresters on how to best manage the 18 acre woodlot we have behind the parsonage and are awaiting bids.

✝ Pastor Jim

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run. But at the same time, the non-believer, the worldly wise, also sits back and wonders how we as Christians could be so stupid as to give up what we have now for someone else in the hopes of having something later. It is a paradox that the world just cannot understand.

Do you know individuals in your life who do not understand the Christian paradox of life? Have you ever met someone whom you knew rejected Jesus because of this principle of faith? Are you someone who is reading this now and still does not get it?

If so pray that you do get it, for your eternal destiny is on the line. To those of us who know individuals who have rejected Jesus for this reason or others let me encourage you to share your faith all the more with them so that they too will know what it is to die to self so that they can live eternally with Christ, to embrace the Christian paradox of faith.

Blessings,
✝ Pastor Jim

Veterans' Day

On Saturday November 11, let us commemorate this day in memory of all those veterans who have served this country, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice and died to keep us a free nation.

In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.” This became known as Armistice Day.

After much lobbying in the 1950s by veterans’ organizations, the 83rd Congress amended a 1938

to change the name to Veterans Day, which legislation President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law on June 1, 1954.

Managing Our Gifts

The following essay written by Patricia Raybon comes from the *Our Daily Bread* Devotional for March 2, 2022. Read 1 Peter 4:7–11 and note that in verse 4:10, Peter stressed the importance of spiritual gifts. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace.”

In 2013, British actor David Suchet was filming the final TV episodes as Agatha Christie’s beloved Belgian detective Hercule Poirot—and also starring in a stage play—when he took on “the biggest role in [his] life.” Between those projects he recorded an audio version of the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation—752,702 words—over two hundred hours.

Suchet, who became a believer in Jesus after reading the book of Romans in a Bible he found in a hotel room, called the project the fulfillment of “a 27-year-long ambition. I felt totally driven. I did so much research on every part of it that I couldn’t wait to get going.” Then he donated his wages.

His recording remains an inspiring example of how to glorify God by stewarding a gift, then sharing it. Peter urged such stewardship in his letter to first-century believers. Persecuted for worshiping Jesus, not Caesar, they were challenged to focus instead on living for God by nurturing their spiritual gifts. “If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God” (1 Peter 4:11). Like all gifts, we can develop them “so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

Suchet offered his talents to God. We can do the same. Whatever God has given to you, manage it well for His glory.

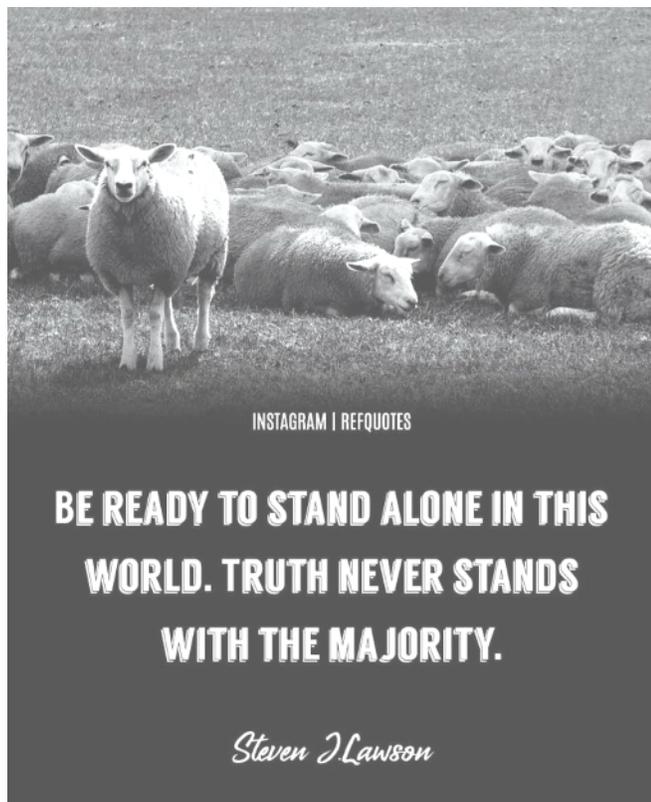
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to someone who celebrates another orbit around the Sun:

11/29 Michelle Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that is you, please notify the Editor.



Submitted by Tom 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 Nov. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



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Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Convention of New Hampshire, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Modeling the truth of God's Word



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