



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 24 No. 2

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2025

A Process of Decay

From the Pastor's Desk

In Romans 8:20-22 Paul mentions that even Creation is imperfect and looking forward to the perfection God will establish when Jesus returns. Notice that Paul says the Creation is caught in a process of DECAY.

**20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to DECAY and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.**

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Without being scientists we all understand quite well about Creation's DECAY. Heat decays into cold. All of life decays into death. Objects in motion slow down and stop. Gardens and lawns decay into weeds.

But DECAY is also a fact in human affairs. Empires rise, fall and die. Churches that start out spiritual and idealistic are prone to decay into superficiality and materialism. Individual Christians have a tendency to decay into shallowness and sin.

UNLESS !! new energy is applied or injected. New energy stops and reverses DECAY and brings new life. For instance, you can prevent your attractive lawn or productive vegetable garden from decaying into weeds by regularly adding new energy in the form of weeding, mowing, and fertilizing. A bouncing ball will slow down and

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Feb. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 5, 9 a.m. – Pastor Search Comm.

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb. 17 – Presidents' Day

Weekly:

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

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

Preaching Schedule: Feb. 2, 9, 16 – Pastor Tom

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study at the Cairns home

stop bouncing, UNLESS you grab it and bounce it hard again.

How do you suppose we can stop and reverse the natural DECAY in human lives and affairs? For a person, reversing the DECAY requires the injection of new energy in the form of the spiritual power that comes from God. And we unlock God's spiritual power through constant spiritual renewal of faith, repentance for sin, regular worship of God, and harvesting God's wisdom from the Bible.

After decaying spiritually and committing a couple of the worst sins possible, King David sought to recover from his decay and enter into

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Property & Space Patrol | Pastor Search | Presidents | Letter to NH Churches | Trials | The Bible | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

new life as described by him in Psalm 51. After confessing his sins, in verses 10-12 he asks God for the injection of new energy he desperately needs.

**10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

The Christian life has a lot in common with riding a bicycle. If you quit pedaling your bike (on flat ground) you will slow down and stop. To keep moving you have to keep pedaling.

The same is true in the Christian life: you're either injecting new spiritual energy OR you're decaying into coldness, lack of fruit, emptiness, and coming to a complete stop. You're either growing in the Christian life or you're slowing down to a stop. Keep pedaling! Seek God every day!!

[Editor: Paul revealed an understanding of the laws of thermodynamics and the concept of entropy.]

✠ Pastor Tom

Property and Space Patrol

A few small snowstorms were cleared away this past month. Sunday Services were unaffected.

The Robertsons continue to live in and maintain the parsonage while searching for a new home in the Bennington, VT area. Keep them in prayer since housing out there is extremely tight.

Pastor Search Committee

Pastor Tom reported that the committee is interviewing candidates in order to find "the one!" Keep praying that the Lord will bring the right one to us.

Presidential Birthdays

Four U. S. presidents have February birthdays: **Ronald Reagan** (Feb. 6, 1911) famous for "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!", **William Henry Harrison** (Feb. 9, 1773) the first U.S. president to die in office, **Abraham Lincoln** (Feb. 12, 1809) who brought us through the Civil War, and **George Washington**, our first President (February

22, 1732), "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

To make these historic dates less meaningful, the federal government created a federal holiday on the third Monday in February, called Presidents' Day. This is another sad excuse to give government and bank employees another day off to go shopping.

A Letter to New Hampshire Church Leaders

Having pastored in New Hampshire for more than fifteen years, I know what it's like to serve here in one of the least religious states in the nation. I've seen firsthand the challenges, as well as the amazing opportunities.

I have also seen the difference a healthy, encouraging community can make in the life of a leader. That's why I'm here to partner with you, equip you and encourage you.

Partnering: A team sport

Ministry is a team sport, and over the years I have seen God move mightily through partnerships. Connecting through pastor/leader fellowships can be a tremendous blessing. Maybe God is leading your church to engage in foster care/adoption ministry, recovery work, prison ministry, or another ministry to show the love of Christ to your community. Or maybe you're interested in hosting mission teams or developing a church partnership. If you need a hand in taking your next steps, I'm here to help.

Equipping you to equip the saints

I look forward to helping you fulfill your call of equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Through the BCNE, there is help available for leadership development, pastoral transitions, small group/Sunday School training, evangelism training and other regional training events. As a pastor/leader you don't have to do it all alone – the BCNE family is here to help.

Support through encouragement

As Regional Coordinator, my goal is to be an encouragement to you. I love meeting with pastors and leaders for fellowship, coaching, consulting, celebration or just to be a safe listening ear.

As a local pastor and a father of six kids, I would never survive without the team of support God has placed around me. The BCNE wants to be a part of your team so you can see the ministry God has entrusted to you thrive for the sake of the Gospel.

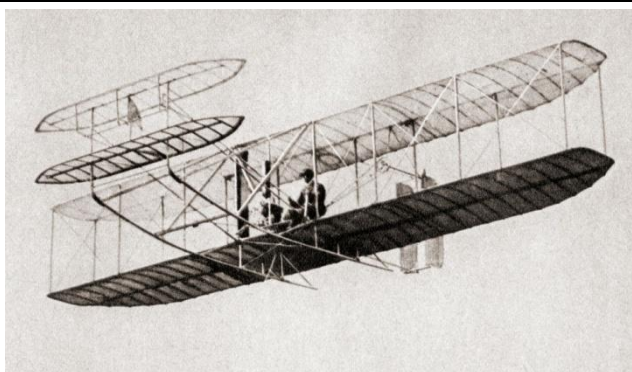
✠ Rich Clegg

New Hampshire Regional Coordinator
Baptist Convention of New England
rclegg@bcne.net

The Gift of Trials

This devotional is based on 1 Peter in which the apostle Peter encouraged believers to endure their suffering as followers of Christ. Even Jesus had warned, “If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also.” John 15:20.

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19 and then see how Our Daily Bread writer Patricia Raybon applied this to the Wright Brothers.



The two men conquered human flight, but the Wright brothers' journey to success was never easy. Despite countless failures, ridicule, money woes, and serious injury to one of them, the brothers weren't stopped by the trials they faced. As Orville Wright observed, “No bird soars in a calm.” The idea, according to biographer David McCullough, means that adversity can “often be exactly what you need to give you a lift higher.” Said McCullough, “Their joy was not getting to the top of the mountain. Their joy was climbing the mountain.”

The apostle Peter taught a similar spiritual principle to the persecuted early church. He told them, “Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you” (1 Peter 4:12). This wasn't a denial of suffering's pain. Peter knew that hope in Christ grows our trust in God.

This is especially true when we suffer for being a believer in Jesus, as those early Christians did. Peter wrote to them, “Rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed” (v. 13). He went on, “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you” (v. 14).

As the Wright brothers' character was hailed by their biographer, may others see God's loving character at work in us. He uses our adversity to raise us to new heights.

What Is the Bible All About?

Our Daily Bread University now offers an online course with the foregoing title. When we think about creation and its importance in the story of the Bible, it gives us this clear picture that God is sovereign and worthy of praise. It also reminds us and lets us know that God is a God who has acted to make Himself known. Creation itself occurs because of God's desire to be known and worshipped. In five lessons, this course helps you discover the common themes that connect the many books of the Bible and the role you play.

Go to: <https://odbu.org/courses/bi110/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to anyone who celebrates another orbit around the Sun. If that is you, let the Editor know so we can celebrate it with you.



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

2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Tom Cairns, Pastor Al Page, 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 Feb. 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 Churches of New England, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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