



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 7 No. 1

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2008

## The Truth Shall Set You Free

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Really, There Is Such a Thing As Absolute Truth!

John 18:28-40

As we finish the Christmas season we not only embark on a new year, but we also embark on a new Easter season. We as Christians wait in expectation of being able to worship in remembrance of that great and awesome day in which Jesus Christ conquered death and sin through His resurrection.

We are now transitioning our focus from the crib to the cross. We will leave behind the manger and look to the man. We no longer see a helpless babe dressed in swaddling clothes, but a king who will return in a white robe that shines like lightning. Our Savior is known as God, King, Savior, Messiah, The Great I AM, The Alpha and Omega, The Prince of Peace, and Jesus Christ.

All of these statements and titles are grounded in the truth of who He is, not because He demonstrated it to us as we read about Him in the Bible, but because He is who He is. He would still be all these even if He never had shown Himself to us. Even if He never came to us as a man and lived among us and showed us all the miracles. The truth of the matter is that He is all that has been already stated and more.

Truth? What is truth? Is there something called absolute truth? Can we live in a world where there is such a thing? Often this term is treated like a fable creature that is illusive or untrue, similar to that of unicorns, dragons, or trolls. The world around us would have us believe that there is no such thing as absolute truth, but that contradicts what the Bible teaches us. There is such a thing called absolute truth and it is grounded in God. There is a standard by which we need to live and God has set that standard.

In John 18:28-40 there is the story of Jesus standing before Pilate. Pilate recognized what the religious leaders were trying to accomplish in killing Jesus and he was surprised that Jesus would not retort back in defense. So he pulled Jesus aside into his private chambers and questioned him. Pilate asked Jesus if He was the "King of the Jews," and Jesus in His perfectly Socratic way asked a question with a question. Jesus asked him "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?"

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. – Prolife Rally, Prayer Vigil**

Ste. Marie Catholic Church in Manchester

**Jan. 6, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast**

The men share a meal, then discuss the book of Judges.

**Jan. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Jan. 6, 6:00 p.m. – Christian Chicks**

Come for devotions and a craft project.

**Jan. 13, midday – Sledding Party**

**Jan. 20, noon – Business Meeting**

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

**Jan. 19, 9 a.m. to noon – NH Right to Life Day**

Services, Rally, March, downtown Concord, NH

**Jan. 20-27, Sanctity of Human Life Week**

At that Pilate appears to take a little offense to this and responds, "I am not a Jew, am I?" He did not want to be found with Jesus in this situation. In fact, by all accounts, Pilate wanted nothing to do with the whole affair.

At that Jesus responded to him "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

After hearing Jesus' true claims about Himself, Pilate was then in a position to make a choice: to believe this statement or to reject it. At that moment he did neither, instead, from a hardening heart, began to ask more questions. His next question was "So you are a king?" Jesus in return responded "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." This was yet another truthful claim of Jesus. That He was indeed a king, in fact we know Him as the King of Kings.

What was interesting about this conversation was that He was talking plainly to Pilate. He was not hiding the truth

(See **Absolute Truth**, p. 2)

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

**Absolute Truth (from p.1)**

about who He was or hiding that He was claiming kingship somewhere else, which by the way was grounds for immediate execution.

In that day, not only was Caesar king of the entire known world, but he was also considered a god. That meant that anyone who attempted to make a claim to kingship or divinity was in fact trying to subvert the throne. Every government leader was empowered to put such a person to death. This is why the religious leaders in Jerusalem brought Him to Pilate, so that the Roman government would do their dirty work for them.

After Jesus talked so plainly to this leader, Pilate asked "What is truth?" This shows us the turmoil that he was in. Jesus testified perfectly about Himself, yet Pilate would not allow himself to be persuaded to believe such a truth. Instead Pilate was a product of his environment. He had been steeped in pagan worship and learned that many people claimed to be a god or divine. So when Jesus claimed to be such a person, His testimony was muddled up by the prevailing winds of the day. Jesus' truth claims fell on deaf ears and Pilate chose not to believe. Yet the truth of the matter was that Pilate was an instrument of a divine plan whether he knew it or not.

Today's prevailing winds are not so different than in the days of Pilate. Many today claim to be following the right path. Many claim even to be a god, yet each one is only trying to be heard in the chaotic placement for truth.

I asked earlier, "What is truth?" Where can we find it? Is there such a thing as absolute truth? The Bible tells us that the truth shall set you free. This statement implies that falsity shackles or binds you.

When we look at truth we must first look to what truth is. Truth is fact; or a belief or statement that corresponds to a reality; not false. Jesus made statements of fact to Pilate, yet Pilate did not want to accept those facts of Jesus. Instead he gave into the falsehoods of his world. He rejected truth and remained shackled to sin, death, and separation from God. We can find such truth in the Bible.

Many scholars today would have you believe that the Bible is unreliable and not completely true in all its assertions, but the masses don't realize that such people are asserting an absolute truth when they say such a thing. Can you see the vicious circle in the pursuit of truth? They try to assert a truth claim in the process of trying to shoot ours down, all the while debunking the very thing they are trying to do themselves. Oh how funny man's wisdom is.

There *is* such a thing as absolute truth, so do not let earthly wisdom sway you from Godly wisdom. Jesus stated to Pilate that "Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." We who have heard the voice of Jesus accept the absolute truth of His claims. We need not worry about what the world thinks about our Lord and Savior. The world rejected Him nearly 2,000 years ago and the world as a whole continues to reject Him. But the truth of the matter is: He *is* who He said He is. He is God and that is the absolute truth.

✠ Pastor Jim

**Christian Chicks**

Our December 8th get together was a Christmas Party for the ladies of the church. Despite busy schedules eight ladies came out and shared food, fellowship, secret sister exchange, games, devotions, and more. A big thank you goes to Michelle Robertson for a wonderful devotion time that stirred our hearts and blessed our souls.

If you have not made it to any of our Christian Chicks meetings, you are missing out on something worthwhile. The next meeting is on Sunday night, **January 6th at 6:00 p.m.** Notice that it is a half hour earlier than usual, but come when you can. We will be doing a craft project. Watch the bulletin boards. We will give you more details after Christmas.

Ladies, please remember to keep your Secret Sister in your daily prayers.

✠ Barbara Yeaton

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**

The guys will grab some grub and dig into some scriptures on Jan. 6th at 7:30 a.m. You can be sure that you will leave full – both tummy-wise and spirit-wise. We are working our way through the book of Joshua, wherein the Israelites kept falling in and out of God's favor by their own doing.

**Pro-Life Activities**

Here are a couple of Pro-Life activities in January in case anyone is interested.

**January 5, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – Prolife Rally, Prayer Vigil, and Worship**

At Hevey Hall located in the lower level of Ste. Marie Catholic Church in Manchester with Norma McCorvey (the Roe in Roe v Wade), urban renewal educator Star Parker, Rev. Pat Mahoney, Operation Outcry's Kelly Roy and more.



**January 19, NH Right to Life Day, Concord, NH**

This year's theme is:

*Abortion Alternatives Are Available*

9 a.m. Memorial Service at the Concord Landfill

10 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, 72 So. Main St., Concord

11:15 Rally at the State House with Operation Outcry

12 Noon March for Life from the State House past the abortion mill to St. John's to warm up, have some lunch, and hear from our speakers.

For a flier to print or hand out, go to <http://www.nhrtl.org/MFL/2008/Flyer.pdf>

For more information, call me at 603-210-2266.

✠ Maria Jordan

## Youth Group on the Move

We have a snow tubing trip in the works for February – most likely on a Saturday night at Pat's Peak in Henniker. Stay tuned for more info on the date and cost. Be thinking of a friend or two whom you can invite!

✠ Pastor Don Yeaton

## Adult Sunday School Is for YOU

During the month of December, our class has been studying the gradual ascension of Jesus Christ, Our Savior, from Mary and Joseph's learning that they were to be parents of the Messiah, to His humble birth in a manger, to all the opposition that He faced. Praise God that we have a Savior who, despite all they did to try to prevent Him from becoming King, still asked God to forgive their sins.

Our class begins around 9:30-9:45 a.m. I like to give as many people as possible time to get to Church given the weather lately. Feel free to come in even if it is past the time when we've begun. We will be glad to have you!

Please, (if any of you know me and my family), keep us in your daily prayers. Accidents seem to be plaguing our family as of late. They say when you serve God beware of Satan behind you. The Bible is full of many examples of this!

I continue to keep all my class in prayer, and if any of you in the church would like me to pray for you, please, don't hesitate to ask. God also hears unspoken prayers as well.

God Bless and Happy New Year from your faithful Adult Sunday School Leader!!

✠ Dale Greenly

## Campbells Christmas Concert Wrap Up

On Saturday Dec. 15, the Campbells delivered their much-appreciated Christmas Concert. Leo Campbell opened with his traditional and impressive trumpet solo of "The Old Rugged Cross." Cindy and Naomi were there, blending their voices into that signature Campbells sound. Our prayers were answered too in that the predicted snowstorm did not arrive until early the next morning.

As a surprise, their newest member was a bass singer – none other than Scott Brunt of the Brunt Family Singers. This is a new venture for Scott but it means The Brunt Family Singers may not be able to perform many concerts this coming year.

With over 80 in attendance (a good turnout for Hillside), we had a good time and enjoyed the mix of Christmas and southern gospel music. The fellowship time was well attended with lots of good food to share. People stayed and mingled for almost an hour and a half after the concert.

Those who missed the concert should report to the office – just kidding! But if you did miss it, drop me a note; it will help with my post-concert analysis. Also tell me where you heard about the concert, if it was other than at Hillside.

### Epilogue

I could really use some help promoting future concerts. Two or three heads are better than one when planning and executing a concert plan that starts about three months before the actual date.

There are a lot of details and I don't always have the time to get them done on time. Please pray about whether the Lord might want you involved in this ministry.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Wyn Goodbread

Founding member and brother in the Lord, Wyn Goodbread of Concord died on Dec. 21, 2007. He is home with the Lord and with his dear wife, Bette. A memorial to his memory will appear in next month's newsletter.

## God's Gifts

The following thoughts were on a sheet of paper I picked up at the Campbells Concert in December. They may have come from a sermon or a Sunday School lesson, but they are worth considering again.

You will never see someone standing in line at a customer service counter returning God's gifts.

His gifts can never be duplicated.

His gifts can never be topped or exceeded.

His gifts always fit the recipient.

His gifts are always warmly received and wanted.

There is nothing better than to receive God's gifts.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people for orbiting the sun one more time:

- 1/1 Jalma Robinson
- 1/5 Sarah Greenly
- 1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson
- 1/12 Chris Frascinella
- 1/27 Cathy Labonte

Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following couples who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month:

- 1/4 Justin & Robyn King
- 1/5 Robert & Anne LaValley

## Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for you—whether it be for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need – contact Natalie Carleton, Hillside's Prayer Coordinator, and she will get the word out to the membership via e-mail or by phone.

It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord. Contact Natalie at grammiec10 at juno dot com (punctuation spelled out on purpose).

### On the Web

Go to <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about Hillside, including this newsletter in PDF format.

### Next Issue

Deadline is Jan. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



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