



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 8 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2009

SOW RIGHTEOUSNESS

From the Pastor's Desk

Rain, It Can Be a Good Thing!

Ezekiel 10:12

Tell me, is our state motto "Rain, Rain go away, come back another day," or is it "Live free or die?" After all the rain we have received I don't know which one it is. We have had long durations of rain before, but this past month seems just a tad over the top if you ask me.

Just this past week alone I got in the middle of two monsoon-like weather fronts that left me somewhat stranded. The first was up in Belmont and I literally saw the rain falling sideways and the side of a small hill washing out into the parking lot. The second was while I was at the dentist office in Concord. I was talking to a gentleman there and I commented that if this kept up, out-of-state people will refer to us as Seattle East.

No question about it, this rain is getting old. Just getting up in the morning can be a depressing experience, because the moment we look outside we see clouds and wetness instead of sunshine and blue skies. It could be worse (yup I said it), we could be seeing more devastation and destruction than we see already so we need to count our blessings that it isn't as bad as it could be.

Rain is the perfect analogy to difficult times and trials in our life. When we look at all the rain and bad weather we have seen, we can still take comfort that the Lord brings joy. In the midst of trials and tribulations we have someone who gets us through those difficult times. When things look dark and dreary we have one who brings light. When things seem impossible we have someone who does the impossible.

When we struggle we have someone who struggles with us and for us. When things look most bleak we have one who sends rays of sunshine. As the rain is a perfect analogy to troubles, the sunshine is the perfect analogy to what Jesus Christ does in our lives and He is the one who brings in the sunshine and peace.

The terminology of rain is not unprecedented in the Word of God. Many times it is in reference to some amount of punishment or destruction that God the Father is going to bring upon a nation or people group. Sometimes it is in

Upcoming Events and Meetings

July 4, 6:00 p.m. – Independence Day Barbecue

At the parsonage; followed by fireworks viewing at dusk.

July 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

July 12, 10:45 a.m. – Baptism Ceremony

July 19, Noon – Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting

Bring a dish to share and stay for the business meeting

reference to the bad that many face in any given day for simply existing in a sin-ridden world. Other times it refers to actual rain that is being withheld or given.

There are many more examples, but I want to point you to the one that is found in Ezekiel 10:12, which is a positive use of receiving a rainfall. The Word of God says, "Sow with a view to righteousness; reap in accordance with kindness; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord. Until He comes to rain righteousness upon you." (NASB).

In this passage Ezekiel is trying to get the nation of Israel to turn away from their unrighteousness and turn to God and act righteous. He is commissioning them to do what God wants of them and live a life of godliness. Israelites had turned their heads away from God and His commands and lived a life of ungodliness, so in this passage God sent Ezekiel to turn them back around.

This passage also applies to us. We need to sow righteousness. We need to reap kindness. We need to seek the Lord, but we need to do this not when times are only good, but especially when times are tough. We see that Ezekiel tells them that they are to live this way "until" God comes with a rain of righteousness.

This rain of righteousness is a good rain. This is the kind of rain that we would like to receive from the Lord. This is not a rain of material blessings. It is not a rain of healing. It is not a rain that is based upon expectations or desires. It is far more than we can measure, for no one is declared righteous unless God himself declares him so.

(See Rain, p. 2)

In This Issue ... Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Christian Chicks | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Events | Property & Space | Puddles | Procrastination | American Revolution | Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rain, from p.1

In the Old Testament, God the Father declared certain persons righteous and it was the future atoning work of Christ on the cross that covered such measure of righteousness delivered. Hebrews tells us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sins (Heb. 9:22). If this is so then it was imperative that Jesus die on the cross to cover the debt of righteousness that was given in the Old Testament.

We who live in the church age are called righteous through the acceptance of Christ unto salvation. That righteousness is raining down upon us. That rain of righteousness is refreshing in a world of chaos and confusion. That righteousness is what we should seek to receive above and beyond what this world can afford us. Let me encourage you to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. If you do so then the word of God promises that anything else we need will be provided unto us.

Pray that the righteousness of the Lord may rain down upon you. It is good rain. It is rain that promises a right relationship with the Father. It is rain that promises a part of Himself to make you righteous, for righteousness is born from the heart of God. May His rain of righteousness pour down upon you. God bless.

✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks

Christian Chicks are taking the summer off, so look forward to September when we'll resume our gatherings.

✠ Michelle Robertson

Men's Breakfast

Guys, you're on your own for the summer. Men's breakfasts are powered down for the summer months. We'll fire up the cook stove again in September.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Fellowship Events

This month's event is on July 4th, Independence Day. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a barbecue at the parsonage. If it rains, we'll meet at the church.

Please bring a side dish to share. The church will provide the burgers and hot dogs.

After dusk we'll get to watch the fireworks in the nearby towns from our hillside vantage point.

Property and Space Patrol

Excuse our dust as renovations continue. The carpet renovations in the lower level classrooms are completed, the baseboards have been painted and reinstalled, and the rooms put back together. The front entrance is complete with a new ceramic tile floor in the foyer, oak handrails and baluster on the stairway, and two coats of new paint in the foyer and stairwell. New bulletin boards will be up soon.

The library has been moved to the right rear room in the lower level and the former library room is being prepared for

the future office. Boxes of unused, old song books will be discarded, so take a look if you want any of it.

The downstairs hall will be tiled soon. Many thanks to Roche Pouliot for the tile work and painting, and for Mike for help with the baseboards and library.

When the weather permits, we will start on the handicap ramp from the front to the rear of the church.

✠ Pastor Al Page

That Puddle is Me

Puddles come in different shapes and sizes, and different colors too. They ripple when the wind blows and reflect when the sun shines. Eventually puddles evaporate and go to a new place. Today, I realized that I'm like a puddle and asked myself a few questions. How do I handle the wind? Is God's Son shining in my life? What is in my reflection?

Praise the Lord this puddle knows where she is going!

✠ Laurie Wasp

Don't Procrastinate

The following material is courtesy of RBC Ministries and its "Our Daily Bread Daily Devotional."

Read Romans 12:4-13, then read the following essay.

Many of us struggle with them—postponement problems. A professor at the University of Calgary in Alberta studied the problem of procrastination for five years and reported that 95 percent of us put off doing one thing or another. One estimate showed that Americans lose approximately \$400 million a year by putting off filing taxes! Because of fear of failure or other insecurities, we wait and wait before starting a project or making a decision.

Procrastination is a problem in the church too. Many of us postpone serving God. We know we should reach out to others, but we feel insecure or worried about what to do. Because we're unsure of our gifts or interests, we put off our involvement in the church. We worry: "What if I do a poor job? What if I find out I can't even do it?"

Romans 12 gives us some encouragement. Serving starts with presenting ourselves to God as "a living sacrifice" (v.1). Pray and give yourself anew to the Lord and His work. Then look around at what others are doing in your church and ask if you can join in. Start small if you need to, and try a number of things.

Your church needs you. Ask God to help you overcome your postponement problems.

— Anne Cetas

Don't put off for tomorrow

What you can do today;

Postponement may bring sorrow,

Prompt action is the way. —Hess

For a healthier church, exercise your spiritual gifts.

Thoughts on the American Revolution

This could be a book review but I'm only 100 pages into the book, that is into two books. They are about the life of John Adams, who I am coming to realize was the paramount genius of the American march to independence from England. One book was written by Anne Husted Burleigh in 1969 and the other by the famous Pulitzer prize-winning historian, David McCullough, in 2001.

Both books bring out amazing details about Adams' family, early life in Braintree, Mass., and career choice of law instead of the ministry which set him on the path of being the central figure in the unprecedented birth of a new nation from a collection of 13 decidedly different British colonies.

Aside from that, if you want to read about true, devoted love, both books make ample reference to a collection of over a thousand letters written between John and his wife, Abigail. Here was a couple equally matched in devotion to each other, to their children, their community, their country, and their God.

Adams did not think of the path to independence as a revolution, because he did not want to reconstitute society or government, as revolutionaries typically favor. He believed that he and the colonial activists were preservers of society, because they were trying to preserve the English traditions of liberty that Parliament and the British Ministry had violated. He was a lawyer before, during, and after the Revolutionary War. He firmly believed in English common law, the Magna Carta, and all the rights acquired by English people over the centuries.

The colonies had been fairly self-governing for 150 years and were quite content to maintain their allegiance to the King and Parliament. But in 1763, England won the Seven Years' War with France, but faced a huge war debt. Their mistake was to think they could pay for it by levying taxes without consent on the American colonies, who were never represented in Parliament nor had any champions in English government. The American Act and the Stamp Act of 1763 were the first grievous measures that outraged the colonists, who took these measures as an attack on their liberties.

In his famous *Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Laws*, Adams wrote "And liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people who have a right from the frame of their nature to knowledge, as their great Creator who does nothing in vain, has given them understandings and a desire to know. But besides this they have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to the most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge, I mean of the characters and conduct of their rulers."

As you celebrate this Independence Day, make it a resolution to honor the memory of all those who fought and died to give us this United States of America by getting a book about that era and learning up close who they were, what they thought and did, and how they played a role in the birth of this nation. Then get involved in the struggle to preserve those liberties, maybe even work to take them back from a government that is becoming too controlling and too restrictive of our rights.

You can also teach your children to cherish our liberties by reading to them the *Declaration of Independence* each July 4th. It is sad how ignorant people are of that document and other important information about our country.

Start your reading with the life of John Adams; you can't go wrong there. Or pick any of the other Founding Fathers and see how they dealt with the problems they faced. It will surely help you put into perspective the problems you face today.

God was with them then, and He can surely be with you today. He's just a prayer away.

✠ 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:

7/4 Julia Little
7/21 Florence Omar
7/22 Charles Thomas
7/22 Robert Thomas

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

7/9 Leon & Ruth Bubacz
7/29 Michael & Julie Russo

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for you—whether it be for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need – contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, Dale Greenly, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership.

It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord.

On the Web

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

Next Issue

Deadline is July 24. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.

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



Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

Modeling the truth of God's Word

