



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 9 No. 1

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2010

Resolution: Bring Others to Christ

From the Pastor's Desk

A Sorrowful Passion for the Lost

Romans 9:1-3 & 10:1

What are the different reasons for which one would have sorrow? Off the top of my head, I can think of a few. Death of a loved one, a divorce or breakup, a child gone astray, a deep misunderstanding between you and a parent, or rejection from close friends. There are many more reasons for why one might be sorrowful, but have you ever had a deep sorrow over the fact that someone might not know the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior?

I have been reading from the book of Romans in my daily Bible study. As I read from chapter nine and ten today I came across an expression of sorrow that must cause anyone who reads it to take a moment and measure the significance of that sorrow.

In verses 1-3 of chapter nine, Paul expresses a deep longing for the salvation of others, but not just anyone, it is for the whole Israelite race. He writes, "I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscious testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." (NASB) He then says in 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation." (NASB)

Now often when we hit sorrowful times in our lives we tend to stop what we are doing and begin to look inward to our own pain and suffering. We might cry and weep. We might lash out in anger either by words or action. We might say things that we would probably regret later. Some get so sorrowful that words cannot express and body cannot testify to how much anguish that person is facing.

Sorrow is indeed a powerful emotion, always on the edge of coming out of us during great difficult times. But most often we handle it in a way that we are biologically driven to do so. We must release the emotions lest they destroy us. To grieve, cry, and express oneself is only natural and it is the way God created us to handle such trying times.

In the preceding passage to the Romans, Paul's expression of his sorrow isn't done in a way that is natural to one's way of expressing that sorrow. And the reason for the sorrow is

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Jan. 3, 7:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Jan. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Jan. 12, 6:15 p.m. – Tuesday events restart

Jan. 16, 11:15 a.m. – March for Life Rally, Concord

Jan. 17, Noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Jan. 17, Noon – Sledding Party

If we have enough snow, kids can go sledding.

Jan. 24 – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

A time to remember that sad day in 1973 when the Supreme Court decided Roe vs. Wade.

not only focused on himself, but more importantly on many of his fellow Israelites. Paul was carrying a burden that was from the Lord himself. A burden that is borne in the nature of being saved in Christ and is an extension of love that comes from God. He testifies that he is sorrowful and has unceasing grief in his heart over this issue. What an amazing thing we see here. He is burdened by the fact that so many kinsmen are going to hell that he cannot let his mind be set free from thinking about it.

Too often in life we allow our thoughts to be consumed by the trivial. We tend to focus on the mundane and often the unlikely. We might even go so far as to allow ourselves to role play in our heads about fantasies that will never happen. We often waste so much energy on the ludicrous and more times than not it steals our attention and our energies from more spiritually pressing and important matters.

Paul tells us that he is spending so much time thinking about this that his heart will not let him rest, that he cannot find peace regarding this matter, that he wishes he could do something about it.

What is the most amazing thing about this passage is not the fact that he has such a deep sorrow, which is pretty special enough, but the fact that he goes on to say that he would rather be accursed if it would mean they would be saved. What a mind boggling gesture of passion and conviction.

(See Sorrowful Passion, p. 2)

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

Pastor’s Message (from p.1)

If God would have allowed it, Paul would have gladly gone to the eternal punishment in hell so that those who are his kinsmen might be redeemed, but that responsibility was not his, it was his Savior’s. He loved them so much so that he was willing to forfeit his rights as an heir to the kingdom of God.

This love could only come from one who is saved in Christ. It is not a love that is deeply seated in the heart of the natural man, especially someone like Paul who had a background of earning righteousness through the observance of the Law. Paul truly learned what it means to receive grace. To know that it is by grace we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As this New Year begins and we embark on a new decade, I pray that you would follow Paul’s example of Christianity and grow in a sorrowful passion for others in your life. To grow in a passion that focuses on others and their walk with the Lord. I am not talking about judging or meddling in other’s lives, but about seeking the lost and showing them the love of Christ by witnessing to them and praying for them. To grow in such a way that your heart and mind will not rest because their soul is not going to heaven, but to hell; to grow in your walk with the Lord so that you would allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life to have a burden for the lost.

I pray that each and every one of us at Hillside would have someone in our lives that we would be willing to forfeit our salvation so that they might be saved. Now I know that one cannot do that – so did Paul- – but it does show how passionate one can be when hoping for Christ in the life of others.

May the Lord be with all of you in this New Year, may His grace shine upon you, may His protection overshadow you, may His love strengthen you, and may His peace rest upon you in all that you face in this “The Year of our Lord 2010.”

In His Service,
✠ Pastor Jim

Julia Little, RIP

Julia Little died early on Monday Dec. 21, 2009, after a series of illnesses. Her husband of 36 years, Don Little, said the plans are for cremation and then a memorial service sometime in January. Julia joined Hillside back in April 1994, shortly after John Kuespert and family joined.

Julia had a heart for the Lord despite her blindness. She was as faithful as she could be in attending Sunday Services with the help of members who gave her rides to and from church when she was well enough to travel. And she was never shy about praising God out loud from her favorite seat near the back of the sanctuary. She praised the Lord for the blessings in her life, often eliciting a "Thank you, Julia" or similar reply from the pastor in the pulpit.

During the past year, she had to make several trips to Concord Hospital for treatment for various disorders. She told us that she had received almost a complete blood transfusion in the process. During the summer and fall she

seemed to be better and was in attendance most of the time. But recently her health slowly declined and after Thanksgiving, Pastor Jim said she had returned home, but had an accidental fall and broke her hip. From there her health deteriorated even more.

Christian Ladies Meeting

Based upon interest, there will be a Christian Ladies meeting the third week of February (2/21) after church. Please let Michelle Robertson know if you believe the Lord is leading you to be there during that time.

✠ Michelle Robertson

Men’s Breakfast

Well Christmas has come and gone and hopefully your bank book hasn’t fallen into the red. New Year’s Eve brings this troubled year of 2009 to a close. We can only hope and pray that the Lord will bring us out of this recession, restore jobs for those who need them, finances for those in debt, good health for those physically suffering, and freedom from fear for those troubled by worries.

So to start off the year on an upbeat note, come to the first men’s breakfast of the New Year. It’s this Sunday, Jan. 3 at 7:30 a.m. The food will be tasty and enjoyable, the coffee hot and steamy, and the Bible discussion mentally stimulating. Why not start your Sunday with some good fellowship?

Thank You

Back in November, Hillside delivered several Thanksgiving Baskets to members. Ernie and Jalma Robinson received one and Jalma asked me to include a Thank You note.

Jalma said that, even though she is supposed to restrict her salt intake, she especially enjoyed the green beans, fried onions, and mushroom soup.

Property and Space Patrol

It’s been a busy month on the church property. The beat goes on! The kitchen renovation is well underway. Some of the new cabinets are installed, others are being assembled, and others being made. Meanwhile, the parsonage kitchen, dining room, bathroom, and hall have new ceramic tile floors. It’s been a long time talking about doing the job. Time and money have held us back. Finally it is done and it looks great and will be easy to keep clean. Many thanks to Roch Pouliot for donating his time and skill to do the job.

Another sizeable job in December was to clean out the former NHBA office and prepare it to become the Pastor’s study. This office is over the garage. The 8 ft. x 6 ft. closet was never completed so we installed the drywall and put on the trim. It still needs to be painted and we could use some help doing that. Pastor Jim will be moving into the office shortly.

Anyone with some time might offer to help him with the move. Any takers? Let him know if you are willing to help.

✠ Pastor Al Page

March for Life

On Saturday Jan. 16, the New Hampshire Right to Life organization (<http://www.nhrtl.org/>) is sponsoring its annual March for Life. This event commemorates the deadly decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in Roe vs. Wade on Jan. 22, 1973. This is the decision that made abortion legal. The event is scheduled for a Saturday close to that date.

The main events are a 10 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist on So. Main St., an 11:15 a.m. Rally at the State House in Concord, and an 11:45 a.m. March for Life down Main St. from the State House to St. John's Church. At the end of the March for Life, marchers are welcome to visit St. John's for complimentary refreshments and to listen to guest speakers, which will include singer/songwriter/author Juda Myers who was conceived in rape.

The rally usually draws a few hundred brave souls and the speakers typically include pro-life activists and former and current state officials. Local news crews also cover the event. You can make your own sign or pick one up at the rally. The weather is usually cold so dress warmly and stay close together.

You are strongly encouraged to participate and show the people in Concord that you support the unborn. I have been participating for the past several years and it has disappointed me that virtually all the attendees are from Catholic churches only. God bless them for showing their convictions in public and putting their faith in their feet. But I shake my head and ask, "Where are the Evangelicals?" Pastor David Bezanson and several members of the Chichester Congregational Church have been just about the only Evangelicals I have met there.

Last year, Dale Greenly joined me for the rally and the march and we walked with Pastor David's group. It was interesting to note that people in front of and behind us were praying the Rosary. Pastor David, however, led us in singing several Baptist hymns like "How Great Thou Art" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

All along the route, people waved, honked horns, and gave us the thumbs up, so we could see that there was support out there. As we passed the abortion clinic, we each dropped a rose petal into a basket, symbolizing the lives that the clinic had cut short.

In last month's newsletter, Pastor Jim told us to expect the unexpected as a way of serving God. I pray that, at this year's march, I am joined by some unexpected friends.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Mathematical Diversions

Numbers can be fascinating items to study, as long as they don't refer to what you owe to the government or a local creditor.

For example, there are very few calendar dates each year in which the digits appear in numerical order or as a repeating digit. For example, during 2009 the date 07/08/09 was the only date with digits in numerical order and 9:09 a.m. on 09/09/09 was the only date with repeating digits (expressed

in American date notation). It's not magic but a property of the concept of numbers that God has blessed us with. I'll leave it to you to figure out the numerically significant dates for 2010.

Another mysterious property of numbers is the number 9. First multiply any number times 9. Then add the digits of the result. Depending on how large the initial number is, the resulting summation will yield one or more nines. For example,

$$9 \times 78 = 702, \text{ so } 7 + 0 + 2 = 9$$

$$9 \times 2010 = 18,090, \text{ so } 1 + 8 = 9 \text{ and } 0 + 9 + 0 = 9$$

$$9 \times 21,471 = 193,239, \text{ so there are two nines already and } 1 + 3 + 2 + 3 = 9$$

I came across a mathematical proof on the web of why this works, and it was a little difficult to follow, so I'll leave it to your curiosity to pursue that information.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday this month:

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



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

- 1/4 Justin & Robyn King
- 1/5 Bob & Terri LaValley

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 Jan. 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.



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