



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 9 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2010

How Great Thou Art

From the Pastor's Desk

Have you ever affixed the word “great” to something that might not have deserved such an honor? Maybe you were referring to how great that pizza was the other night at Pizza Hut; or maybe it was in reference to that movie you saw over at the theater; or possibly that new coffee you started drinking at the local pit stop in the morning on the way to work; or in reference to the Patriots team we have. Either way, we often attach the word great to things that might not really fit the bill when one truly considers greatness.

Truly the only one who deserves to have the word great combined with His name is our Lord God. There is a song in many hymn books that you probably know. It was written and composed by Stuart K. Hine sometime around the turn of the twentieth century. He wrote the powerful hymn “How Great Thou Art.” This song is sung throughout many churches in any given worship service in our country. When you stop to look at the song and words the author uses, it truly is a magnificent composition. As you read the next couple of paragraphs try to read them without singing the hymn in your head. I know it is hard, for even now I have it stuck in my own, but the reason for such a request is that often when we sing the song we might get caught up in the beautiful musical melody and miss some of the powerful words the great hymn writer used.

The hymn reads as follows:

1. O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder, consider all the works [worlds – modern translation] Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the mighty [rolling – modern trans.] thunder, Thy power thro’-out the universe displayed.
2. When thro’ the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in. That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.
4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 7, 7:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a discussion of the book of Mark.

Mar. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 14, 2 a.m. – Daylight Savings Time begins

Mar. 14, Noon – Stewardship Meeting

Mar. 20 – First Day of Spring

Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday, Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Mar. 30 –Passover

Apr. 4 – Easter

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art!

(Stuart K. Hine, Copyright 1953, Renewed 1981 by Manna Music, Inc., Pacific City, Oregon)

What a testimony by someone who truly was caught up in the greatness of God. I do not know what put Stuart Hine in the spiritual mindset to ponder on the greatness of God, but it must have been a powerful moment in his life.

There is a character in the Bible who also was caught up in the greatness of God. It was Moses in the book of Exodus. Israel had just been through a great ordeal trying to get free from the tyrannical chokehold that Egypt had on them and they were finally given permission by Pharaoh, through the very persuasive acts of God, to leave the land of Egypt.

As they were on their way out the door, Pharaoh changed his mind and went after the Israelites, bent on destroying them. So God did His thing and parted the Red Sea so that Israel would be free from the bondage of Egypt forever. As the Israelites safely got over to the other side Pharaoh had his army charge after them and, when Israel was in the clear, God closed the door and wiped out the entire Egyptian army by drowning them.

As Israel gazed upon the Red Sea and noticed that the Egyptians could no longer bother them, Moses was led by

See Pastor's Desk, p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message · | Upcoming Events | Christian Chicks | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Events | Property & Space Patrol | Brunt Concert | End of an Era | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (cont'd. from p. 1)

the Holy Spirit to lead the people in singing the praises of God's greatness. The passage is fairly long for this short article, but I do want to quote a couple of verses from chapter 15.

In verses 6 and 7 Moses says, "Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, and it consumes them as chaff." In verse 11 Moses asks a question that could only fit the greatness of God; "Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?" And in verse 13 he writes; "In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed; in Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation." And near the end of this praise song he finishes (v. 18) with "The Lord shall reign forever and ever." (NASB)

Truly Moses and Israel had cause to praise the greatness of God. God is great and there is none other that is like Him. The word "great" is a word that ought to be reserved for the one who truly embodies the meaning and character of that word. I, like you, have probably used this word nonchalantly in the past by throwing it onto an inanimate object or person that did not embody the true nature of the word and I will probably do it again.

I know that, in our world today, one might argue there are various levels of greatness, but doesn't that just diminish the true meaning and worth of this word? It brings the meaning down to a level of mediocrity that diminishes the power and thrust that this word should truly have. Words are powerful and they can bring about revolution, repulsion, or repentance, but they should never be just mediocre.

Let me leave you with this thought; next time you get ready to affix the word "great" to someone or something, stop and think if such a word that should only be reserved for our God should be used on something that is, well let's face it, small. If you stop to think about it you might not be so quick to throw out the word "great" on something that really isn't. Then when you do use it in reference to our Great God then it will have more meaning and impact on you and your walk with Him. God bless.

✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks

The ladies' meeting is yet to be scheduled. Please keep the ladies in prayer and let me know if you have some ideas for our next meeting.

✠ Michelle Robertson

Men's Breakfast

The guys will convene for an early morning breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on March 7. Pastor Jim is the Chef du Jour so you can expect something tasty and filling.

It's not just coffee and conversation, but we do engage in a lively discussion of scripture after breakfast, so do come and enjoy the fellowship.

Fellowship Events

There is a business meeting on March 28 at midday. If you are able to attend, please bring a dish to share at the potluck dinner preceding the meeting.

Property and Space Patrol

The new kitchen countertops have been installed, the sink plumbed, and the appliances moved up from the old kitchen. So the new kitchen is officially open for business. In fact, its first use was for Men's Breakfast in February.

Other smaller projects are in the works so contact me if you have time and energy to donate. And of course the old kitchen needs to be decommissioned.

✠ Pastor Al

Brunt Family Singers Concert in May

If you have been listening to the Saturday Night Gospel Hour on WVNH (91.1 FM), you may have heard that Scott Brunt has discontinued his affiliation as bass singer for The Campbells gospel singing group. It was a decision made for a variety of reasons and it was months in the making.

After discussing this change of events with Alan Frink, I contacted about the idea of reuniting the Brunt Family Singers for a concert at Hillside. Scott contacted his dad, Gary Brunt, and Alan Frink and they agreed to perform a reunion concert at Hillside on May 22nd. Since then Scott said they have been contacted for another spring concert here in New Hampshire.

So mark the date on your calendar. It will be a fine evening of gospel and inspirational music.

✠ Michael Frascinella

The End of an Era

During the last week of February, Dr. James Dobson, founder and former President and Chairman of the Board of Focus on the Family, stepped down as host of the radio program he created some 33 years ago. He leaves the program in the capable hands of Jim Daly, President and Chief Executive Officer, and John Fuller, Vice President of the Audio and New Media Division.

If you have been a follower of this program over the years, you know that Dr. Dobson has been a staunch defender of the traditional family, family values, and the central role of faith in Jesus Christ as the key to strong, loving families. He has also been the brunt of malicious and hateful criticism and false charges by those who hate God and those who wish to destroy the Christian beliefs and practices that prevent society from degenerating into chaos.

One of last week's programs was entitled "The Four Passions of Focus on the Family." These four passions were the subject of a Focus on the Family broadcast in April 2007 and originated with Dr. Dobson.

They are:

- A passion for people
- A passion for integrity
- A passion for righteousness
- A passion for Jesus Christ

Against such beliefs, no criticism can stand. As Dr. Dobson spoke last week, he reasserted that these passions are critical to the mission of Focus on the Family and expressed his hope that these values will continue to be promoted by future leaders of this ministry.

God has blessed Dr. Dobson and Focus on the Family and this writer wishes them continued blessings.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 3/2 Natalie Carleton
- 3/13 Robyn King
- 3/29 Abbey Lafa
- 3/30 Amanda Robertson



Hillside also wishes we had some couples who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month, but we don't. So you still have time to get married this month so we can include you in our wishes for a happy anniversary.

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray 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

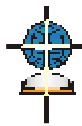
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Next Issue

Deadline is Mar. 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

