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COME

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Jesus invites us to abandon our lives of futile, burdensome spiritual toil and embrace a relationship of peace and rest with Him.

We labor under multiple spiritual maladies brought on by

our ignorance and/or arrogance. We generally do not understand spiritual truths. Our fascination with worldly wisdom tends to blind us to the simple yet powerful, liberating truths of Jesus Christ. Realities which are clear enough for even a child to understand elude highly qualified academics (Matthew 11:25). Our increasingly secular world has very little biblical knowledge. Many children never attend church and consequently are not exposed to spiritual rudiments in their formative years. As a result, as adults they lack the spiritual acumen to discern fundamental spiritual issues. This dilemma often leaves them striving to solve spiritual problems with material (natural) resources. The result is always failure and frustration.

Not only are we dogged by ignorance, but we also suffer from arrogance. We reject what is revealed to us in Scripture. In this case it is not that we do not know biblical truth (ignorance), it is that we reject truth. For various reasons we refuse to accept and live by what God has revealed to us. Jesus upbraided several Jewish cities for their response to His and John the Baptist's ministries (verses 20-24). John was an austere prophet whom they ridiculed and dismissed as a deranged demoniac. Jesus came as a joyful minister of grace, and they dismissed Him as a glutton and friend of sinners. Both John and Jesus spoke clear convicting spiritual truth. But nothing would satisfy their hearers. They intended to live their own way no matter what. They not only wore themselves out, but also made themselves candidates for harsh judgment (22, & 24).

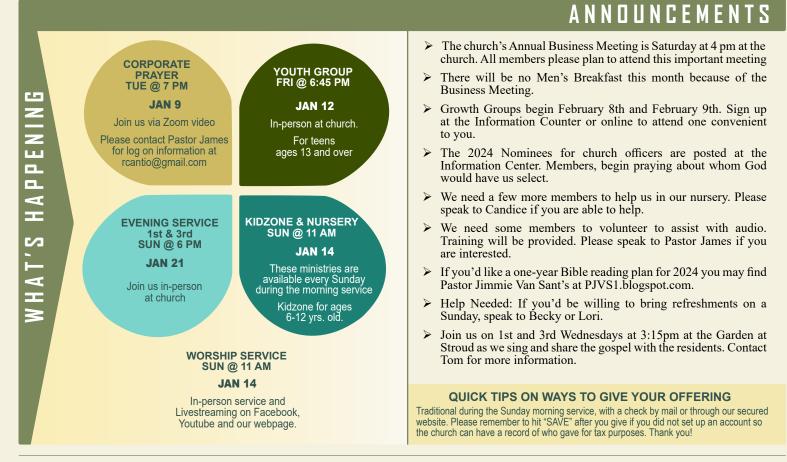
But to those who will listen, Jesus offers rest. He

promises that He will replace our strivings with the peace that He alone can provide. When we embrace Jesus, we establish peace with God and we experience the peace of God. No wonder we find rest. Our deepest issue is that we are at war with God. Our inherent sinful nature spontaneously resists God's working in our lives. We regard God as an opponent rather than the faithful ally that He is. It is only when we recognize Him as our Savior that we discover that He was graciously pursuing peace with us the whole time. Once we are at peace with God, we find that our continuing surrender to Him promotes the peace of God. That means that while we still face the hardships of life in a sinful world, God sustains us with His Spirit and presence so that we can navigate life with calm and confidence.

Why don't you accept Jesus' invitation today? Leave your life of stress and spiritual futility and enjoy the peace of walking with Jesus.

God bless you,

Pastor James



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