



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

JAN 9

Join us via Zoom video
Please contact Pastor James
for log on information at
rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

JAN 12

In-person at church.
For teens
ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

JAN 21

Join us in-person
at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 14

These ministries are
available every Sunday
during the morning service
Kidzone for ages
6-12 yrs. old.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 14

In-person service and
Livestreaming on Facebook,
Youtube and our webpage.

- The church's Annual Business Meeting is Saturday at 4 pm at the church. All members please plan to attend this important meeting
- There will be no Men's Breakfast this month because of the Business Meeting.
- Growth Groups begin February 8th and February 9th. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- The 2024 Nominees for church officers are posted at the Information Center. Members, begin praying about whom God would have us select.
- We need a few more members to help us in our nursery. Please speak to Candice if you are able to help.
- We need some members to volunteer to assist with audio. Training will be provided. Please speak to Pastor James if you are interested.
- If you'd like a one-year Bible reading plan for 2024 you may find Pastor Jimmie Van Sant's at PJVS1.blogspot.com.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!