



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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LIFE WITH THE LIGHT

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



John 8:12
 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The day Adam sinned our world was plunged into darkness – a darkness that entered our souls and stained what God had created. This darkness renders us ignorant and indifferent to what God longs to do in our lives and in our world. This darkness is so deep that it blinds us to our own darkness. Modern man boasts of "enlightened living" (by which he means he is living according to his own understanding of how life works) woefully unaware that he is only stumbling around in profound spiri-

tual and moral darkness. In 1 John 2:11, the Bible aptly describes such individuals as being "in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

The cure for this dreadful malady is Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world. It is only when we receive Him as our Savior and begin to follow Him that we are equipped to understand how deeply the darkness has deformed and how we can escape it. Things that we once thought were okay or wonderful we now discover were actually deeply harmful to us and others. The pleasures we indulged in, the goals we pursued, the privileges we demanded were only leading us further and further away from the light and deeper and deeper into condemnation. But with Jesus we can now continue life's journey in the light. We are empowered to not only live truly enlightened lives (lives that align with God's

standards and purposes) in this world but have the assurance of eternal life with Christ when this one ends.

Unfortunately, Christians can often continue to stumble in the darkness because we do not walk close to Jesus or "follow" Him as our verse puts it. The key to living in the light is to take our relationship with Christ seriously. He is not just an addition to our lives – He is the center of it. He is not the co-pilot as the popular bumper sticker says – He is the pilot. It is only then that we enjoy the blessing of life with the Light.

May God help us who know Jesus to walk close to Him so that we are not continuing to live in the ways of darkness, but in the Light of Life.

God bless you,
 Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

JAN 16

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

JAN 19

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 21

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

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 21

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

- Growth Groups begin February 8th and February 9th. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- 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!