



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

Bulletin weekly issue No. 198 • January 22, 2024

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CONFESSION AND CLEANSING

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Psalm 32:5
I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
Selah

Psalm 32 provides a very candid journey of discovery about the power of confession. After an undisclosed sin which many scholars believe was David's sin with Bathsheba, the sinning psalmist decided to embark on a path that is all too familiar to us. He decided to cover or hide his sin. He would just pretend nothing had happened and continue with his life. He quickly discovered that hidden sin is extremely corrosive and eats away at our insides (verses 3-4). If felt to him as if his bones were wasting away. He felt like God had a heavy hand upon him. He had no vitality. He was overwhelmed with non-stop inner groanings. Finally, he can bear the agony no lon-

ger. He confesses his sin before God ... and God forgave him!

All of us know what it is to be weighed down by the guilt and shame of our sin. We willfully violated the will of God to indulge our fleshly pleasures. We knew what we intended to do was wrong – we may even have been admonished by caring confidantes as David was (2 Samuel 11:3) – but we sinned nevertheless. Now the guilt is unbearable. We are too ashamed to go to God. What excuse can we give? God knows all the details of our betrayal. How can we look Him in the eye? He sees through our facades. So, we languish in the mire of our shame. Finally, we can stand it no longer. We must confess. Our sin is eating us up. We will face the consequences. We will accept whatever punishment God decrees. We deserve it. Even death is better than this dreadful spiritual torment.

We come clean. We acknowledge our sins. We make no excuses. We take full responsibility. Our hearts are racing. What will God do? Our disregard for Him is inexcusable. We were willing to sully His glorious reputation before His enemies to satisfy our ungodly thirst (2 Samuel 12:14).

What fierce judgments will such effrontery ignite? To our surprise, even shock, God graciously forgives us. We can hardly believe it. It is not that our sin is insignificant. It is not that God condones our sin. It is that God loves us and longs to cleanse us and relieve us of the terrible strain of our sin. What God wanted all along was for us to be honest with Him. To come clean. He knows what we have done, but if we fail to acknowledge and turn from our sin, we cannot experience His forgiveness.

What have you done that continues to weigh you down? What are you hiding because you are too ashamed to admit it before God and face His just wrath? Come humbly and honestly to Him. Confess your sins and you will be gloriously surprised to find He offers forgiveness and cleansing (1 John 1:9). That is the way to take care of sin – if we confess, God will cleanse. Confess to Him today! You will break out rejoicing as David did: "Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy all ye upright in heart" (Psalm 32:11).

God bless you,
 Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

JAN 23

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

JAN 26

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

FEB 4 & FEB 18

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 28

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

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 28

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

- Ladies are invited to Ladies Meeting this Saturday, January 27th. Becky & Sherrill will host.
- Pastor Rodney Martin of Living Hope Baptist Church will be our guest speaker this Sunday.
- 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!