

PASTOR'S CORNER



Acts 17:10-11

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

THE BEREAN METHODOLOGY (TEST AND APPLY)

Allow me to introduce to you a crucial but often little used spiritual practice that provides vital protection for Christians. I call it the Berean Methodology. It helps us evaluate and approve (or disapprove) apparent spiritual innovations.

In the early days of the Christian faith Paul and Silas arrived in the city of Berea and shared the gospel in the Jewish synagogue there. The Jews by and large worshiped God following the Old Testament pattern of striving to obey the law of Moses (Judaism). The gospel news that people could be made right with God only through faith in Jesus Christ who had died and risen from the dead was radical and revolutionary. Many Jews had a hard time accepting this new truth and viewed it as an attack on their religion and traditions. As a result, they violently resisted the gospel and abused its messengers. In fact, in Thessalonica, the last city before Berea, there was a massive uproar which necessitated the civil authorities to step in to quell the riot that occurred because of those local

Jews' resistance to the gospel (Acts 17:1-9).

The Berean Jews were different. They were eager to receive the truth about how all peoples could be saved – but they checked out these teachings with the Scriptures first to ensure they were accurate. They studied the Scriptures and realized that the things they were now hearing were fulfillment of the many prophecies concerning the Messiah scattered throughout the Old Testament. The coming of Messiah was the great hope of the Jews. He was God's Promised One who would make all things right again. Once the Bereans realized that Jesus was the Messiah taught in the Scriptures, they embraced him and helped to share the truth about him with their fellow Gentile Bereans (Acts 17:12)

Christians need to be open to deepening our understanding of the Word of God and the way in which God wants us to live. But we must be wary of the sources we listen to. Many voices call to us today, but not all of them are

true and faithful to the Word of God. 1 John 4:1 warns us that many false prophets (teachers) are out in the world intent on misleading the people of God. What should a Christian do? We want to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures, but we do not want to be duped. We, therefore, must do as the Bereans did. Every spiritual idea (teaching) we encounter must be carefully evaluated and compared to the Scriptures. Anything that is not firmly rooted there must be rejected and discarded. But anything that is biblically accurate must be eagerly embraced and practiced. The "Berean Methodology" will help us safely advance in our faith and growth in the Lord.

Who are you listening to today? Have you checked their teachings against Scripture? May God help us to embrace all that is true according to the Scriptures and reject everything that is not, no matter how good and exciting it sounds.

God bless you,
Pastor James

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

MAR 19

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

MAR 22

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith?

3 CIRCLES

a Six-Session Training Event
Sundays Mar 3rd – Apr 7th @ 6 pm

Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available

KIDZONE & NURSERY SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 24

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM

MAR 21 & MAR 22

In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 24

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for Good Friday Service March 29 @ 7 pm and Resurrection (Easter) Sunday Celebration on March 31 @ 11 am.
- Growth Groups continue Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- 3-Circles evangelism training continues Sundays @ 6pm until April 7.
- Ladies Meeting Saturday @ 10:30 am.
- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream begin Sunday March 3, at 10am. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
- Baby Bottle Fundraiser: grab a baby bottle from church and fill it with coins, cash or a check and return it by March 3 to support the work of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos.
- The Church's Quarterly Business Meeting will be held Sunday April 17th following the Morning Service.
- 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.

WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally 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!