



# MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

eBulletin weekly issue No. 148 • February 6, 2023

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## THE FEAR OF THE LORD

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Proverbs 9:10  
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

The fear of the Lord is a vital but often misunderstood aspect of our relationship with God. “If God is so loving, why should we fear Him?” many believers and unbelievers alike ask. We will discover that a deepening understanding of God’s position and character engenders a positive, healthy fear of Him.

God’s Position in creation evokes a holy fear. Although we are called into a warm familial relationship with God, it is not a relationship of equals. God is the absolute sovereign creator and ruler of the universe. We are insignificant mortals. As Psalm 8:3-4 says, When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and

the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? It is as if a man befriended a worm. What can the worm grasp of the man’s thoughts and abilities? What can the worm know of the complexity of the human being? When we grasp the magnitude of the disparity between us and God, we are gripped with a holy awe – a reverential fear. We dare not challenge or disagree with Him. We dare not argue or bargain with Him. Who are we to question the God of the universe? Who are we to try to match wits with Him? We prostrate ourselves in obedience before Him every time.

We not only fear God because of His Position, but also because of His Character. God is holy and perfect. We are fallible and sinful. As we draw closer to Him, we are driven to our knees in horror as we see our deep impurity against the backdrop of His blazing purity. “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;

for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” cried the prophet Isaiah when he caught a vision of the Holy God (Isaiah 6:3 & 5). Sin cannot abide His burning presence. Yet here we are – frail creatures who sin daily – trying to live in intimacy with this God. We are acutely aware that if He should treat us as we deserve at any moment we would be utterly consumed. So we walk with Him in holy awe knowing that it is only His mercy and grace that keep us safe. We recognize sin as dangerous and strive with all our might to exclude it from our lives.

The fear of the Lord, then, is not a negative quality. It is the natural, inevitable response of those who begin to understand even a little of the nature of the God we love and serve. It is this fear that impels us to live in obedience and holiness.

May God help us to grow in our fear Him.

God bless you,  
Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**FEB 7**

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

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**FEB 10**

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

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**FEB 19**

Join us in-person  
at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**FEB 12**

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

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

**BEGIN this week**

Plan to attend one convenient to  
you. Sign-up on our  
website or the Info. Ctr.

**FEB 9 & FEB 10**

In-person at church.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**FEB 12**

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on  
Facebook and our  
church’s website.

- Men’s Breakfast Saturday at 9 am at church. Invite a friend and bring something to share for breakfast if you can.
- Baptism this Sunday, February 12th following the Morning Service.
- Growth Groups begin February 9 & 10 at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Kyle Dunn is to be received into membership. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- If you’d like to be part of the church’s refreshment team, please contact Lori Ditaranto for details.
- Join us on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie’s daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.
- Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes [www.cbepoconos.org](http://www.cbepoconos.org) and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at [hleet1412@gmail.com](mailto:hleet1412@gmail.com) 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!