

# MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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## GLOBAL GOSPEL

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Luke 24:46-48*  
[Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things."

The heart of the gospel is simple and transferable to any place or people on the globe. As Jesus pointed out to His disciples on the day of His resurrection: repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations. All peoples can be saved simply by putting their faith in Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, after Christianity has become entrenched in a culture, well-meaning Christians unconsciously begin to regard aspects of their culture as essential tenets of Christianity. The way we dress, the way we sing, the music we prefer, the political stance we adopt become such a part of our Christian lives that we demand that people have to live just like us to be saved. The first Christians wrestled with this reality early in the life of the church. These primarily Jewish believers began insisting that Gentiles had to adopt Jewish customs in order to be saved. Despite assertive efforts to eradicate this blight on the gospel (Acts 15), this attitude persisted in various pockets – and endures even today infecting current Christianity (albeit with modern variants). We often do not realize how badly we have corrupted the gospel with religious "bloatware" until we try to present it to someone from another culture or life perspective.

It takes special grace from God to recognize the cultural barnacles we have attached to the

simple global gospel, and even more humility and strength to remove these stubborn impediments. Even within our own culture we can elevate our preferences to a position of critical importance. This approach hinders us from reaching out to all kinds of people around us. And perhaps more tragically, deceives us into celebrating people who adopt our preferences without accepting Christ. Although these people begin to behave like us, they do not know our Savior and are now "twice the children of hell."

May God help us to return to the simple global gospel. May we proclaim Christ crucified and resurrected as the only hope of salvation to foreign nations – and to our neighbors next door.

God bless you,  
Pastor James



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

FEB 14

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at [rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

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

FEB 17

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 19

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

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

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

FEB 16 & FEB 17

In-person at church.

#### WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

FEB 19

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

- Ladies Meeting Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at church. Hosted by Peggy Korkidas, the theme is Love.
- Growth Groups continue this week at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center or online to attend one convenient to you. Questions are available at the Information Center or on our website @ [www.mountainstreamchurch.com](http://www.mountainstreamchurch.com).
- 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.cbcpoconos.org](http://www.cbcpoconos.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!