

PASTOR'S CORNER



2 Timothy 3:14-15

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

OVERCOMING ERROR

From its earliest days, the church of Jesus Christ has been beset by false teachers. Some were jealous for their culture like the early Judaizers who felt that Christianity undermined the primacy of their religious practices. Some misunderstood the amazing concept of grace and decided to pervert grace into sinful abandon. Others, zealous for holiness, established strict outward principles and practices that petrified the heart of Christianity and made it a harsh, joyless experience. Yet in the midst of all this misunderstanding and sometimes intentional perversion, God has maintained a clear pathway to true Christianity.

Christians are encouraged to learn the Scriptures and hold fast to them. Addressing the young preacher Timothy, Paul acknowledged that error and deceit would flourish in the world around him, but Timothy wouldn't have to fall prey. As long as he recognized that there is no substitute for the in-

tentional, humble devotion to Bible study. While it requires patient, diligent study, honest Bible study helps the Christian not just by the wealth of knowledge he acquires, but also by how the Bible transforms his mind and philosophy of life. As his thinking becomes more aligned to Scripture the Christian discovers that he has less appetite for error – no matter how appealing it appears. In fact, his spiritual palate, having now become acclimatized to the pure rich milk of the Word, can barely stand the horrid taste of error. He almost instinctively spits it out of his mind.

But this Christian has also moved beyond the plane of mere intellectual knowledge. He is living out the Word in his daily life. As a result, the principles of Scripture have been tested and proven in his life. He now knows from experience that God's ways are best. He is not distracted by the latest worldly or religious fad. He is settled and certain that God's ways are practical and effec-

tive. He may not always get the results he desired, but God is changing him to understand and believe that God's ways are always best. If and when God overrides his expectations, he has learnt to rest in God's infinite wisdom and love.

Such a Christian is a difficult place for error and sin to flourish. The soil of his life is too well-watered by the truth. His relationship with Jesus is too real. Like the disciples when challenged by Jesus about whether they too would abandon him like the crowds who found some of His teachings too difficult for them to swallow, we will respond: To whom shall we go? You have the words of life" (John 6:67-68).

May God help us to study and practice His Word until they become a natural defense against false teachings and errors.

God bless you,
Pastor James

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

FEB 26

Join us via Zoom video

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

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

MAR 1

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 3

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

FEB 29 & MAR 1

In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 1

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thelma Hubbard, Gene Minor and Vaughn & Jenica Edwards are to be received into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please speak to Pastor James.
- Growth Groups continue this Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith? Join us for 3-Circles, a six-week evening training to help us have more and better gospel conversations. Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available.
- 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.
- 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!