



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

eBulletin weekly issue No. 155 • March 27, 2023

www.mountainstreamchurch.com

TRUE FREEDOM

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*1 Peter 2:16
Live as people who are free,
not using your freedom as a
cover-up for evil, but living as
servants of God.*

The only thing more dangerous than bondage is freedom!

We are not suggesting that bondage is good. We are simply acknowledging that freedom can be a volatile elixir if it is misunderstood or misapplied. In the verse before us, we are warned to handle freedom carefully. We are charged to recognize that freedom is not the right to do whatever we please, but the opportunity and responsibility to do what is good and noble.

If freedom is perceived as the right to do what-

ever we please, there is the potential for endless strife and dissipation. Strife results when our (real or perceived) rights conflict with another's (real or perceived) rights. How do we resolve this dispute? Unless someone is willing to curtail his freedoms, endless conflict can ensue resulting in great harm.

Perceiving freedom as the right to do whatever one pleases often leads to wasteful, self-harmful behaviors and attitudes. People who claim freedom to challenge established and natural norms needlessly flout guidelines which are designed to foster harmonious societal relationships. This reckless "freedom" exacerbates the inevitable friction that attends interpersonal relationships and creates disorder and social chaos. Similarly, when individuals contradict the clear (unyielding) rules of nature in an attempt to bend the universe to their wishes or preferences, they experience irreconcilable inner conflicts which often lead to mental health issues and self-harm.

If, on the other hand, we recognize freedom as a crucial responsibility, we will carefully consider our options and choose the course which will produce the greatest good. We will train our minds with the truths of Scripture so that we can discern God's will in even the most challenging circumstances, and we will remain humble and open to correction as our understanding increases.

God wants us to be free..... truly free. He wants us to embrace Him and pursue His purposes on earth. He wants us to live full, virtuous lives. But we can only accomplish this by freely accepting His invitation to submit ourselves to His benevolent lordship. Have you accepted His invitation?

Are you truly free?

God bless you,

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

MAR 28

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

MAR 31

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

APR 2 & APR 16

Join us in-person
at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

APR 2

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

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

Conclude this week
Preparation questions are on our
website or the Information Center

MAR 30 & MAR 31

In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

APR 2

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

- Explore Mountain Stream Classes for those interested in becoming members of Mountain Stream or just finding out more about our church continue Sunday @ 10 am. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
- Join us for Good Friday Service April 7 @ 7pm and Easter Celebration Service Sunday April 9 @ 11 am.
- Save the date: Vacation Bible School will be from July 17-21. Be praying how God might use you in this ministry.
- Growth Groups conclude this Thursday & Friday at 7 pm at church. Preparation questions are available at the Information Center and on our website.
- We're updating our Church Directory. If you'd like to be included, please contact Lori at 570 688 3072 or niclorprc@gmail.com by March 31st.
- If you'd like to be part of the church's refreshment team, please contact Lori Ditaranto for details.
- Save the Date: Saturday April 22 is Middle Smithfield Township Street Clean Up. Plan to join our team.
- Clarks Summit University's Lyfe Women's Conference is June 2-3. Contact Sherrill or Becky for more information.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd 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.

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!