



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

eBulletin weekly issue No. 57 • May 10, 2021

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BY THEIR FRUITS

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 7:15-20
"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

Christians need to always be on the lookout for false prophets who try to infiltrate the body of Christ and wreak havoc. These false prophets are not merely confused or misled people who unwittingly cause problems. They are vicious, intention-

al marauders. Christ calls them ravenous wolves. Like the animal predators who ravage flocks both to fill their growling stomachs and to satisfy their bloodlust, these false prophets intentionally seek to exploit the people of Christ for their own selfish, sinful purposes. Knowing that any sheep worth its salt will flee from approaching wolves, these religious predators cleverly disguise themselves as sheep in order to deceive unwitting Christians into not only receiving them, but elevating them to positions of influence. From these lofty perches they are now able to plunder the flock of Christ through false teachings and spurious spiritual claims.

So, how can Christians protect themselves from these deceptive, dangerous spiritual predators?

Jesus instructs His followers to evaluate the fruit of their leaders and teachers. Christians should not only test the words of their leaders (1 John 4:1-3), but they should also check out their actions and lifestyles. If we look long enough and close enough, we will see these imposters' true nature seeping through their camouflage. Their lives will inevitably be marked by corrupt fruit. Their

actions, values, and philosophy of life will reek of worldliness and error. Just as thornbushes cannot produce grapes, unregenerate people cannot live godly lives because godliness is a product of the Spirit of God (Galatians 5 22-24). Even the "good" deeds of these imposters will be tainted by greed, selfishness and pride – like corrupt fruit from a diseased tree.

Christians must not be hesitant to scrutinize and evaluate their leaders. True Christian leaders will not only teach biblically sound ideas, but they will also demonstrate Christian living in their daily walk. Christians must commit to observing the "fruit" of those who claim to be called of God to lead. God expects no less. While any Christian can stumble occasionally and should be treated with grace and forgiveness, people whose lives persistently contradict the ways of Christ should be regarded with real suspicion and they should be excluded from leadership roles in the body of Christ.

God bless you,
 Pastor James

REJECT EVERY KIND OF EVIL



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>May 11 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>EVENING SERVICES 1st & 3rd SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p>May 16 via Zoom Please email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com for login information.</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>May 16 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>QUICK TIPS</p> <p>Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. 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!</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p>May 14 Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p>May 16 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us online on Sunday for our Evening Service @ 6 pm.
- Join us on Saturday as we participate in the annual Middle Smithfield Street Clean Up. Be at the Park and Ride across from Price Chopper by 8:30 am. Please contact Tom Watson for further details.
- Growth Groups begin in June. More information will follow soon!
- Beginning in May, we will have **two evening services**. In-person on the First Sunday Evening in the month, and online on the Third Sunday. Both services start at 6 pm. Looking forward to seeing you!
- Please support the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Pocono's virtual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday May 13 at 7 pm. You may access the banquet at prepoconos.org.
- The 2021 Church Directory will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included, please visit our website, click the ABOUT button at the top of the page. **May 31st is the last day** you may submit information.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Also read Jimmie VanSant's daily blog.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.