



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## FEAR THE LORD

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Deuteronomy 10:12-13*  
*"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?"*

While recounting Israel's history as he prepares them to enter the Promised Land without him, Moses uses one of their most painful experiences to explain how and why they should fear the Lord. Shortly after rescuing them from Egypt, God called Moses up to Mount Sinai to establish a formal covenant with the Israelites. While Moses was on the mountain for forty days receiving the details of the covenant, the Israelites made golden calves and began worshiping them. Their foolish rebellion brought swift retribution, and they were only saved from total extermination by Moses' intercession to

God on their behalf. Invoking the memory of that horrible incident Moses reminds them that all God wants is for them to fear Him. He points out that fearing the Lord involved the following three components:

1. To fear the Lord means to walk in His ways. To live in obedience to His revealed expectations and guidelines. God is the Creator of the universe and Deliverer of His people. He is the God of gods, and Lord of lords (verse 17). Even a minute apprehension of His position and authority obligates us to obey Him.
2. To fear the Lord means to love Him. Our obedience to Him must not be petulant or grudging. We must nurture a deep and genuine affection for Him as we acknowledge His character and His care for us. Because God first loved us, we should love Him too (verse 15).
3. To Fear the Lord means to serve Him with all our heart and our soul. We must be completely and truly devoted to Him. We must live our lives for His purpose and His glory.

He must be the center and circumference of our lives. As we navigate life, we must make pleasing God the ultimate motive of our existence and activities.

Having told us how to fear the Lord, Moses informs us why we should fear the Lord. It is for our good (verse 13)! Fearing God is not an exploitative experience. In fact, it is the best way to enjoy life as God intended. We grow in our intimacy with Him as our surrendered hearts discover how sweet He is. We overcome worry as we depend on Him to care for us. When we fear the Lord, we inhabit the space that is under His constant attention and care. As Psalm 33:18-19 reminds us; "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, 19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine."

No matter the exigencies or challenges of life, those who fear the Lord will enjoy His protection and provision. In light of all this, why wouldn't we fear the Lord?

God bless you,  
 Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
**TUE @ 7 PM**

**MAY 16**

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

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

**MAY 19**

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

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

**MAY 21**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**MAY 21**

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

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**MAY 21**

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

- **Vacation Bible School is July 17-21.**  
 A) Members may sign up to serve at the Information Center.  
 B) Students can be registered online.
- **Baptism May 28** following the morning service.
- **Ladies Meeting May 20 at 10:30 am.** Maggie and Neyda are hosting.
- **Explore Mountain Stream Class** for folks interested in becoming members or just finding out what our church believes **begins June 4 at 10 am.** Sign up at the Information Counter to attend.
- Heather Murzyn and Jilean Pink are to be received into membership soon. If you have any comments, please contact Pastor James.
- **Growth Groups begin** Thursday and Friday **June 8th and 9th.** Please sign up online or at the Information Counter to attend one convenient to you.
- Clarks Summit University's **Lyfe Women's Conference is June 2-3.** Contact Sherrill or Becky for more information.
- 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.

### 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!