



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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I NEVER KNEW YOU...

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 7:21-23
 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

One of the cruelest acts of deception is when people mislead themselves about their relationship with Christ. There are people who present an impressive resume of "wonders" to substantiate their claim that they know Jesus Christ and are working for Him. Yet Jesus declares flatly that He does not know them, and condemns them to judgment.

Despite their claims of a relationship, despite their catalog of miraculous deeds, they do not belong to Jesus! How could such a serious error occur? They may have deceived themselves – and others – but they did not fool Christ.

This tragic reality forces us to wrestle with what it means to know Christ, and what is proof of that relationship. Obviously, simply claiming that one knows Christ is not enough. Jesus says not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom. Clearly there are people who declare Christ to be their Lord, but really have not installed Him as such in their lives. Instead, they assume that they can dictate how they will relate to Jesus. They presume to tell Jesus how they will relate to Him. What they miss is that it is the Lord Jesus who sets the terms. Any other kind of relationship is imaginary.

Another sobering reality is that miraculous works alone are not proof of a genuine relationship with Christ. The persons in our passage argued that their prophecies, demon expulsions, and mighty works were positive proof of their relationship with God, yet Jesus condemned them as workers of lawlessness, or wickedness. Many people today venerate

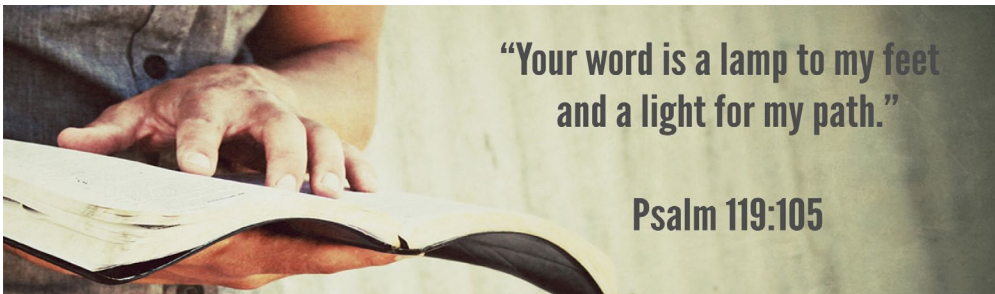
demonstrations of "miraculous" abilities, because they forget that Satan is capable of supernatural counterfeits. For example, the sorcerers in Egypt matched the first three miraculous signs/judgements that God wrought by the hand of Moses (Exodus 7:10-11; 20-22; 8:6-7) during the time of the Exodus.

So, if it is not bold assertions or miraculous signs, what is it that constitutes a genuine relationship with Christ? Jesus' short, simple answer is: Doing the will of His Father. That means putting our trust in Jesus (John 6:40), and surrendering to Him. We don't get to determine how we want to relate to Christ. We find out how He wants us to relate to Him and embrace that. It is only in this state of genuine surrender and dependence on God that we can have a saving relationship with Him.

Make sure you are not just calling Jesus Lord, but you are treating Him as Lord. Make sure you are not resting your confidence in miraculous works, but in full, humble dependence on Jesus.

God bless you,
 Pastor James

LET GOD GUIDE YOU



"Your word is a lamp to my feet
 and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:105

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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| <p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>May 18 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>Jun 6 in-person Jun 20 via Zoom Please email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com for login information.</p> | <p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>May 23 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 21 Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p> | <p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p>May 23 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p> |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thanks to all those who helped with the street cleanup on Saturday.
- In-person Ladies Meeting happening on Saturday, May 22nd @ 10:30 am at church. Inviting all MSBC ladies to attend and bring a friend.
- Growth Groups begin in June. More information will follow soon!
- We are now having two evening services. On the First Sundays, we have an in-person service, and on the Third Sundays, we have an online service. Both services start at 6 pm. Looking forward to seeing you!
- Thanks to all those who supported the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos fundraising banquet on Thursday.
- 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.