



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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PREPARED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



2 Timothy 2:20-21
Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work."

Our sinful, stubborn world needs clear, convincing God wants to involve all His children in His honorable work of redeeming people to Himself. He called us and gifted us to serve. But readiness for God's service is not dependent on calling and giftedness alone. The spiritual tenor of our lives exerts an immense influence on whether God can and will use us for His glorious purposes. And the spiritual tenor of our lives depends in large part on us.

Drawing on the analogy of a house, Paul reminds

young Timothy that there are various kinds of vessels in a house. Some are for honorable use while others are for dishonorable use. "Dishonorable" here does not mean sinful or wicked. It just means menial tasks such as storing rubbish, or cleaning floors. In contrast, the vessels we use for eating and decorating our homes could be considered vessels for honorable use. We care and display them differently. Garbage cans are not generally kept on people's dining tables, nor are floor pails displayed in prominent places in our homes. And we generally take greater care in maintaining eating vessels and home decorations than we do in maintaining garbage containers and floor pails.

Similarly, the people God will use for ministry are those who are spiritually clean. Every Christian has the responsibility of pursuing a holy (clean) life so God has ample vessels ready for good works (2 Timothy 2:21). This means a Christian must intentionally strive to grow in holiness. We must endeavor to avoid sin in our daily lives (2 Timothy 2:22-23) and confess and repent as soon as we realize we have sinned (1 John 1:8-9). As we diligently pursue holiness, God promises that we will be ready for every good work.

Too many Christians focus primarily on honing their skills and gifts. While these are important activities, they are of little value if they are not accompanied by a growing intimacy with the Lord. God repeatedly demonstrated in word and deed that our gifts do not phase Him. As Paul asked in 1 Corinthians 4:7, "What do we have that we have not received?" And as God showed by equipping a donkey to verbally confront the renegade prophet Balaam (2 Peter 2:15-16), He can gift anybody (or thing) to serve Him. What He is looking for in His children is a heart devoted to Him.

So, are you intentionally striving to grow in Christ. Are you feeding on the Word, and leaning on the Spirit? Do you evaluate your life appropriately and keep short accounts with God? No matter how gifted or enthusiastic you are, God won't (can't) use you if you are not clean. May God help us to pursue personal purity so that we are vessels of honor ready for every good work.

God bless you,
 Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

AUG 15

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

AUG 18

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

AUG 20

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

AUG 20

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

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

AUG 20

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

- Missionaries Jonatan & Shantal Odicio and family will be ministering at Church Sunday Morning August 27th. The church will receive a love offering on their behalf that day.
- Ladies' Meeting Saturday, Aug 26th @ 10:30 am at church.
- Evening Service Sunday at 6 pm.
- Men's Retreat at New Life Island October 13-14th. See Ted for details.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- 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!