



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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THE KINDNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Romans 11:22
Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

In a single breath, the Scriptures call us to pay attention to two attributes of God that sound contradictory, but actually work perfectly in harmony as God deals with us. In fact, it is essential to simultaneously keep these two characteristics in view in order to live how God desires us to.

As Paul discusses the relationship between the Jewish nation and the church (made up of both Jews and Gentiles), he reminds Gentile Christians that they must have the proper attitude towards

God and themselves in order not to displease God through presumption or pride. Israel, God's chosen people, presumptuously persisted in sin and rebellion to the point where they experienced God's severity as He set them aside (temporarily) to call together the church – a body of people from all nations united by their faith in Jesus Christ. The idea that we Gentiles who once were not a people have now become God's people is heady stuff. We can begin to think that we are better than the Jews. We can become so cocky that we embark upon the same path that led to the discipline being experienced by the Jewish nation (Romans 11:17-20). Paul would spare us this error.

Therefore, he urges us to note the kindness and severity of God. "Note" calls us to pay close attention. We must keep both realities in the forefront of our minds and hearts. We must be aware that God will judge us if we engage in presumptuous sin but will sustain us if we strive to remain faith-

ful to Him. He shows amazing kindness to those who are committed to living for Him, even though we often fail and slip up. If we are devoted to Him in our hearts, He will sustain us by His kindness despite our inconsistencies and failures. But if we rebel and defect, we will reap the severe consequences of our actions.

May God help us to remain acutely aware of His kindness and severity so we walk with Him the way we should. May we fear His severity so much that we develop a healthy disgust for sin. And may we understand His kindness so much that we confidently continue to do our best to live for Him.

God bless you,

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

SEP 26

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

SEP 29

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

OCT 15

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

OCT 1

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

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

OCT 5 & OCT 6

Restarting soon.
 In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

OCT 1

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

- Join us Sunday @ 11am for **15th Anniversary & Friend Day Celebration**. Invite a Friend! Invitation cards are available in the foyer. Join us for our free International Luncheon following which follows the service.
- **Ladies Meeting this Saturday**, September 30 @ 10:30am. Join them for a Sukkot Celebration and learn how the Jews and early Christians celebrated the fall harvest time. Host Lori Ditaranto & Laura Gentile.
- Pregnancy Resources of the Poconos Walk for Life is Saturday, October 7. Registration and Breakfast will be at 8:30 am and the walk starts at 9 am. Please see Lori for sign-up sheets and more details.
- Middle Smithfield Street Clean-Up was postponed due to inclement weather. Stay tuned for updates on the new pick-up date.
- Growth Groups restart October 5 & 6 at 7pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- **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!