



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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www.mountainstreamchurch.com

I ORDERED A STEAK FROM HOME DEPOT

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Ephesians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

No, I did not actually go to my local Home Depot and order a medium well-done cut of beef. But imagine what would have happened if I did. I imagine the staff would have helped me understand that they didn't sell those kinds of steaks. They might be able to hook me up with a variety of steaks, but there was no way they could supply me with a piece of meat. They wouldn't need to apologize either because they had never said or suggested they could. I would have no right to be upset with them. After all, I was the one in the wrong.

This silly example illustrates an important truth. Many of us claim God's promises without consid-

ering the context in which they are made. We inevitably impose our interpretation on God's assurances and end up disappointed that He "failed" to keep His promise. When we read statements like Ephesians 1:3, we often begin to think of material acquisitions while totally ignoring the clear "spiritual" part.

Even though God looks out for our material needs (Matthew 6:30), He is more invested in our spiritual wellbeing. For example, when He promises us abundant life, He is not talking about material wealth. How could He, when He tells us clearly that our lives do not consist in the abundance of our possessions (Luke 12:15). In Matthew 6:31-32, Jesus admonishes us to not pursue the same things the "Gentiles" (people who don't know the Lord) pursue. Yet we as Christians expend a lot of our energy trying to persuade God to give us what we want, instead of what He wants. God wants to conform us to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). His goal is to help us grow more and more like Jesus every day. He orders our circumstances

and experiences to lead us into deeper and deeper intimacy and surrender to Him. Christlikeness is to be our primary pursuit in this world. If we miss that truth, we will be forever disappointed. We will experience repeated frustration and failure because we misunderstand God's purpose and goal for us. If we continue to apply His promises to our material rather than spiritual wellbeing, we will never see those promises fulfilled. We must embrace God's priorities. We must understand the context from which He speaks. When we do that, we will align our desires and lives with what He wishes. We will view life from His perspective and begin to experience fulfillment and peace no matter what our prevailing circumstances.

May God deliver us from attempting to impose our wills on Him. May we never be guilty of the spiritual equivalent of ordering a steak from Home Depot.

God bless you,
Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

OCT 17

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

OCT 20

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

NOV 5 & NOV 19

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

OCT 22

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

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

OCT 19 & OCT 20

Restarting soon.
In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

OCT 22

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

- Growth Groups continue this week at 7pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you. Preparation questions are available at the Information Counter or on our website.
- Anthony Bonito is to be accepted into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- Joe Kirschbaum is to be accepted into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- Baptism this Sunday immediately following the morning service.
- Ladies Meeting hosted by Teri Eckert will be Saturday October 28th at church at 10:30 am.
- 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!