

MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

www.mountainstreamchurch.com

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Blessed Sorrow



Matthew 5:4
*"Blessed are they that mourn,
 for they shall be comforted."*

As Jesus continues His discourse about the nature of the Kingdom of God and those who will enjoy it, He declares the blessedness of those who mourn. This idea sounds jarring to us. Mourning usually accompanies hurt and loss. We rarely consider ourselves

and others who mourn as being in a blessed or privileged position. Adding to the strangeness of this declaration is the fact that Jesus does not specify the source of grief in this verse.

Because Jesus is revealing truth about the Kingdom of God, we can conclude that Jesus is not focused so much on the grief we suffer over our losses and hurts, but rather the grief and pain that accompanies our recognition of our sinfulness and our failures that make us unfit for the Kingdom of God. The person who sees his sin as God sees it is broken by the awfulness of that sin. He is horrified at how hopelessly tainted he is. He yearns to be rid of this sinfulness. He does not excuse or minimize it. He wants to be clean. But he cannot accomplish this cleansing in His own ability. He is overwhelmed with horror and grief. When this grief (and hopelessness) leads Him to God in contrition, He is cleansed by God through Jesus Christ.

This is the person that receives God's comfort -the assurance that his sins are totally taken care of in Jesus because God sees us as absolutely righteous in Christ.

Centuries ago, the Psalmist David echoed these ideas in Psalm 51:3; "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." He had earlier declared that God's cleansing and restoration would result in joy [comfort] (verse 8, 12). So, we are blessed NOT just because we happen to be mourning. We are blessed because we recognize our profound sinfulness and cast ourselves upon God for cleansing. He comforts us by dealing with our sin and reassuring our hearts of His forgiveness.

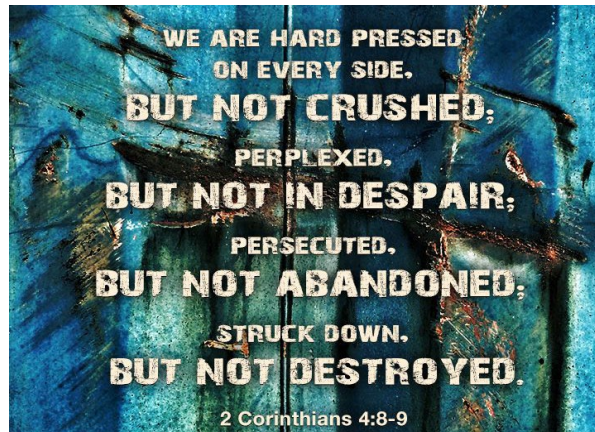
Are you deeply broken over your sin? Turn to God in true contrition and He will bring the cleansing and healing that result in joy. Your heart will be comforted in the knowledge of the sufficiency of the salvation Jesus wrought for us through the sacrifice of Himself.

Blessed, indeed, are those who mourn (for their sin), for they shall be comforted.

God bless you,

Pastor James

HARD PRESSED BUT NOT DESTROYED!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We need 20 volunteers to help meet the Christmas gift wishes of some of the residents at the Garden at Stroud. If you would like to participate, contact Tom at 570 223 9550.
- For our Thanksgiving outreach this year, we will be giving out gift cards instead of food baskets. If you'd like to contribute, you may send your donation with your usual giving. Please be sure to note clearly what amount is for the Thanksgiving Outreach.
- Please pray for Maria Palermo who is back in hospital with her stomach issue.
- Please continue to pray for Marilyn Johnson recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Plan to join either the Thursday or Friday online Growth Group this week! Sign up via email at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log-in information.
- **As we observe social distancing** at our in-person services, there is only a **limited number of persons who can be accommodated inside the building** at one time. **Please call ahead (570-856-3310)**, or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com if you are planning to attend this Sunday's service so we can make adequate preparations. If you'd prefer to come and stay outside, you are welcome to. You don't need to call.
- If you are **interested in learning basic music** (primarily for church worship purposes), please come to church on **Saturdays at 5 pm** for free instructions in keyboard, guitar and drumming. For more information please contact Dwain Gayle at 347 677 2923.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

October 20

Join us via Zoom video
 Please contact Pastor James for details.
 rcantio@gmail.com

GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM

October 22 & 23

Contact Pastor James at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com for logon details.

YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM

October 23 Youth meetings are in-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

October 25

In-person service and livestream.
 Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM

October 25

Kidzone is available every Sunday.
 Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for logon information.

QUICK TIPS

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!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If at any time during this virus outbreak you feel that you need some help: whether you are physically unable to go out for groceries, or you might need a little financial help due to the virus, or you just need prayer, feel free to reach out to us, our contact details are below.

305 Dartmouth Dr., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 * email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com * PH: 570-856-3310
 Mailing address: Box 192 Bushkill, PA 18324