



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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www.mountainstreamchurch.com

STABILIZING GRATITUDE

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Colossians 4:2
“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”

Life in our broken world can be savage. We endure crises, pain, hurt and loss. As we struggle with these loads, we can become weary and bitter. It is easy to complain and count our trials.

If we aren't careful, we can begin to feel like life is just one unending struggle with no end or solution in sight. Our circumstances threaten to overwhelm us.

God has an antidote for this. He calls us to persist in prayer and thanksgiving. We can easily understand the call to prayer. After all, it is in times of struggle that we cry out to God for help and support. But it is surprising to find the injunction to continue in thanksgiving also. Thanksgiving is the last thing we feel like practicing when we face

difficulties. But at its heart, this command is a call to lift our eyes beyond our circumstances and anchor our souls in the reality of who God is. Here are three realities we can focus on.

God is Good. Psalm 100:5 reminds us that "... the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." In a world where bad things happen and friends might fail us, we can be comforted that there is a good God looking out for us – one who knows how to bring good out of evil. (Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...)

God is Wise. Romans 16:27 tells us that God is "the only wise God" to whom is due "glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen." Therefore, God does not make mistakes. Sometimes people mean well, but they mess up because their plans and actions were not wise. God never messes up. God knows each of us intimately and will bring into our lives exactly what we need to thrive. Paul confessed that some severe difficulties that he experienced were allowed by God to keep him hum-

ble and useful (2 Corinthians 12: 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.)

God is Lord. Psalm 47:2 declares: "For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth." God is in control. No matter how chaotic our world or our life may seem, God is ordering things to accomplish His glorious purposes. We do not need to try to control our circumstances. We just need to yield in surrender and obedience to God and watch Him whip the chaos into order much as Christ stilled the raging storm with just a word.

With these realities firm in our minds, we can remain thankful to God no matter what this life throws at us. May God give us a deeper, clearer understanding of who He is so we can experience real gratitude for Him.

God bless you,

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

NOV 28

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

DEC 1

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

DEC 3 & DEC 17

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

DEC 3

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

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

DEC 3

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

- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about our church continue next Sunday @ 10 am. Please sign up at the Information Counter to attend.
- Rebecca Tinubu-Joyner is to be received into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James
- Living Hope Baptist Church is hosting a free Mental Health Conference under the theme: "Embracing Hope this Season," with Dr. James Meyer on December 2. You may register at: <https://livinghopepoconos.com/events>.
- If you would like to supply a Christmas gift for a Nursing Home resident, you may sign up at the Information Counter or contact Tom Watson for more information.
- Nominations for Church Officers for 2024 will be on December 10th. Please see the Information Center for more information and be praying about whom God would have you nominate
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm 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!