



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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[www.mountainstreamchurch.com](http://www.mountainstreamchurch.com)

## GOLDEN TESTING

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Job 23:10*

*But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.*

Job and his friends are wrestling with the cause of Job's sudden, catastrophic descent into misery. In a single day all his livestock were killed or captured, and

his children died in an awful (seemingly) natural disaster. Not long after, Job himself was stricken with a painful, debilitating disease. As he and his friends surveyed the rubble of his life, his friends contended that Job's hardships were the result of divine judgment. But Job remains adamant that divine displeasure is not the root of his problems.

This stance leaves him wondering what the real issue is. In one of the exchanges between him and his friends, Job laments that he cannot find God to get some kind of answer from Him. Despite all his efforts, there is no word from God. There is no sense of God's presence.

In the midst of all this uncertainty and angst, Job displays amazing certainty about the outcome of his ordeal. He is convinced that God is in control of him and his circumstances. And that God is using them for good. He remains convinced that God is aware of every step of his bitter journey, and is not only aware, but is employing them to purify and strengthen him. Job is proven correct when God eventually arrives and confirms that Job's distress was not the result of any personal sins of his. Although God does not explain every detail of Job's ordeal nor answer all the questions he had, Job is able to bow his head in reverent surrender and affirm that God was right all along. Job

just needed a reminder of who God was – and that He could be trusted.

Many times, we focus on the fact that after Job's ordeal God restored his material blessings. But Job's greatest benefit was spiritual. He came out of them with a deeper understanding of his limited wisdom, and a fuller understanding of God's unlimited wisdom and grace. This insight would impact his perspective on life forever. So the trials did purify and strengthen Job. And prove to be golden in end.

May God help you in whatever trial you may be facing to maintain your trust in Him, knowing He is refining you like precious gold.

God bless you,

Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**DEC 6**

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at [rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**DEC 9**

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

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**DEC 18**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**DEC 11**

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

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**DEC 11**

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

➤ Men's Breakfast on Saturday. Please invite a friend and bring something to share for breakfast if you can.

### ➤ CHRISTMAS & YEAR END ACTIVITIES

Christmas Eve Service	December 24 @ 6 pm
Christmas Service	December 25th @ 11 am
New Year's Eve Service	December 31st from 8pm-10pm
New Year's Service	January 1 @ 11 am

➤ We are collecting items for 3 Christmas food baskets for needy families in our community. Please drop off your non-perishable donations at church by December 13.

➤ You can be a blessing to residents at the Gardens at Stroud by getting them a Christmas gift. Pick a name from the posted list at the Information Center and donate the items requested. You may see Tom for details

➤ Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Meadows at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

➤ The Church's Annual General Business Meeting will be on January 14th at 2 pm at church. All members, please plan to attend.

➤ Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes [www.cbepoconos.org](http://www.cbepoconos.org) and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at [hleet1412@gmail.com](mailto:hleet1412@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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!