

This transcribed message has been lightly edited and formatted for the Web site. No attempt has been made, however, to alter the basic extemporaneous delivery style, or to produce a grammatically accurate, publication-ready manuscript.

Teaching: Carlon Tschetter
Series: People of the Book
Message: Obey the Word to Experience God's Best

Transcribed Message
September 3, 2017

Well acronyms are something that have been around for a long time with the it's a way that we communicate a word that we take as you know the first letter of every word and put it together and form a new word acronyms have been part of communication for what seems like forever I don't think military people can function apart from acronyms when you're sitting and listening to military people talk you have to stop them frequently and say know what is that what does that word mean we use them all the time to I'm just a little looking and you know the idea of a road that is zone improvement plan acronym the way back when the ZIP Code system was put into effect we took it the beginning of each of those words and made an acronym out of it we have something like a POTUS the president of the United States we have photos the first lady of the United States we have this go to the Supreme Court of the United States right to have all the acronyms in words that we put together NASA has been around for a long long time and we use those to communicate words that the that we pull the letters off of the first of each one of those to to make a new word we even have some of your company we have some acronyms your covenant we have five mocks mothers of preschoolers we had MBO we have truth and I think the word truth I think it started in the late 80s and early 90s it signified teams reaching up to heaven truth and don't bother me a little bit when we don't have student ministry on Wednesday night in the bulletin says no true tonight doesn't seem like we should say it that way but that's the that's what we have what we come up with another one ourselves BPO TB we want to BPO TB people right there with me on that people of the book we did a little short miniseries dealing with what it looks like to be people of the book were to wrap it up this morning and this morning look at this idea of knowing what to do is important obviously you have to know what to do yet to start their don't but boy we dare not stop there so doing what we know to do is even more important than just gaining that knowledge and that information

select be doers of the word you faxed about the Bible we can first the 70s here they are again dispersed when we look at the three weeks you should know this one for sure by now the Bible is written over a period of 1500 years by some 40 authors 66 books in one and you just think of that concept all by itself that should be proof enough on one level that this is a book like no other you take 40 people who spanned 1500 years of time and asked them to write about some of the most controversial things that you could find and all of them in agreement with each other as a testimony to the truthfulness of God's word secondly the Bible was originally written in three different languages Hebrew and Aramaic primarily Hebrew in the Old Testament little Aramaic in the book of Daniel in the New Testament the language predominantly being the koine Greek and then thirdly the chapter and verses were added to English Bibles in 1227 and 1555 and by the name of Stephen Langdon added the chapters in 1227 and Robert Estes added the verses in 1555 to our English Bible were able to St. Curtis, hundred and 19 this morning and you can find a lot faster because those guys took the time to put into our English translations the chapters of the verses God didn't give us those chapters and verses so sometimes it's good to remember that if you are reading because sometimes the thought isn't quite as clear as it could be if you just carried right on over to the next chapter so I don't let those chapters and verses necessarily be the stopping point as you read and study your Bible so those are just some fun facts that we looked at as we've gone on but here's the main point the Bible is a book like no other book that's really been looking at me put forward three different propositions are rebuilt before the morning is over the first one we said the Bible is true the Bible is right in the Bible is good and again if you just look at that statement that is not a claim that we're making for the Bible that the claim that the Bible is making for itself and as you read your Bible you read many times where the Bible claims to be truth the Bible claims to be right and the Bible claims to be good which is again another reminder to us that this book is not of human origin got used 40 different human authors but it was inspired by the spirit of God within secondly the Bible alone is our final authority the Bible is the final authority did not finish this point consumer to pick up where we left off last week so it just had to rewind the tape of your mind and you go back to the point where I said I don't think were to cover all of these lessons plans this morning that's where were going to jump back in

okay so let's do that and a little quick overview we talked about the fact that the Bible is in tension with the culture and again that's an obvious statement the Bible is in tension with the culture and it was from the moment that God reported these words that was in fact a part of his purpose in calling out of people to himself right he wanted them to be set apart in different and the culture was gonna push back against what God said that's why Peter says in his letter that we as believers are a few kill your people now you can understand that in a lot of ways but I think the intent of his heart was weird difference were set apart there something unique about his work pushing back against the culture because we are followers of Christ so three choices when we understand that the Bible is in tension with the culture we noted three things we can do we can in faith take this book for what it says and we can allow the truth of Scripture to push back against the culture and instead of allowing the culture to conform us into the image that it wants us to be we are being conformed to what the with the Bible wants us to be in to work were in faith were pushing back against the culture we said secondly that we can in unbelief just reject the Scripture right it's just to I don't think that's right we might look at the place in the Bible to know that I work for me and we can simply reject the truth of Scripture and that's happening in our day the third one that we talked about that maybe is as dangerous as any is this a matter of concession where we concede certain things and we adopt a changing interpretation of the word of God while trying to hold on to our faith in what we talked about last Sunday was that that is a slippery slope and as soon as you step away from what it has been the historic Orthodox understanding of the word of God which is to be committed to its truthfulness and righteousness and its goodness you put yourself on a slippery slope and and I I was saddened as I read a story this week ESPN have a story I don't know if it was more than just online but I read it online about Aaron Rodgers quarterback of the Green Bay Packers right and so he sure took us back and think it was 2008 or 2009 he just becoming the starter Green Bay and the Packer organization invites a pastor by the name of Rob Bell to come and speak to the people Rob Bell pastored in Michigan this is all public knowledge I'm not hearing anything out of school year he was youth pastor Michigan very creative guy very effective communicator have all kinds of materials going out churches all over the country the world using Rob Bell's material was good stuff is a little edgy at times but it

was biblically followed it was right on the mark becomes to speak to the Packers and he meets Aaron Rodgers Aaron Rodgers meets him they strike up a friendship this story about Aaron Rodgers takes us back to that point the one that long after that Rob Bell began to question a lot of things that he had previously held two and was teaching in the church and he began to back away from the truthfulness of the Scriptures and he began to back away from many Orthodox interpretations of the word of God and before long what Rob Bell was teaching was not within the framework at all of evangelical Orthodox Christianity and he has since acknowledged that he is slid even farther down that slope where he doesn't believe that Jesus necessarily had to die he doesn't believe that we necessarily have to trust Christ to have the gift of eternal life he speaks about the word of God as being primarily a book that is written to help us come to a better understanding of ourselves as its primary focus is horizontal it's really not even written to help us connect to a righteous holy got I mean he has literally stepped out on that slope and slid down farther than he probably ever had thought he might but here's the point that this is what grieves me during this conversation in a state good friends Aaron Rodgers and Rob Bell it's a good friend's for all of these years and Aaron Rodgers has followed Rob Bell in this progression away Aaron talk about the fact that he grew up in a nondenominational church probably similar to ours his parents are devout Christians and yet now he is at a point where he is pretty much rejected all of that he grew up in his face this is what he said when asked about his Christian faith when asked about the Bible and these are the things he says the Bible is a beautiful piece of work but it was never meant to be interpreted as I think many churches do I asked him whether he still sees himself as a Christian and he says he no longer identifies with Christianity or any affiliation for that matter and I tell you that story because it just was profound in his impact as were looking at what are the implications of either standing firm in the truth and pushing against the culture by faith that this is God's word to us or rejecting it all together as seemingly has happened in this instance by stepping out onto that slippery slope and letting go of essential doctrines of the faith and it is a reality that we all have to live with to realize this is God's word to us and as God's word to us were saying this is the standard that God has given to us and that standard of truth that he has given is our final authority and we have five reasons we covered two of them so many go quickly

through the first two of them will spend a little more time but not too much on the other three weeks at first about it is that final authority because it was written by this is God's word to us hundreds of times the Bible lays claim to being the word of God so it makes that claim for itself on that claim is either true or its call but that claim is put forward in Scripture we noted some hundred and 19 that God refers to this book as his law as his testimony as his precepts his statutes his commandments his judgments his ordinances his words his ways all of these things and we are compelled to read it because this is God's word to us we are drawn to it is drawn to us because there is a work of God's spirit that takes place as we open our lives and we open ourselves to the word of God is why Paul says in Romans 116 I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation nothing can do in our life with the word of God can do secondly we said it's our final authority because that's what Jesus taught that's what Jesus taught Jesus taught that the Bible is in fact our final authority were to see Lord willing next Sunday we jump into the sermon on the mount Jesus as teaches how to live a different kind of life and the authority of Scripture and the authority of Jesus go hand-in-hand because he claimed that this was in fact the word of God to us the right to pick up where we left off our .3 because it alone never changes why do we believe this is the final authority for our life because it alone never changes people change as we just her opinions change morals or changing all around the word of God does not change and so we anchor our soul our life to this unchanging word that's what the psalmist says in Psalm 119 forever oh Lord your word is settled in heaven some hundred and 19 one verse 60 the sum of your word is truth and every one of your righteous ordinances is ever lasting again jump ahead sermon on the Mount Matthew seven Jesus said you're faced with the choice to build your life on something you build your life on the word of God the truth of God you're building your life on the rock that can withstand anything you build your life on anything other than that you're building on San and is going to evaporate before you in the midst of the storm so that is the unchanging nature of God's word the fourth reason is because the word alone defines reality why is it the final authority in our life because the word of God alone defines reality is reality hard to know sometimes anymore and it's like we live in this world where a man what is reality reported the dictionary this is reality the world or state of things as they actually are as

opposed to how they may appear or be imagined that again reality according to the dictionary is the world or state of things as they actually are as opposed to how they may appear or be imagined in a world of little keys write little truths I believe this I believe this people table I believe that you believe in a world of little keys there's only one T and that's the truth of the word of God that defines for us reality we are living in a time that is unlike any time I I fully believe that I know there have been even in biblical history challenging times for God's people I don't question that for a moment that I think there's something unique about our day in our culture we're in the midst of all kinds of debates about reality about what is real and one of those debates is in the whole area of human sexuality and specifically with regard to the whole transgender movement and issue that's going on around us and it is the word of God that comes to us and helps us through the fog of our culture and in the end you need to be in this book to have clarity in the midst of this changing crazy world this place right here we people of God this audit be an inviting place for people who are confused about what's going on in their life this idea place where where you're welcome to come and ask questions in and grapple with issues where people encounter grace where there's compassion but where there's also truth right because that's what this world needs this world is very confused anymore as to what is even real now it's all about what we imagine and what we see and is only the word of God that brings us back and says listen Genesis 127 so God created man in his own image in the image of God he created them male and female he created my friend as graciously and compassionately and kindly and truthfully as we can we have to stand on what the Bible tells us is reality there is mail and there is email that ontological truth that some rocks that you could put beneath your feet what else is there there is no other gender there's a word is called binary or hearing a lot about it today binary is a good word it it communicates the idea of two God created male and female that's reality there are no other genders there are people who are confused about their gender but there are no other genders the very idea within the transgender movement takes us back unknowingly unwittingly to the binary creation of God of male and female because what happens in this confusing world people are confused about whether their manner not people are confused as to whether there a woman so they are trying to decide in moving towards changing their sexual identity what are they moving

to the early morning to one or the other is a third option either transitioning from being a man to being a woman or they're going from being a woman to being a man why is because ontological truth says to us that when God created biologically he created people sexually either as males or as he the confusion of our world and the seeking after oneself is always a false path when that takes you away from the truth of the word of God this idea of being true to yourself of finding your true self is a dangerous path if it takes you away from the truth of what God has said about you and about me and what you said is is either major biologically as a man or biologically as a woman but we may need to help people we may need to bring the grace and the compassion and mercy of God into their lives of course we do but the Bible defines reality and here's the last one is the final authority because it alone and deliver us from sin and that just goes along with everything that we set it alone can deliver us from sin ultimately the question is do we believe what the Bible says it can do do we believe the gospel can do what the gospel says it can do is affect the shrinking of that from from the word of God and the reality of what the Bible teaches and the truth of what the Bible teaches is because we don't really believe the Bible can do what it says it can do in the lives of people we don't really believe it's a loss of confidence in the authority of God's word it's a loss of confidence in the gospel of God's grace because it's that gospel alone that can rescue and save and deliver and redeem they said last week God creates we corrupt God redeems us a message that's why this is such a wonderful book that's why this is a book like no other in a world of confusion and uncertainty we come to a book it's true that is right it is good and it speaks into our life with an authority that nothing else does and can because it is God's revelation to us about him and about ourselves and change your life so let's look at this this third one is the Bible is to be obeyed above all else all right so the Bible is to be obeyed above everything else the Bible is true it's good and it's right it's the final authority in our life in the Bible is to be obeyed above everything else I want to do during the James chapter 1 for a few minutes here as we look at this last point is there's three things I want you to see and I'm in a way to begin reading it verse 19 know this is my beloved brothers let everyone be quick to hear slow to speak slow to anger for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the

implanted word which is able to save your souls but be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving yourselves for anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror free looked at himself and goes away and it was forgets what he was like but the one who looks into the perfect law the law of liberty and perseveres being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts he will be blessed in his doing their three things and you know what those three things taken I have James 1:5 with the three things were looking at about the first one is here the word and we said first Sunday two weeks ago we were for all it's worth here in the word and read it for all of it all is working to be people of the book the OTB received the word receive the word and submit to it no matter the cost so you you hear it you read it you receive it and you submit to it one of the great statements that Paul makes about the word of God first Thessalonians 2:13 in anything he says in that person he so thankful for those believers you know I'm so thankful for them because I'm so thankful for you because when I came to you with the word of God you received it you welcomed it into your life for what it is not the words of man but the word of God's great verse to memorize first Thessalonians 2:13 he is grateful he's thankful because when he came and he proclaimed to them the truth of the word of God they didn't see it as the words of Paul they sought for what it really is the word of God is my friend the word of God sits in judgment on our life we don't sit in judgment on the word of God okay that's what's happening in our culture that's what's happening in our world we come to the word of God we judge the word of God as to what it is that we want to accept or not accept obey or not obey change or not change and here's the new/the word of God is to what is to sit in judgment on our life because it is that which comes regard to the third one is practice the word obey to experience God blessing right so you hear you receive the practice you read you submit and you obey to experience God blessing it doesn't do anything to do number one and number two and not go to number three doesn't do a lot of good to hear the word and to receive the word and stop that's the whole point of the James is making someone 1922 different times I counted as I read to those verses the psalmist says keep the word keep the stat to the committee keep the ordinances and exits that one expression one word keep 22 times and when you look at all of the other ways that he called us to obey it's a much higher number than that to look at this James passes

for a second and I want you to see one warning and one promise there's one warning here and there's one promise we start off by looking at the warning and that warning in verse 22 may be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving yourselves James is troubled by the prospect that they're going to hear the word of God that they're going to come under the the teaching of the word of God and are going to be untouched by the teaching beginning to hear the word but they're going to remain in the state of delusion and a state of deception and when you're in a state of delusion and of the state of deception most dangerous thing about it is you don't know what oftentimes you don't know you're in a place of delusion you don't know you're in a place of deception is a James's burden that they're going to hear the word and are not to act on it and as a result of hearing the word and not acting on it you become more and more diluted and more and more to see Jay Adams puts it this way in his book the thirst for wholeness the consequence of this hearing but not doing is that the consciences dolled doing this again and again after hearing the word and reading God's will in the Scriptures eventually makes it possible for us to convince ourselves that were right after all but the inner process of deceiving oneself take place we build around ourselves a very different picture of our life then is reality that other people have and especially a very different picture of our heart and God he James in this instance is not concerned that their falling under false teaching is not warning them to pay attention to their false teachers that are common in your church and in their teaching things that are true but that wasn't what was happening and what he was warning them about in James in this passage they were hearing the word is great concern was they were hearing that word and because they were not acting on it they were thinking all was well any problems that they did have in their life we know what that set of persons problem and it's affecting the badly write it if it was not the ailment that has the problem is somebody else so his concern is you hear the truth you sing the song you come for the fellowship you have a wonderful morning together but your life is not changed you hear the word you receive the word but you don't obey the word you can't on the Christian life many of you audited the class a I don't think you can audit classes in high school or junior higher grade school but once you get into college and graduate you can audit classes right only audited one class and all my collagen and graduate study that I get one class it truly was great it

was great to go in the class I had a favorite prof my head my schedule is full I didn't want to take on anymore but I wanted this class last time he was in Egypt and so I just audited and I went in and I (and I wrote down what I wanted to I didn't care at all when he talked about coming assignments or exams or papers rated it was really was so wonderful to sit there with all those other guys sweating out what they knew was coming and I'm just enjoying the class you can't do that in the Christian life you know why because we audit the class there's no accountability nobody hold you accountable for what you're learning with your learning at all but in the Christian life were accountable gases were all going to get an answer and stand before Christ and an answer for the life that we have lived in the choices that we have made and what we've done with this word that his come to us so that's where James is and he is concerned about the fact that they're in this place of delusion sitting under the word about week to week to week but it never changes anything in their life dangerous place to be the opposite of that is the promise of blessing (about the promise of blessing verse 22 again be doers of the word not hearers only deceiving yourselves drop-down verse 25 but the one who looks into the perfect law the law of liberty and perseveres being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts he will be blessed in his doing I like the statement I read this week that said don't read your Bible today to move the bookmark are ahead read your Bible to be affected by the word of God I have to confess that a lot of times in my quiet time I have read the word to move my marker forward to the next day we want to move the marker that's fine but we want to be in that word not just so we said yeah and moved the marker but the word is Mark my life and it has changed me and I've been affected by the word is nothing complicated about what's going on here folks we read the word we welcomed the word and we obey the word what the word says to do we do it that's when talking about here is I about obeying what God has said that you may hear it and you may want to meditate on it and you may want to think about it you may want to analyze it and study some more you may want to discuss it in a small group setting but in the in which guide do Indian you got to do it is what is given to us I want to go to some hundred 19 and understand what you read this letter read again some hundred 19 not the whole thing in the 276 versus but I read the opening couple of the sections as you know, hundred and 19 is put together with 22 sections each one of them pertaining

to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet so look at the Olive and the best blessed are those whose way is blameless who walk in the law of the Lord blessed are those who keep his testimonies who seek him with their whole heart who also do no wrong but walk in his ways you have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently over my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statues then I shall not be put to shame having my eyes fixed on all of your commandments I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous rules I will keep your statues do not utterly for sake me how can a young man keep his weight pure by guarding it according to your word with my whole heart ICQ let me not wander from your commandments I've stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you blessed are you oh Lord teach me your statues with my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth in the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches I will meditate on your precepts and fixed my eyes on your ways I will delight in your statues I will not forget your word you you can do this not just with someone 19 you can do this with the whole of Scripture and you can open this book which is true in writing good which speaks into our life with authority that nothing else does that that is given to us for the express purpose of changing us changing the way we live in think and act and you can read through this book and it is amazing all of the areas that the word of God speak to in our life if given to a quick us for an area of life you just think through those areas I reject your personal life the way you conduct and live your personal life and the things that you think the things that you say the way that you act in your own personal walk with God think in terms of what the Bible says about the matter of relationships and all of the wisdom and all of the instruction that it brings and how we relate to each other both in the body of Christ and in all of the other facets of life it speaks with incredible wisdom and grace in all of these relational issues that confront us as we walk through life, stepping into marriage lavishly the Bible filled with instruction both of those first two areas that impact marriage but just specific emerges off the Bible is filled with admonitions instruction for how it is that I conduct myself as a husband, a wife conduct yourself as a wife. His before his work was to do more to follow it is not just given his advice and counsel to take it if we want it fair to change us within the whole dynamic of family parenting the children children to parents some the children I'm struggling with your parents hate the word speaks to you about the yourself under

the authority of the word and hear what God says because he's promised you blessing if you do parents words to assess how we relate to our children words of blessing to us as we do take it into the workplace as many of you will tomorrow in the world in which we live this book is a book like no other and it speaks of God's wisdom in it speaks God's truth into our life on all of these levels blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners nor sister the seat of scoffers but his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditate day and night is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in season and it's leaf doesn't weather in all that he dies he prospers the wicked are not so but there like a chance to win drives away therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous for the Lord knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will. My friend knowing that the word is important doing what the word tells us to do is more important that the doers of the word is what I want to bring us to as we close when we take away to be real simple PO TV people of the book one thing is all I ask of you as we close where is one area in your life where you need to be more obedient to think about that for a moment wears one area in your life that the Holy Spirit would just speak into your life may be right now maybe you think about that later what is an area in your life that's not conforming to the truth of the word was an area all of us could list I understand many areas that's what I'm saying ask the Holy Spirit what wears one area where the word needs to touch our heart touch on my touch our mouth touch our actions in a way that brings about the transforming power of God's word let's pray father God we want to be people of the book God we know you through this book we meet Jesus in this book we see the cross in all of its glory in this book we come literally to new life the spiritual life because of this book our faith and our love grow stronger because of this book were persuaded we believe that this book holds the key to life to bless to the ways that you want us to walk and conduct ourselves the father we pray for that in order think that in this book we understand the gospel of your grace that tells us that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God that all of our human efforts fail as we try to reach to you but you have provided for us all that we need in Jesus and what you ask of us is to believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of God and believing you give us life because of his name so got to do that work in the life of anyone here this morning that doesn't know

you in a personal way open their eyes to understand the spiritual journey that you would have for them as you draw them to yourself and father for the rest of us do help us to be people of the book to help us to to read it to receive it to do it help us to do that today father for your glory we pray in Jesus name Amen