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**Teaching: Carlon Tschetter**  
**Series: People In Step With The Spirit**  
**Message: The Holy Spirit and the Word**

**Transcribed Message**  
**September 16, 2018**  
**2 Peter 1:21**

It has been said that in 18<sup>th</sup> century the Bible died as a result of primarily the Enlightenment, that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century God died. It was Frederick Nietzsche in his famous statement proclaimed God is dead. It has been said that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and on into the 21<sup>st</sup> century that mankind has died. If that is a valid observation, and as you look around our world it would be hard to argue that it is not, then what I want you to see as you look at that list there of those three things that the first thing that we observe is the sequence of those things listed is not accidental. If in fact in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Bible died, followed by the so-called death of God and the death subsequent to that of mankind, you can easily see that when an individual or when a culture, a society, a nation, dare we say but we have to, a church removes itself from the truth of God's Word and abandons the truth of God's Word, then inevitably death in all of its forms comes their way.

The Holy Spirit is rightly often called the Spirit of truth and for good reason. The Holy Spirit is the one who is primarily listed as having given to us the very Word of God. I think you could argue that the greatest gift that God has given us might very well be the revelation of His Word, for how else would we know of all of the other blessings that we could list if it were not for the fact that God has revealed Himself to us. So here's what we want to do this morning. We have the privilege to hear from God every day because the Holy Spirit has given us the very words of God in the Bible.

Let's do a very quick review. If you were here last week, you might remember this. If you weren't here last week, this is bringing you up to speed with us. The Holy Spirit is a person, we said last week. The Holy Spirit is a person which means we are in a personal relationship with Him. I'm going to take 30 seconds and diverge and just simply follow up with something that was asked quite a bit last week with regard to the masculine pronoun being used for the Holy Spirit. We commented on the fact that the

word “spirit” is in the neuter but it is recorded for us in Scripture as the Holy Spirit being presented to us in the masculine pronoun. Remember when in Scripture we have those kinds of things. The Holy Spirit is a spirit so the use of the masculine pronoun is not specific to the idea of gender, but rather it is specific to the idea of personhood. It may very well connote something of the idea of authority as well. The vast majority of times where personal pronouns are used for God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit they are almost always in the masculine, not always but almost always. When angels are referenced in the Bible they are always referenced in the masculine. There is something there beyond gender that God is communicating to us. In this case, clearly God is saying the Holy Spirit is not an it. He is not a force. He is a person.

Secondly, we talked about the fact that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is God. God Himself is with us. When we get to the teaching with regard to the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, we’ll talk about the fact that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. God Himself lives within each one of us as His children. That is remarkable beyond words.

Then thirdly, we noted the fact that the Holy Spirit is not the Father. The Holy Spirit is not the Son. You can go back and forth with all of the Trinity in that way. He loves to make much of both of them. He loves to make much of the Father. He loves to make much of the Son and especially so in pointing people to Jesus. So that is what we looked at last week.

Today as we think about the Holy Spirit's relationship to the Word of God, we want to look at three important words. These are words that you're familiar with, but they are significant words with relationship to the Word of God. We're just going to work through the Holy Spirit's relationship to the Word and we're going to begin by looking at the work of the Spirit with regard to revelation. The work of the Spirit in revelation. When we talk about revelation, we're talking about the product, the final product if you will, which is the Bible. When we think about revelation, we can define it this way. Revelation is God making known what was before unknown. So the Holy Spirit of God takes what has been unknown and He makes it known to us. The word “reveal” simply gives us the idea of unveiling. It is to uncover something. In this case, the Holy Spirit unveils for us the truth.

You know that I love that verse in Deuteronomy 29:29. I go there as often as I can because it's such a great statement. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever that we may do all the words of this law." Just look at that amazing statement. I love the fact that Moses, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says the secret things belong to God but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children. He just gives us a picture immediately of taking this baton of truth and making sure that we're passing it on to the next generation. The point of this verse is simply this. Out of all of the infinite knowledge that God possesses, and as you look at that visual it doesn't do justice to reality and what we're talking about because it's not as if we know half of the knowledge of God. It would be a very tiny small sliver such as we wouldn't even see it on the screen. But just for giving it a visual picture we take the immensity of the knowledge of God and the doctrine of revelation says of all of that knowledge God has unveiled, He has revealed truth to us. He has done that in a variety of ways.

For instance, He has done it through what we sometimes call general revelation, which is nature. He has done it through providence. He has done it through history. He does it through our conscience. What we're primarily looking at is the idea of special revelation which is the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, and for our study this morning, much more specific, the written Word. God tells us that by the Spirit He has revealed this to us. Peter says in 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 20: "knowing this first of all that no prophecy of Scripture", which is just to say no revelation of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. So this is what we need to realize. Moses did not have a literary agent. Moses did not have a publisher come to him and say, "Moses, we have read your journal about your escape from Egypt. We think that would make an incredible book. In fact, we can probably turn it into a movie as well." That is not the way it went. The Holy Spirit of God has revealed these things to us. Isaiah didn't sit down one day under a tree and have some incredible prophetic thoughts about the future and God looked over his shoulder and said, "Wow, Isaiah. That is really good stuff. I think I'm going to put that in the Bible." No, it's the Holy Spirit. The revealed Word of God did not come by private interpretation, by the origins within the thoughts and hearts of men. It came about through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

Listen to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 6: "Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." Look over what he says over in verse 10: "These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit." God out of the immense vast knowledge that He possesses has seen fit to give to us by means of the Holy Spirit this unveiling of this truth. The other part of that is if God didn't reveal it to us, we don't need to know it. We're not to try to go into those secret places that are forbidden for us to try to go to gain the knowledge that God never intended for us to have.

Think with me secondly about the need for revelation. Why is it that we need God's revelation? There are simply some things that we can never know apart from God making them known. That is what Paul underscores in the 1 Corinthians 2 passage. What are some of those things? What are things that we could not know if God did not make them known to us? There would be many things about God that we simply would not know. We can go to the mountains of Colorado, we can go to the ocean, we can go to some of the majestic beautiful places in the world and we can see in nature, Paul says in Romans 1, certain things about God. We can see His majesty, His power, His greatness. We can see the immensity of the world that we live in as we peer into space. But there are things that we could never know about God apart from Him telling us. We would not know about the love of God. We would not know about the grace of God. We would not know about the mercy of God, the kindness of God, the redemptive work of God. We would not know many things about ourselves. We would have no idea where we came from if God had not told us. We would have no idea where we are going if God had not told us. We wouldn't have any idea why are we even here. These are some of the great questions that are asked but are left unanswered by all of the human philosophies. They have no answer to those big questions and we only know those answers because God has told us what those are. We would not know of God's plan for the ages. We would not know what the end of time holds for us if God did not reveal these things to us.

We live in a world of falsehood. We live in a world of deception. We live in a world where people lie all the time. We are ensnared by the god of this world who is a liar and a deceiver from the beginning. If it were not for the revelation by the Holy Spirit of God in giving to us the truth of God, we would not know any of the answers to these questions. The Father in the Old Testament is called the God of truth. Jesus referenced Himself as being the way, the truth and the life. The Holy Spirit is often called the Spirit of truth. Why? Because we live in a world that is deceptive and false and filled with lies. This brings me back to this third point and that is this. If this book is as we believe that it is the revelation of God, everything then should be tested by it. This is the standard by which we measure all things. This is the source that we come to. This is the authority in our life. this is the truth to which we submit. We don't go to the world to find out our response to the issues of the day. We go to the book to find out how we respond to the issues of the day, how it is that we walk in truth before God. There is no valid experience that I can have that is not wedded to the word of God. If you come to me and tell me of some amazing and unusual experience that you had, I might very well say could you show me where in the Bible that kind of experience is referenced or mentioned or is to be sought after? All of life is to funnel through this revelation of truth that God has given to us.

That's why we said last fall we want to be people of the book. That is why this fall we're saying we want to be people who are walking in step with the Spirit because the Spirit is always wedded to the Word. If you have an experience that is not validated by the Word of God, then I have to either assume that your experience was misunderstood by you or your experience is not a Biblical one. If there's anything that we want, we should want Biblical experiences.

The second word. The second word takes us to how did it happen that what the Biblical writers wrote is what God wanted written? Don't make me say that again. How is it that the Biblical writers wrote what God wanted written? That brings us to our second word. Our second word is this word inspiration. This takes us into the process. Now we are looking at the means by which the Holy Spirit did this unveiling of truth. Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. We're going to define inspiration this way. Inspiration is

the Holy Spirit superintending the human authors so that they composed and recorded God's word without error. This revelation that they wrote down they did so without error. God superintending by His Holy Spirit. You see how revelation and inspiration go together. Revelation. The disclosing. The making known. It is the what of what we're dealing with. Inspiration takes us into the how did this happen. It takes us into the process, the means by which God did this.

The word that Paul uses in 2 Timothy 3:16 is this word for inspiration. *Theopneustos*. You look at that word and you can see that it is a compound word. *Theo* at the beginning. *Pneustos* at the end. *Theo* is the word for God. *Pneustos*. *Pneuma*. Spirit, breath, breathe. So the Holy Spirit unveiling God's truth through the apostle Paul, superintending what he wrote down, said Paul, I want you to communicate that how we got this revelation is that it came and it was breathed out by God. God's Word was breathed out through human authors. We can stop right here and do a little true/false quiz and I can ask you were the writers of Scripture inspired? True or false. Don't answer because it's a trick question. Were the writers of Scripture inspired when they wrote the Word? The answer is no, they were not. The way we use the word inspiration is very different than the way the Bible uses the word inspiration. You may see something or someone and it is an inspiring performance. It is an inspiring talk. Someone inspires as they sing or whatever it might be. The focus is on the person. When the Bible uses this word inspiration, the focus is every time on Scripture, not on the human authors. so it is the Word of God that is breathed out. It is the Scriptures that are breathed out. The writers weren't inspired in that sense. It's the Scriptures that were inspired.

How did this take place? How did this happen? The first thing we better say is that there is something of a mystery here. I love the fact that there are just times when as you read and study the Bible, you just step back and you say there is a mystery involved in this, and I accept it by faith. That was certainly true when we thought this for the few moments last week about the Trinity of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. There is a mystery there that we will never fathom. I think it's okay to say with regard to how it is that God did this, there is a mystery that is involved in this. Jesus coming into the world. Lord willing, we'll get to look at this next week. Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

What a great topic. When the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and she conceived of the human nature of our Lord, there is a mystery there. When the Holy Spirit breathed out the revelation of God's Word and truth, there is certainly something of a mystery there.

Again in 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 20: "Knowing this first of all that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's private interpretation, for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." The word carried along there is used in Acts 27. It's used of a ship that is caught up in the storm and the sailors are doing all that they can but they're not in control of that ship. The storm is in control of the ship. It's the same word that the Holy Spirit uses to convey to us how this happened. How did the writers, the human authors of Scripture, give to us the very Word of God? Not of their own interpretation. Not of their own initiative. They were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

So here's how we want to think about that. In this miracle and in this mystery, the men that God chose to give us His Word recorded for us their words, using their personal expressions, using grammar and syntax and style that was unique to each of them individually. Simultaneously the Holy Spirit superintending gives to us through their words the very breathed out revelation of God. That is simply all we can say about this process because that's the picture that the Scriptures give us. So here is what it looks like. God chooses Luke to give to us the longest gospel and the book of Acts. Luke, as you know, was a physician. He was a doctor. He was a historian. He was a researcher. He starts off both of those letters and says Theophilus, I'm writing this to you because I want you to come to see the truth about Jesus. He basically says I've researched everything I can. I'm putting this together in a way that I want to use it as an apologetic to bring you to the gospel. Being a medical doctor you know what? Luke uses medical terminology that none of the other writers of Scripture use. It is simply to say the Holy Spirit pours through Luke as a doctor truth that is the very revelation of the truth of God but He doesn't obliterate Luke's personality style in doing it.

I'm going to take a minute and just give you a funny little antidote about that. Funny to everybody but doctors. So if you're sitting by a doctor, do not laugh too loud about this. In the Gospel of Mark, remember the woman with the issue of blood? In the Gospel of Mark, through probably the eyes of Peter, he is kind of blunt. I'll just paraphrase it. Peter

says this woman all of her life was ripped off by all the doctors that she ever went to see. They took all of her money and they never got her well. Well, Luke gives us that same account but remember, Luke is a doctor. He is giving us a little bit of a different side. He says yes, this lady did go to a lot of doctors. And yes, of course, she did have to pay for their services, but the truth is nobody can cure this no matter what. He gives us a little bit softer, little different version of the very same thing. What is that? It is God the Holy Spirit speaking through these men through their words, their style, their uniqueness and giving us yet simultaneously the very words of God.

God chooses Paul, the Pharisee of the Pharisees and a man who is well-versed in all of the Old Testament Scriptures, to give to us the bulk of the letters of explanation in the epistles. It is Paul who shows us that the new is in the old concealed and the old is in the new revealed. You might want to write that down. That was Augustine, by the way. Augustine said the new is in the old concealed and the old is in the new revealed. Nobody does that better than the apostle Paul. Then you just go through the writers of Scripture. Peter gives us two short letters. Do you know that in the two short letters that Peter wrote there are more words unique to Peter than any other book of the Bible? He uses more words that only he uses than any of the other writers. I'm just saying that in this matter of inspiration it truly is a miracle. It is a mystery of God pouring His truth through men as He gave us His Word.

Now here's the point of this. The observation to make is this. God has given His people a body of truth that is both final and sufficient. I believe that the canon of Scripture is closed. You do not need to come up to me afterwards and say to me the Lord told me something that nobody wrote down in the 1<sup>st</sup> century about what Jesus said, because I'm probably not going to believe that that actually happened that way. I don't think there's any new revelation being given to us today with regard to the truth of God's Word. We receive things from God. We hear from the voice of the Spirit as He speaks to us through the Word. But here in this book is everything we need to live life well. We just stepped out of the Sermon on the Mount and said here is how to live life the way Jesus lived it. How can we do better than to pour into our life the Word of God? It's vital. It's sufficient. It's everything that we need.



Do you want to know how to get along with people? Read this book. Do you want to know how to be a better employer? Read this book. Do you want to be a better employee? Go to the book. Do you want to know how to be a better husband? Go to the book. Do you want to know how to be a better wife? Right here. Do you want to know how to be a better child? Go right here. I don't care what area of life. The Bible doesn't speak specifically to everything but it speaks truth to everything. It is all that we need, my friends. It is grievous to realize that even in Paul's day people simply did not give themselves to the Word. The writer of Hebrews, whoever it was, had to say to the people even of that generation you guys should be teachers by now but you don't even know the most elementary things. Here is all that we need right before us which brings us into the last word.

The work of the Spirit in illumination. So now here's the purpose for which God has given us His Word. The illuminating work of the Spirit can be defined simply in this way: the work of the Holy Spirit in which He gives understanding to what God has revealed in His Word. He opens our hearts and He opens our minds to His truth. He opens our heart and He opens our mind to His truth. We don't have to hear that and think that this is now some step into mysticism or this is some kind of mystical experience that the Holy Spirit is going to take the truth and speak it into our heart and mind. I say that it is not. Watchmen Nee, who was a church leader in China in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, wrote numbers of books and had thousands of followers. Still has to this day, his books are being read and published. He said this. "Respond to Biblical truth with your spirit, not your mind." I think that is not only a grossly unbiblical statement, I think it's a dangerous statement. There is no unhooking of God's truth anywhere in Scripture from our mind. In fact, Paul in Romans 12 says our mind is what is supposed to be transformed. It's the mind that the truth of God speaks to consistently to conform us to the image of Christ. This is not a mystical experience. It is a miraculous experience if you will because God is taking His truth and He's bringing it into our mind. I think I would find myself much more in harmony with the person who said "If I should listen to the voice of the Spirit, I should put my ear to the Word of God." That should have gotten an amen, but that's fine.

The need for illumination. Why do we need this? Let's go back to our seminal passage on the Holy Spirit in the Gospels in John 16. We're probably always going to find a way back here but in John 16 and verse 12 "Jesus said, 'I still have many things to say to you that you cannot bear them now'". He is talking to the disciples the last night He's with them. "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak." Look at that.

In this room right now there are all kinds of soundwaves and means of communication going on all the time. Those of you that have your smartphone out, and I know it's turned to John 16. I just know you're there. You have your smartphone in front of you and that smartphone can pick up these signals because it has the capacity to do that. If we had a radio, we could turn it on and we could pick up all kinds of stations because there are soundwaves filling this room. We don't know it because we don't have the capacity to pick them up.

That is exactly what Jesus says to the disciples with regard to what the Holy Spirit's work is in their lives. The need for the work of illumination is because apart from that work we simply cannot engage this Word and this truth and understand it in the way that God intends for us to. I think the primary application of that statement of our Lord is directly to those men in that Upper Room on that night. When He said to them I have many more things to say to you, I have no doubt that in the mind of our Lord there were many things that He wanted these men to know about His death that they never could figure out, about His resurrection which blew their mind, about His ascension, about the church that was about to be born, about how to walk in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, about things that were yet to come. All of that no doubt was in the heart of our Lord as He said that, but He said that you can't bear them now. Why couldn't they bear them? Not only could they not understand a whole bunch of it just in the human flesh side trying to track with our Lord, but He is saying you can't bear this now because you don't yet possess the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. That's what He is going to promise them, that the Holy Spirit is going to come and He is going to be not only with them as He has been, but He is going to be in them.

I think there's a secondary application here to us as well. That secondary application to us has to do with how it is that we receive this truth and how it is that we understand this truth and the Holy Spirit's ministry in our life today. If you go back again to that passage in 1 Corinthians 2 verse 9: "But as it is written what eye has not seen nor ear heard nor the heart of man imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." That is a great verse that is often used at a funeral memorial service. It certainly has application in that, but that's not what our Lord is talking about. He is not talking about heaven and all of the wonders of heaven.

Are there wonders of heaven? Of course there are. We know that because look at verse 10: "These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit." The very things that are beyond our ability to comprehend and understand, the Holy Spirit is the one who can take those things and He is the one who will make them known to us. So this process of illumination, what does that look like? It's the Holy Spirit who opens our heart, who opens our minds. It is the Spirit of truth who is our helper. Jesus says that He is going to be our guide. What comes to your mind when you think of a guide? Maybe when you go to the museum. Maybe when you go to a state park. Maybe when you go to a historic site. There's a guide there. What is the purpose for engaging with that guide? It is the same reason that Jesus called the Holy Spirit our guide, because the Holy Spirit is incredibly knowledgeable about the things of God. That is what Paul says in 1 Corinthians. It is the Spirit of God who searches the mind of God to bring the truth of God into our heart and mind. We rely on the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is the knowledgeable one.

I think a Biblical picture is in Acts chapter 8. There is the Ethiopian eunuch going along in his chariot, evidently slow enough for Philip to come alongside him. He is reading the book of Isaiah and he's in the 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter and he must've had a look on his face that he wasn't altogether sure what he was reading. Philip said to him, do you know what you're reading? Do you understand what you're reading? And remember the Ethiopian guy said back to him, how can I understand it unless somebody explains it to me? Philip says that's exactly why God sent me here. That's a picture of the Holy Spirit using Philip to enlighten this man to the truth of the Word. The Holy Spirit does that personally in our lives every time we come to this book. There is a gradual enlightening

with regard to the truth of God. For what reason we may have to find out at another time. I think we can probably figure it out. When we come to faith, God did not see fit to open our head and drop His entire Word and all of His truth into our life at one time. But rather He describes the process as being babies and then maturing to adulthood. This is what the Holy Spirit does not do in His work of illumination. The Holy Spirit does not spare us the discipline, the diligence, the work, the study, the application of the Word to life. That is on us. That is our responsibility. When we do that, the Holy Spirit will do His part. But it calls for us to have a humble, willing, teachable heart. It speaks about our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. It speaks about walking in fellowship with the Spirit. It speaks to being filled with the Spirit. All those things are part of that.

Look at the result of illumination. Jesus says the result of the illuminating work of the Spirit is He will guide you into all the truth. Look at that. He will guide you into all the truth. The Holy Spirit will take you into this sphere of truth. You notice that it's the truth, with the article in front of it. It's the Word of God. The Holy Spirit will never guide you contrary to the Word of God. When people are trying to discern the will of God. I know it's challenging at times, but there's also simplicity to it as well. God never leads us contrary to His Word. That is why we seek out godly wise counselors because they bring an understanding of this Word and this truth into our life as well. That's why the red flag and the warning light should be going off in your head when you're trying to discern what the Spirit is saying to you and you're trying to figure out what the will of God is for your life and you're avoiding the Word and you're avoiding godly people because you've made up your mind what the will of God is and God may be saying something very different. He will never lead us contrary to His Word.

Jesus says in John 16 verses 14 and 15. What's going to happen? "He will glorify Me" (that is the Holy Spirit) "for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you." My friend, the Holy Spirit, just where we ended last week, brings us right back to this book and this book brings us right to Christ. This is a Christocentric book. This book is Christ-centered.

Remember our five words. The Old Testament = anticipation. We're anticipating the coming of Jesus. The Gospels = manifestation. He's here among us. The book of

Acts = proclamation. Go tell everybody it's true. The epistles = an explanation for how it is that we live this life of Christ. The book of Revelation = consummation. It all comes to a glorious end. It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility, Jesus said, to bring all of this to light, to bring all of this to the forefront. He will speak about Me. We have the privilege to hear from God every day because we have the very words of God in this book that is before us.

What do we take away? I think a very simple application would be this. Get God's Word into your life as often as you can, anyway that you can. Come with a sense of expectancy and the Spirit will make certain that you're not disappointed. I think a very practical thing is every time you open your Bible, every time you turn on your phone to read Scripture, every time you listen to the Word of God, all you need to do, all I need to do is say God, thank You for Your Word. Thank You for this revealed, inspired truth. I ask Your Holy Spirit to illumine my heart with it. Give me a humble, teachable heart. And the Holy Spirit will never disappoint.

Remember in Luke 24? Jesus has been crucified, raised from the dead. The two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus. They're depressed, wiped out. It all ended in a way they never thought it was going to. Jesus comes alongside of them and we read in Luke 24 that He began to open the Scriptures to them. He began to show them from Moses all through the prophets, basically saying He took them through the Old Testament Scriptures, and how they all pointed to Him. Do you remember in that glorious moment when their eyes were opened? Do you know what they said? Did not our hearts burn within us when He spoke this truth into our life. That, my friends, should be our prayer every time we open this book. Father, speak to us by Your Spirit. You have put Your Spirit in my life. You have given me this incredible Word from You that has been given to equip me for all of life. Show me how to do it in a way that honors You.

In this book, we have what we call the gospel. We have what we call the good news. The good news is that God loves us, that God has sent His Son Jesus to rescue us. He gives us the bad news about the fact that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But He gives us the good news that Jesus died and took all of that sin on Himself and He's made a way for us to be in a relationship with Him. The beauty of it

is it is simply a response of faith on our part. It is to believe that what Jesus did is all that was needed. That is the gospel that we offer to each one of you again this morning. If you do not know Christ in a personal way, then this morning we would ask that you seek someone out. Talk with someone. Call out to God Himself and say I am a sinner. I accept what Jesus did for me. I want your gift of eternal life.

Let's pray. Father God, we are forever grateful for this most amazing gift of your Word. Lord, I pray for the people of Covenant. I pray that we will be people of the book and people who walk in step with the Spirit. Lord, we are confident that if we do that, You will do great and mighty things in the life of this church and in our homes. You will bring glory to Yourself. That's what we want more than anything else. In Jesus's name, amen.