Title: God Revealed: Finding Firm Ground in the Character of God

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the concept of self-revelation, both human and divine. The pastor begins by establishing that every person, through their words, actions, silence, and body language, constantly reveals the true nature of their character, and that nature, apart from Christ, is deeply flawed. Drawing primarily from Psalm 103:6-10, the sermon presents God's self-revelation as the great counterpoint to human brokenness. Rather than allowing personal wounds, speculation, or introspection to define who God is, believers are called to ground their understanding of God in the historic, demonstrated character He has revealed through His Word. The sermon concludes with a call to move beyond mere intellectual belief into genuine trust, and transitions into the Lord's Supper as an act of remembrance centered on Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Key Points:

- Every person is constantly self-revealing through their words, actions, body language, and even silence, and what is revealed apart from Christ is a flawed and broken character

- Romans 3 serves as the great leveler, establishing that all humanity stands in the same condition of sinfulness regardless of social standing or background

- Many believers operate with a distorted image of God formed by personal wounds, speculation, and introspection rather than by Scripture

- God has revealed seven key aspects of His character in Psalm 103:6-10: His performance is always righteous and just, His path is always plain, His character is compassionate and precisely suited to each individual, His patience is demonstrated through being slow to anger, His loving kindness is abundant and permanent as a covenant word, He does not remain in strife or anger perpetually, and His posture is always one of pardon and redemption rather than retribution

- The Hebrew word chesed, translated as loving kindness, is a covenant term signifying that God's loyalty and love are not conditional on human performance but are grounded in His covenant faithfulness

- The solution to a distorted view of God is found in two disciplines: grounding, which means anchoring one's understanding of God in His Word rather than personal speculation, and appropriation, which means moving from intellectual belief to active, lived trust

- Second Corinthians 10:3-5 calls believers to destroy speculative thoughts and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ rather than relying on human reasoning

- The Lord's Supper redirects attention away from personal unworthiness and toward Christ's sacrifice as the ultimate demonstration of God's mercy

Scripture Reference:

- Psalm 103:6-10, the primary passage, describing God's righteous acts, compassion, grace, patience, loving kindness, and merciful posture toward His people

- Romans 3, cited as the great leveler establishing universal human sinfulness

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, referenced regarding the destruction of speculative thoughts through the power of God's Word

- 2 Corinthians 5:21, cited at the Lord's Supper regarding God making Christ to be sin on humanity's behalf

- 1 Corinthians 11, referenced in the institution of the Lord's Supper

- Micah 7, briefly referenced regarding God not remembering confessed and forgiven sin

- James 1, briefly referenced regarding every good gift coming from the Father whose goodness does not shift

Stories:

- The pastor recounts a humorous personal story about calling another driver an idiot after leaving church, using it to illustrate human failure and the immediate availability of God's forgiveness through 1 John 1:9

- The pastor shares the story of Moses being told to speak to the rock but instead striking it in anger, illustrating that God's path is plain but He does not always provide specific details, requiring trust

- A personal anecdote about the pastor's perfectionistic upbringing and his wife's contrasting disposition is used to illustrate how personal wounds and background shape one's expectations and interpretations of life

- The pastor describes watching his father come up the driveway as a child, reading his father's body language to determine whether the evening would be peaceful or tense, used to contrast a punitive human father with God's non-petulant character

- A story about a congregant named Ryan who came to church shortly after surgery, taking only Tylenol, is used to illustrate God's precise and individual mercy

- The pastor shares the ongoing story of a congregant named Mikey Smith who was facing kidney removal surgery due to cancer, describing the visible shift in Mikey from anxiety to calm trust as an illustration of moving from belief to genuine appropriation of God's character

- The pastor references a piece of advice he received from another pastor to listen to his wife both in what she says and what she does not say, used to illustrate the value of listening rather than relying on one's own perspective