Good morning, good to see everybody here today,
I want to invite you if you would to turn
me in your Bibles to the book of Proverbs chapter 3, the book of Proverbs chapter 3.
Before I read out of there, we're going to
look at one verse out of Jeremiah chapter 10.
Proverbs chapter 3, we're going to read one
verse out of Jeremiah chapter 10, verse number
23, good to see everybody here today, we've
got some faces I don't recognize, and by the
way, I hope every Sunday we come to church, we got somebody show up that I don't know.
We ought to be in the business of that.
I'm thankful to see all the ones that I do
know, but the ones that I do know, let's make
sure the ones that are new feel welcomed and
appreciated, I know the church is good at doing
that, Jeremiah chapter 10, verse number 23, I
just jotted this verse down in my study this
morning, to help us understand and appreciate
what we're going to read about in the book of Proverbs.
But Jeremiah chapter 10, verse 23, inspired by the Lord, Jeremiah writes,
In other words, God, we don't have it in us.
To walk the way we need to walk, to go the way
that we need to go, to reach the destination
that we need to reach.
Proverbs chapter 3, verse 5 and 6, I mean verse
number 1, we'll spend our attention primarily
on 5 and 6, but Proverbs chapter 3, verse number 1.
Solomon writes, my son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments.
For length of days and long life and peace shall they add to thee.
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee.
Bind them about thy neck, write them upon the tables of thine heart.
So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
These familiar verses, verse 5 and 6, trust
in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not
into thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.
This morning I want to share with you on the subject of divine direction.
Let's pray.
Dear Lord, I thank you for the gift of this day that you have given us.
Lord, just another day to be awake and enjoy your blessings.
Lord, I look out today and I see those who are senior in age and newborn babies.
Lord, in every age in between.
God, thank you for that.
Lord, it's been a difficult time for our church this week.
Lord, we buried loved ones.
We have ones that are sick and that are hurting.
Lord, this day is a day that we've never faced before

and we need your divine hand to lead us and direct us.
God, I pray this morning that you would enable
me to share your word rightly in your eyes.
Lord, and I trust you to take it and do with it what only you can.
Lord, thank you for the gift of your precious son that makes life possible.
We'll use this time for your glory.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
If you were here this past Wednesday night, we began a study into the book of Proverbs.
And I honestly do not know how long we'll be here, how many of these we'll look at.
I'm planning on staying here just as long as the Lord wants
me to and to get out of it just as quick as he wants me to.
But we began our study Proverbs on Wednesday night in chapter number
two and a little bit of introduction about Proverbs in general.
We're all familiar with Proverbs.
Maybe not the biblical Proverbs, but Proverbs just as a whole.
We've got modern day Proverbs.
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
In other words, don't lose something in the yacht
going for a look at something that you might obtain.
Another famous proverb is an early bird always gets to worm.
It's a proverb against laziness to get up and get after it.
I love an old Indian proverb that said a man, he said,
I complained because I had no shoes until I saw a man that had no feet.
It's about perspective in life.
But what are the biblical Proverbs?
Folks, they are words of the wisest man that has
ever lived, inspired by the God who gave the wisdom.
This is inspired scripture, inspired by the Lord, that he
gave to a man who asked for wisdom, who prayed for wisdom.
Solomon had the opportunity for God coming to his life and he saw Solomon's heart.
He gave Solomon a task and God asked him,
Solomon, what would you have that I give you?
And I can only imagine the answers that would have come to my mind.
But Solomon says, Lord, I'm not asking for length of days.
I'm not asking for health.
I'm not asking for wealth.
I'm not asking for the destruction of my enemies.
I need wisdom and understanding and knowledge
to live the life that you've called me to live.
To fulfill the task that you've called me to give.
And this entire book of Proverbs, the theme of it is wisdom.
In many places, it's an earthly man speaking to his earthly son.
But in reality, it's the heavenly father speaking to all of his adopted children.
And there's so much to gain from this precious book.
I want to begin looking here in verse 1 and 2.

I want to spend our time in verse 5 and 6.
But I was reading and studying this week for this.
And I was reminded a lot of my own son.
My son is now 23 years old.
And whether I accept it or not, I like it or not, I've already taught him a lot.
Not just through my words, but through my actions.
I hope I've taught him rightly.
But here we have a son, a father speaking and teaching his son.
He says in verse 1 and 2,
My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments.
For length of days and long life and peace shall they add unto thee.
Best advice a father could give his son.
Don't forsake, don't forget.
Don't set aside God's commandments.
Hide them in your heart.
Bind them in your heart.
Hide them in your heart till your love of God and fear of God grows in your heart.
It says in verse 3 and 4, he says,
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee.
Bind them about thy neck.
Write them upon the table of thine heart.
Show us, shall thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
I've never really paid much attention to these
verses in the past, but they spoke to me this week.
He's talking about mercy and truth together.
Folks, a man that is all law, all truth, all
commandments without mercy is a heavy-handed tyrant.
And a man that's all mercy, without law, without truth, without God's commandments
is a lawless compromiser.
He says, Son, we are to take the truth of
God, the law of God, the commandments of God.
We are to take the mercy of God.
We are to take all of these things.
And you take them and bind them in your heart.
Don't forsake the law of God.
Don't forsake the commandments of God.
Because there's a promise attached to these.
They'll bring peace into your life.
And they'll add length into your life.
He said, but in doing these things,
these are the way that you'll find favor with God and with man.
But the verses that really jump out to me
are these familiar verses that we find in verse 5 and 6.
Divine direction.
Solomon, writing to his son, says, Trust in the Lord with all thine heart
and lean not into thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him

and he shall direct thy paths.
I've done lots of funerals in my life, but I've helped in two in the last two days.
Sister Virginia meets his cousin yesterday.
And it was yesterday afternoon.
I had been a little under the weather.
I was concerned and worried about being prepared to preach this Sunday.
And the Lord said, Hey, just stick with what
I've already given you and what I've shown you.
But there's a quote that came to my mind that I heard
years ago that said, Every man is going somewhere,
including the man that isn't going anywhere.
Our life is taking us in a direction.
That when it comes to life, there's no pause button, there's no idles,
there's no stops, that even for the man that refuses
to acknowledge anything or doesn't do anything,
none of us are sitting idle in this life.
That we are heading in a direction.
That is true physically,
but it is so much more true spiritually.
When it is impossible for us to remain stagnant.
Brother Joy, we're either backing up or we're moving forward.
We're either getting closer to God
or we're getting further away from God.
So the real question isn't
are we moving?
It's where are we moving to?
What direction are we headed?
But an even more important question
is how do we get to the place
where we need to be?
That's been a sincere prayer of mine.
And I pray that it's your own.
God,
how do I get to the place
where you want me to be?
And I'm not just talking about heaven.
I'm not just talking about eternity.
Because folks,
we've got to get this life right before we start talking about eternity.
How do I end up in the place,
God,
where you desire me to be?
Where I need to be?
And I think we need to understand two very important things.
And number one,
folks,
none of us have arrived at that final destination.

If we're here and we're living and we're breathing
and we're thinking people,
we've got to confess that though I may have come a long way,
God, you brought me from a lot of stuff.
Oh Lord, I seem to be backing up and I hadn't moved to be.
None of us have arrived
at that final place
to this inexhaustible God
where we need to be yet.
Haven't got there.
But we also must understand this and it goes with the Sunday school
not lesson but the devotion this morning.
To reach the desired destination
folks requires application.
To reach the desired destination
Brandon requires application.
I believe with all my heart,
I don't know you that well but I know something about you because God met you.
God has the desired end for your life.
He has the desired end for your marriage.
He has the desired end
for New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
and I must be humble enough and honest enough to go Lord,
you brought me a long way but I have not reached a place where you want me to be.
And number two,
it's not just enough to realize that but to realize
in order for me to get there,
I'm going to have to apply
the wisdom and the knowledge and the direction
and the instructions of God in my life.
Why?
Jeremiah says, Lord, we know it's not in man to direct his steps.
Man just can't get there on his own.
It's going to take the Lord.
But let's look at these familiar passages of Scripture,
some simple instructions that the Lord gives to the pen of Solomon,
to his son, that he gives
to the church here.
and I may say this a lot,
simple and easy ain't the same thing.
Simple means it's easy to understand.
Simple means it's not complicated.
That's not the same thing as easy.
These instructions are simple
but they are not easy but let's look at them this morning.
The first thing that he says here in verse number three,
he says,

let not mercy and truth, let's begin verse one again.
My son, forget not my law
but let thine heart keep my commandments.
For long length of days and long life and peace shall they add to thee.
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee bind them about thy neck
write them upon the table of thine heart
so shalt thou find favor
and good understanding
in the sight of God and man.
Now verse five,
trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not into thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him
and he shall direct thy path.
First instructions
to the church, first instructions to any man,
he says,
trust in the Lord
with all thine heart.
Folks,
trust is a tricky word.
It's very similar to love
in that we use it for various different things.
We apply it in lots of different ways.
I love my truck.
I love my wife.
In no way are they equal.
I love my hunting boat.
I love my home.
Brother Lord, in no way are they equal.
That there's varying degrees to love and thee there's varying degrees to trust.
It's funny to me,
I took a prescription.
I trusted Tammy Cook with my health Friday.
I was sick, didn't know what was going on
and she brought a bag, well not,
she brought a baggie.
Tammy gave my wife a baggie
and got some pills in it
and I just swapped them things down like tic-tacs.
I couldn't have told you what was in that thing for nothing.
You know why I took them?
Because I trust her.
We trust fellow drivers on the road, we trust our doctors,
we give certain care to them and in a sense we trust people every day.
For a man that says
I simply can't trust God
or I just can't believe God,

I just don't have faith to operate that way.
Folks, every one of us operate in the realm
of faith and trust every single day.
But this is more than just a simple trusting your doctor or trusting your accountant.
This word literally means
boldness and security
to lie helpless
face down.
What Solomon is saying
is son, for you to arrive at the place you need to arrive,
bride,
for you to arrive at the place that you need to arrive
in a right relationship with God in your own life
to lead this church, to lead your marriage, to lead your family,
you are going to have to turn yourself
completely over
into the care of another.
That I have to give up reins and trust so much
that I'm turning myself over to someone else.
And it's not forced compliance.
What it literally is,
it's a willful action that flows from complete confidence.
He says, Solomon,
you're going to have to get to a place
that you trust so much.
Now all of these things are connected to one another.
He's going to say
this is a what to begin with, what he's got to do,
but he's fixing to get who he has to do it with.
You're going to have to get to a place so much because it's the only way
that you can get there because Ronnie,
you don't have it in yourself to get there.
You're going to have to completely give yourself over,
but you do it.
Not out of fear,
but you have boldness
in your security
and such complete confidence
that you'll willfully
and longingly do it.
It is almost a picture of a child
and their parent.
These grandbabies have taught me more than I
think I'm ever going to be able to teach them.
And one of the things that they have is just a trust, to trust, to trust.
Is Lauren still in here this morning, Miss Passetti?
She ain't Miss Passetti anymore.

Can you stand up with that younger?
You still got that contraption all around you?
I've been sitting here and taught that younger in that contraption.
You know what that kid doesn't worry about?
That kid don't worry about falling.
Don't give her a second thought.
Completely trusting
that her mama
and that contraption have got her
and she's sleeping like a child.
The child says,
hey,
if we're going to get where we need to be,
if we're going to get to the best place, we are going to have
to turn ourselves over
in complete confidence
to somewhere else, something else.
And it's not somewhere else or something else.
He says,
trust in the Lord.
Not a system,
not yourself,
not religion,
not a denomination.
He's saying,
son,
in order for you to get to the place where you got to be, where you need to be,
the only way for you to get there is to complete turn yourself over to the creator
of heaven and earth
to the God
who made it all,
spoke it all into existence,
who sustains it all,
a God that's all-knowing, a God that's all-powerful.
I love the all-knowing part.
I love that part.
Tell me, how can I trust my life with someone who knows less than I do?
He's saying, no, Solomon,
you can give your life to the Lord,
you can walk in the sense of the God,
to there is no secrets, there is nothing unknown.
This God who is all-powerful.
He says, here's what you got to do,
but here's how you have to do it with.
But He also tells him how to do it.
Look what it says.
Trust in the Lord

with all thine heart.
Trust in the Lord
with all thine heart.
Not halfway.
Not partway.
But to lie before God,
faceless,
held down,
face down
with all that we are,
all that we have,
all our faults,
all our fears,
all our questions,
all our doubt,
all our past,
all of our future.
And you say, preach, preach.
I mean,
does God really expect us to operate in life this way?
I mean, does God really expect us to operate in such a way,
Kobe, that you can take that precious baby of yours and go, God,
I'm going to give my life and I'm going to trust my life and my God.
I'm going to take all of these things because now I understand
that it's not in me to do it.
Then I'm just going to lay helpless,
face down before you
because I've recognized who you are
and I'm going to trust you and I'm going to trust you with the things.
Does God expect us to really operate that way?
And the answer is yes.
You say, well, how do we?
We've got to go back to the who?
Folks, the only way it is possible to operate that way
is to get a glimpse of who God is,
is to understand
who God is.
I was thinking about this.
That's not my house over there.
That house belongs to the church.
Well, you all treat it like it's my house.
Brother Brown, we don't want to come into your house.
You live in there and all that kind of stuff.
But can I tell you what?
I trust some of these, I've told some of these
men, I said, go on in and do what you got to do.
Have at it.

What's mine yours is yours as mine.
I have confidence in them.
We're going to get here in just a minute.
Folks, it's going to be very easy,
very easy
to answer the question,
have I truly trusted the Lord with all my heart?
Have I leaned on Him with all my heart?
Because we can answer that question by the way we dictate and operate our life.
But there's a direction that Solomon needs to be,
that his son needed to be,
and there's direction to get him there.
And the first instruction is, has trust in the Lord
with all thine heart?
He tells him next,
lean not upon that understanding.
Let me back up real quick.
Does God really expect us to operate that way?
The answer is yes.
And I'll also tell you this,
you'll never get where you need to be until you do.
You can buck it.
You can shun it.
You're going to say, that's too much.
We're the one that loses.
We will never get where we need to be until we do.
That's instruction number one.
Instruction number two,
he says, trust in the Lord without all thy heart and lean not
on thine own understanding.
Y'all know what the greatest obstacle to truth number one is?
The instruction number one?
It's instruction number two.
Solomon,
inspired by the Lord,
has given this divine advice to Brian Weems and Mitzi Weems because he knows
we ain't got it in us to direct our steps.
He knows that we don't have it in us to always make
the right decisions or to go in the right direction.
So he writes here to New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church.
There's a place that I want to take you.
There's families that I want to take you somewhere.
There's a desired end because we're all traveling somewhere.
And you've got to trust in me above all things.
Not part time,
not half time,
but all the time.

But now he says this,
lean not on your own understanding because God knows the first obstacle to this
is what all of us have the tendency to do.
Y'all familiar with that cliche?
It's using football a lot.
They can't get out of their own way.
Y'all familiar with that?
They can't get out of their own way?
It's a football team.
They fumble the snap.
They're jumping off sides.
They're doing all this stuff.
The opponent's not beating them.
They just can't get out of their own way.
Folks, that's more than a cliche.
That's the spiritual truth.
Folks, hell will be filled
with intellectual geniuses
that could not get out of their own way because they relied and trusted
upon their own understanding.
lean not.
Trust in.
Trust in.
Completely,
Nicky, completely Nicky with all that you are,
everything that you have because you recognize who God is.
You give it all to Him.
But His issues are warning.
Don't you dare
build your home.
Don't you dare
place your trust.
Don't you dare
prop against the understanding
of your own mind.
It'll derail us.
Folks,
hell will be filled with intellectual geniuses.
But I can tell you what I've witnessed in my own life and I've witnessed in churches.
Too many Christians
are stumbling,
fumbling,
floundering
because we're guilty of the same thing
and relying
on our own understanding
instead of trusting in the Lord with all of our heart.

Preacher, you got Bible for that?
I got more than you have time for me to preach on that.
God calls Moses to that burning bush.
You go and you appear to Pharaoh and tell him,
let my people go.
Well, who am I going to say sent me?
You say, I am sent ya.
All right, he's got the clear directive
and here comes Moses.
Lord, I'm slow with speech.
I got a stuttering problem.
See, it's so easy to reason ourselves right outside the will of God.
It is so easy to reason ourselves right out
of the direction that the Lord wants us to go.
We got an example there of Moses.
We have one there with the disciples.
Jesus is there among 5,000 people.
He fed 4,000 people, 5,000 people.
Jesus had been preaching and been healing and he'd done all these things
and it's the end of the day and the disciple says, Lord, why don't you send
those people away so they can find something to eat?
I love what Jesus says.
He says, you feed them.
Why don't you feed them?
And in other words, send them away because in our
rational mind there's no way that this thing can work.
And had they reasoned
and fallen on their side of logic,
they would have missed one of the greatest miracles
that ever took place because they found out that the Lord indeed could feed them.
Folks, Gideon almost did the same thing.
The Lord called Gideon to come out
to be a judge for his people.
He says, I'm the least in my father's house.
Listen, sometimes faith
will make you look stupid and still it starts to rain,
sign Noah.
Sometimes we have to move
beyond our own mind,
beyond our own reason and go, listen,
this does not make,
what kind of sense does it make to walk
around Jericho six times and not shoot a rock?
Listen,
this is practical stuff.
I'm not just telling old time Bible stories.
I'm talking about

operating in life.
Reaching the place where God intends for us to be.
Daniel,
that you cannot accomplish this by leaning upon your own understanding,
your own wisdom,
your own knowledge.
We find it all throughout the Scripture
that the key here
is trusting the Lord
with all of our heart
and leaning not
on our own understanding and folks,
that's hard for some of us to do.
I think one of the biggest examples of this shows we find in the life of Peter.
Peter is there on the Sea of Galilee with the other disciples in the boat
and he sees Jesus out there and I'm paraphrasing this.
He says, Jesus,
if it's thee,
bid me to come unto thee.
Lord, if that's really you there on the water,
bid me to come.
And we know the story
that Peter steps out and he walks on water.
He bid thee
if possible by fully trusting the Lord.
What happened next?
The Bible says he saw the wind.
You know,
you can't see wind.
You see the effects of wind.
He saw the wind
and it began to sink.
I'm going to tell you what happened between a man that was walking on water
to a man that began to nearly drown.
He went from trusting the Lord with all of his
heart to leaning upon his own understanding
and it does not work.
But praise God, there's a God
who wants us to reach that desired end.
He wants us.
Just like,
I mean, again, I think about my son.
I wish I could be half the parent that my wife has been to our children.
Man,
you know,
dads, you can't fix wasted time.
There ain't no one of us that can go back and undo

the mistakes that we've made and we've all made them.
The two boys of yours,
you didn't always give them the right instruction.
You didn't always handle yourself the right
way, and you ain't always done it with Brandon.
I know I hadn't done it with mine.
All you men,
how many men in here got boys?
Raise your hand.
You got sons.
But I tell you what I want to do now, the next
time I can get that little rascal in front of me
who's now 23 years old,
I said, son,
can you let your daddy who's learned a little bit
of wisdom from the Word of God give you some wisdom?
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee.
Let not the commandments of God forsake thee.
Bind them about your neck.
They'll add peace and long life to you.
But above all things, son,
trust in the Lord
with all your heart.
Not a system,
not a church,
not a denomination,
not your 401k,
not your job,
but the God of heaven and earth.
I want you to lie down face before Him and give Him
your entire life with all that you have.
And don't lean on anything else in this world,
especially your own understanding.
Because it will derail you.
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.
Lean not upon
thine own understanding.
But there's another thing that He says here.
He says, in all thy ways,
acknowledge Him.
I think sometimes we can make a mistake with the
Scripture sometimes and we make this thing so easy.
Well, you just follow point A, follow point B, follow point C,
follow point D, and you end up in point E.
God's not a spreadsheet.
He didn't operate that way.
Ricky, God knows if you're trusting Him completely or if you're not.

God knows when I rely upon my own understanding more than I do His.
But it says here now,
in all thy ways,
acknowledge Him.
I heard someone say years ago,
one of the greatest indicators
of where we will spend our next life
is revealed by how we acknowledge Him
in this life.
And friend,
that's when we get an amen or an oh me.
The greatest indicator
of where we will spend our next life
is best revealed
by how we acknowledge Him
in this life.
Solomon says that we are to acknowledge Him.
God says we are to acknowledge Him
in all of our ways.
That word acknowledges is interesting.
It means to know and to make known.
So, Brother Freddie, what this is doing,
this is getting personal between now Solomon
and his son, between God and us.
And it moves
from trusting God to hiding in God to leaning not on God
to now it gets personal and it's making myself known to God.
What he's basically saying,
listen,
Sheila,
there can be no secret places in your life.
There's no areas where God has been quarantined.
There's no secular part and sacred part
that this great God has been given free reign,
free permission to come in and to permeate every single area of our lives.
And now,
that's what it knows to be known.
And now it says
to make Him known.
See,
how we live,
how we operate
on a daily basis reveals who we fully trusted.
That He is to be acknowledged,
submitted to, and revered
in all of our ways.
So here's the question.

When we read this
familiar verses like this,
I mean,
it's one that we can give our kids at Bible school
and they can recite this and I'm all for it.
Y'all don't misunderstand me.
I'd love for every young child
that comes through VBS to be able to quote Proverbs 3, 5 through 6.
But friend, it does none of us no good at all
if all of us can memorize it and we don't do it.
See, here's how we can know
if we fully have trust to the Lord
with all our heart and we're not relying on our understanding.
Folks, God will begin to permeate
every area of our life.
He will begin to spread throughout our life.
His fingerprints
will be present on all aspects of our life.
He will not be the second option.
He'll be the first person that we seek.
We won't view God as a means to an end but
as an end all by Himself because here's why,
Joel,
you have learned that now you have confidence,
confidence.
See, the more you walk with God and the more you trust God,
I promise you, life doesn't get easier
but trusting God gets easier because you've got a little bit of experience behind you
that He is trustworthy that I can lay it all
down before Him
just like little Marianne is nestled up against
Lauren and I can do it and I can go to sleep
and I'm not going to lie upon my own understanding
and because I've trusted this God,
this God is acknowledged.
He's acknowledged.
We acknowledge God
more through how we live
than anything that we say.
We acknowledge God
or don't acknowledge God
more through how we live
than anything that we say.
These instructions are placed here
but it's not just a proverb verse of destruction.
I want to read this all together.
He says, My son, forget not my law but let thy heart keep my commandments

for length of days and long life and peace
shall they add to thee.
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee bind them about thy neck
write them upon the table of thy heart
show that I find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not into thine own understanding
and all thy ways acknowledge Him and I love us that part
and He shall
direct thy paths.
See,
all of this
is going somewhere.
Why?
Because God desires
what's best
for me.
Friend, if you don't believe that,
God help me convince you.
May the Holy Spirit convince you.
God
is a good God.
God
is a gracious God.
God
is a loving God.
God is a long-suffering God.
He doesn't want the demise of men.
He wants to bless men.
But listen,
God will not compromise.
He will not water down His word.
He will not be second fiddle.
He won't set up a half a heart.
But here's the reality.
If Mitsu will actually get to the place that she trusts God
above everything else or all that she is,
that she's not going to lean upon her own reason
or her own understanding.
But in all of her ways acknowledge her hand that
God I'm not going to quarantine everything else.
You can have all of me so that all of me reveals all of you.
God makes a promise.
He shall direct
our steps.
Tiffany,
Jake,
He'll lead your home.

He'll lead it.
Proverbs chapter 2, look what it says.
My son,
if thou receive my words and have my commandments to thee,
so that shalt thou
incline thine ear into wisdom
and apply thy heart to understanding.
Yea, if thou cross after her after knowledge
and lift us up thy voice for understanding,
if thou seekest her as silver
and searchest for her as treasures,
then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
That if we do,
I'm not talking
starvation by works, people.
Y'all understand
the context of this.
Y'all understand it.
But if I'm going
to find the knowledge and the wisdom of God,
friend, I'm going to have to receive.
I'm going to have to hide.
I'm going to have to incline.
I'm going to have to apply.
I'm going to have to cry out and I'm going to have to lift up.
I'm going to have to search and I'm going to have to seek.
And God says,
open your mouth wide and I'll fill it.
If you want me
and you want my instructions and you want my wisdom,
you just cry out to me and you come looking and I'll give it to you.
But I love this.
He shall.
He shall.
He shall.
Not He might.
Not He may.
Not He can or He could.
Folks, this portion
is a promise.
And can I tell you this is more
than God simply shining a light.
This is a divine revelation with divine assistance.
Y'all missed that last part.
It's divine revelation
with divine assistance.

Because, Lauren,
there's nothing that God longs more for you than for you to know Him.
for you to know Him.
And when you get to the place and you go,
Lord,
for my reason and my understanding is battling against me.
But I'm going to lay my life down before you
just helpless as a child.
Not in fear, but confident.
That you may permeate my life.
That you may know every bit of me.
God, that in the way I live, I may make everybody know of you.
God says, here's what I do, honey.
I'll not only show you,
I'll lead you that way.
I'll walk with you.
Brother,
I'll have to figure this a song.
Can I tell you where in the first place God's going to lead every one of us?
He's going to lead us to the cross.
I ain't going to keep preaching long, but I've got to say this.
Listen.
The benefits of God
come after,
come after, come after the saving of God.
God does not exist
to be our rescuer.
He does not exist to fill all every wants and whim and wishes.
The first place that God is going to lead us
is to the foot of Calvary
where Christ died for our sin.
He's going to lead us there.
And when we get there and go, Lord,
all that I am, all that I have, all that I ever will have,
dear Lord, it belongs to you.
The next place He's going to appoint you
is to pick up your cross and live a life that brings glory and honor to Him.
I'm fixing to be 55.
Where am I headed?
I got no idea.
Sister Jim passed at 91.
Mitch's cousin passed at 63.
People passed a whole lot younger than 55.
I'm not really talking about death.
I'm talking about it in life.
I hope my best Christian life ain't behind me.
I hope the best days of my marriage ain't behind me.

They can be in front of me.
They are in front of me.
If I will trust the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding,
all my ways acknowledge Him,
this great God will lead me right to Him.
Let's pray.
Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your Word.
God, and I pray that there's someone here this morning,
Lord,
and they do not know You,
that You will take Your Word.
I know You will, Lord.
You will lead them directly to Yourself.
But God, I pray for the marriages here this morning.
And maybe they're floundering.
Maybe they're struggling.
Maybe they're doing okay.
But it's not all that it needs to be.
That they would come today, Lord, and they would lay their marriage before You.
That they would give it to You, not trusting in themselves,
but trusting in You.
That they may be acknowledged and You may be acknowledged in their lives.
God, I pray for the old man today to seriously
answer the question, where is He headed?
For the young person to ask,
Lord, what direction are we going?
Lord, there's only one way to get where we need to be.
And Lord, that is to be aided and guided
and indeed carried by You.
In Jesus' sweet name we pray.
Amen.
Let's stand.
107.
Stand.