

Rev 25-11-09b

We're ready now to resume our investigations here in the seven churches. We have now reviewed in detail five of the seven churches and have not begun to exhaust everything that is here. I'm hoping I can continue to point out the connections.

There are interconnections here that transcend just what you see when you look at the chiastic structure. It's two chiasms within a larger chiasm. And for great profit, if you have a chance to just open your Bible for five or 10 minutes, you can pull it up on your phone if you're in a waiting room or you're parked waiting for someone else to come out of the store or whatever it might be.

If you just pull up Revelation chapter two and chapter three and just read the verses, the Holy Spirit will show you the connections between these where names are mentioned and what the Lord Jesus is going to do. We've seen the emphasis on the names in Sardis, but remembering that Jesus has promised to write a new name in chapter two, verse 17, on those who overcome, those who will be a pillar in the temple and have a name written on them, three names written. And how important it is to understand the necessity for us to distinguish between the name we think we have, the name that others might think we have, but the actual name that is registered in heaven.

And the book of life I am beginning to understand is not simply a roster of the saved. The book of life is, are you alive or do you just have a name that you're alive, but you are dead. And if you're dead and you remain dead and you don't strengthen what remains, the name gets blotted out.

And this is written to a church, not to the unsaved. Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Recognize he is the son of God.

Believe that he died and rose again the third day according to the scriptures. And I will not blot out your name. We like to think that everyone is in the book of life.

If they die without coming to faith in Christ, their name is blotted out. It's a wonderful sentiment. It's a nice thought, but scripture says that exactly nowhere.

Here is where it talks about a name being blotted out. And those who are in a church who have a name that they are alive, but they are dead, if they do not repent, if they do not strengthen the things which remain and hold fast to what is left, names get blotted out of the book of life. This isn't loss of salvation, but when we get to the book of life in revelation chapter 20, we will see what this entails, revelation 20 and following.

So rather than have to worry about exactly what it means to have your name blotted out, it reminds me of the penalties for various kinds of crime. Rather than worry about how long is the prison sentence for this or what is the consequence of that, I want to be so far in the other

direction that that's just academic. I don't need to know what a court-martial could do to me based on various kinds of infraction in the military.

I don't want to know what a local court or a state court or a district court or some other large court could do if I'm convicted of a felony or of some other bad actions. I want to be so far from that, that it's a moot point for me. That is a worry for others.

That's a concern for someone who has gone 40 miles down a bad road. And the same is here. We don't want to be anywhere near having to worry about what does it mean to have my name blotted out.

But in order to do that, to not have that worry, we have to focus on examining ourselves. And if there is an area in my personal life that is unfruitful, if I think of my spiritual life as a tree, if there are some dead branches there, I need to get those things pruned. I need to get them restored, nurtured.

Our tree, if it's got a dead branch, that branch can be renewed. God has the power to bring life from death. Jesus has conquered sin and death.

And that which is dead can and will be brought back to life by God's power. We're not just subject to the rules of nature. We have a Father in heaven.

But we have got to identify and strengthen by God's grace, using the resources that God has given us. We are to wash our own robes in the blood of the Lamb. God doesn't wash them for us.

Those dead bones are to respond to the word of the Lord and rise from the dust and be clothed with flesh and sinews and hear the word of the Lord again. This means it's not a momentary, once-performed action to respond. The word comes again, you respond again.

Now breath enters them and they stand on their feet, a mighty army. We want to continue to heed the word of the Lord. And that's what we're doing.

We as a group are a Bible church because we understand this. We know what it means. We know it's hard.

We are assaulted from all sides. And the more we grow and mature, the more we become a target for the enemy. But that's a good thing because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.

I want to be somebody that Satan worries about. I want to be somebody that the enemy says, we've got to try to put something in front of this person. They are glorifying God.

They are having an effect. They are shining a light. They're making a difference.

This is a problem for us, the demonic forces. I've got to rile up the synagogue of Satan. I've got

to throw some attacks.

I've got to try to put some stumbling blocks in front of these people because they're effective. They are fruitful. They're doing something.

Listen, we are in the fray and we are unbeatable. We are undefeatable because we have the spirit and the word. We have the full armor of God.

We have the presence of Jesus Christ. He walks in our midst where two or three are gathered in his name. He is in the midst just like he is in the lampstands.

He will hold us in his hand just as he holds the messenger stars. He has the seven spirits. It doesn't matter how many demons Satan's got.

It doesn't matter if there's a legion. A word from the Lord Jesus and a legion of demons has to jump into the pigs and end up in the sea. We have nothing to fear by advancing.

I think sometimes there's a fear that well, you know, if I start really living the Christian life, all kinds of bad things are going to happen to me and I'll be miserable and wish I hadn't done it. And of course, if you stop and think about that, that is a deception. That is a lie.

The more we grow in grace and knowledge of the Savior, the more fruitful and productive and serviceable we are in God's plan and purpose, the more richly blessed. There used to be a preacher on the radio in Tulsa. Matthew will remember this.

We heard him when we were kids. And it was Reverend Ike. And he had catchphrases he would use when he was preaching.

He was very excitable. He would say, you can't lose with the stuff I use. And that distills a biblical truth.

We don't want to have a name that we're alive, but we're not. We want to be alive. And we want to have all of the effects and the fruit of the living and abiding Word of God with the presence of Jesus Christ, who was dead but is alive and is alive forevermore and can infuse life into those areas of our life that are currently unproductive.

So you have a name that you're alive, but you're dead. Be watchful. This means pay attention.

Take a look. You can't fix a problem. I've been thinking about this recently because my tractor quits or my chainsaw quits, both of which have happened in recent weeks, just so I would have this illustration, probably.

But I can say, wow, do I need to put that tractor on a trailer and take it down to Chups and Pryor and get them to figure out what's wrong? The saw is not working. Do I need to take it to the saw place and say, fix, can you fix this saw? If I am watchful, if I am observant, what was the tractor doing when it stopped? What are the components of combustion for this tractor? You

got four things for combustion. And if I just stop and think about what I know and look at the tractor and what it's doing and what it's not doing, I've got a little thing that will tell me, you put it between the spark plug wire and the spark plug, it's got a little light bulb in there.

Stick it in there. Am I getting spark? I've got to watch the spark detector. Oh, look, I am getting electricity to my spark plugs.

The four things you need for combustion, by the way, you need air, you need gas, you need compression, and you need spark. Check those four things. Don't just say, it doesn't run.

I got to take it somewhere. I am helpless. I can figure out if it's got gas or not.

One time I was all depressed and thought the tractor had given up the ghost. And I assumed that the gas I had put in it was still there. Well, it wasn't.

It had an empty tank. And I was there cranking away, cranked the battery all the way down to nothing, had to recharge the battery. I thought, what is the matter with this tractor? And it dawned on me, check the tank, and the thing was dry.

That's my bad. Assuming that there was gas in the tank when there wasn't. Observe, be watchful.

This is what Jesus says. If there's a problem in my life, I can't say, oh man, what a problem. This person's a problem.

This situation's a problem. My fallen nature is a problem. Oh man, this is really an impediment.

This is a piece of bad news. Be watchful. Take a look.

What are the components of a healthy spiritual life? You need four things. You need spark. This is motivation.

Think about the hope. Think about the situation. Think what Jesus Christ has done for us that puts potential in our lives.

You need fuel. Think on these things. Think on the Word of God.

Apply the Word of God to current circumstances. What principles and promises and doctrines and characteristics of God apply in this situation? You need air. You've got to breathe.

You need the Spirit active in bringing to our mind what matters. We need prayer. You need compression.

We do best when we're under some pressure, don't we? It reminds us of who we are and why we're here. We should thrive under some pressure. No pressure, no strength.

You can't build muscle if you don't push against weight. So you can make an analogy for an

internal combustion engine and the spiritual life. But in order for that to work, you've got to check it out.

How many times are we exhorted? Watch and pray. Be watchful. Pay attention.

Take a look at what's going on. Analyze it in the light of what you know. Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path.

To sit and moan, woe is me, my spiritual life's not hitting on all eight cylinders, so to speak. Take a look. Be watchful.

I've got an old tractor, but I can strengthen what remains. I can put new parts on an old tractor and it'll run like a top. This thing is, you know, 50 years old if it's a day.

But give it fuel. Put new spark plugs in it. Put new points in the distributor.

Check the compression. Make sure you keep oil in it. And it does everything I need it to do.

We are the same, but you've got to watch and strengthen what remains. If it's a dead situation, there's got to be life there somewhere. Pray and ask God for discernment, for wisdom.

He wants us to understand what is His good and acceptable and perfect will. To do that, we have to have our mind renewed. I'm quoting Romans 12, 1 and 2, as I do almost every Bible class.

So strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die. If you don't do something, they're going to die. Take that thing to the ER.

Get some help. Put some resources into it. I have not found your works finished.

Finish what you start. This is a biblical principle. This is a Christian value.

This is a Christlike virtue. Finish what you start. That's what works that are unfinished reflect a lack of.

I have not found your works finished. You didn't finish. Remember what Paul tells the Galatians? You ran well.

You started well. Who hindered you from completing the race? You started the race, and then you slacked off, and now you're just walking. Or you've stopped under the shade of a tree, and there goes the tortoise right past you.

I have not found your works finished. They don't count because you didn't finish them. You have a name that you're alive, but you're dead because you didn't pull these things across the finish line.

Finish what you start, whether it is tasks that are related to work, tasks that are related to home

life, things that you've got on a to-do list that are proper and necessary and reflect good stewardship of time and resources. Now, if you've got a hobby and you started reframing a picture or something, that's not what we're talking about. What are the works that God looks at and expects us to finish? What reflects on our life in the Lord before God? Finish those.

If you're working through a book of the Bible, keep on going. Finish it. There are people that flip from flower to flower in terms of church to church or teacher to teacher or fad to fad, and well, today it's experiencing God, and tomorrow it's spirit-filled life, and the day after that it's the prayer of Jabez, and the day after that it's purpose-driven, and the day after that it's the chosen, and the day after that it's this, that, or the other.

Maybe I just need to deconstruct and reconstruct. Maybe I just need to throw open a big tent and stop being picky about licentious behavior and tolerating immorality or whatever else. Be consistent.

Start what is worthwhile and finish. Notice what Jesus says, I have not found your works finished, brought to completion before God. This tells you what kind of works are in view.

There's lots of things I start and I decide, I was going to fix a remote, I looked inside and one of the little battery coils had rusted away to nothing, the battery got left in there too long. I looked on eBay, the thing's worth about 15 bucks. It is not worth my time to repair that, so I pitched it.

I don't have to bring everything back to life. I don't have to look at a thing and say, well, I've started this, I've got to finish it. What are the works before God? God's not interested in me finishing a remote for Windows Media Center that is a bygone day.

That doesn't work after Windows 95. It's pointless. Identify what are priorities.

What are the works that should be complete before God? And if I've got any that aren't finished, build into that, dig into that, strengthen what remains, and by strengthening it, you finish it, bring it to completion, bring it to fullness and function. Usually when you finish a project, now this thing is useful. You finish something that was broken, now that it's fixed, let's use it.

If it isn't something you use, don't waste time fixing it. Works before God, strengthen them, finish them. Prayer life.

Well, I used to pray for the kings and those who have the rule over me, but I kind of got away from that. I used to look around and keep up with a prayer list. I used to have a start to my day where I would crack open something related to the Word of God and prime my soul with the Word of God.

Used to be in the old days of carburetors, you often had to prime an engine. I was watching a video about how to start your generator. When the power goes out, we're getting into the season where ice will happen, storms will take place, power will go out, you're going to run your generator.

Well, if you don't want to ruin your generator, you have to start it carefully. You prime it and you let it run, and you don't have it in eco mode, you get it up to full power before you put a load on it. And if you neglect that step, you can ruin your generator.

Too fast, too quick, without preparation. You can ruin your day if you don't start it right, if you don't get power going before the load hits. If you have used to do that or you heard about it, thought about it, maybe tried it a few times, if that work is not finished before God, strengthen it.

Go back and get back in that habit. Start the day with praise, prayer, and promise. What is the Word of God? Doctrines, principles, promises.

Prime the engine, start it up, and get it running smoothly. Warm it up before you put on the load of the day. This is an example.

There are many different areas in life where we might have started well, but we've slacked off. We've got to get back and finish it. Your works are not finished before God.

Let's examine ourselves before the Lord Jesus with eyes of fire and feet of burnished brass comes and says, I have found your works are unfinished. We can look and identify what is not finished and get that back in action, get it finished, so that the Lord Jesus doesn't have to call it out in our own lives. We have His Word.

We have His Spirit. We can do it in advance. And we can be one of those few names in Sardis that haven't soiled their garments.

You have a few names, verse 4, even in Sardis, even in the midst of a fallen and decaying and largely dead nation or community or circle. There are a few names, even in Sardis, who have not defiled their garments. So fascinating to me that Jesus doesn't say, you have a few people, you have a few souls, you have a few believers, you have a few men, you have a few names.

Because the Lord Jesus knows the names of those within this circle. You go back to John 1. His own received Him not, but there were those who did. And God knew who they were.

And to them He gave the right individually to be called sons of God, children of God, even to those who believe on His name. You believe on His name, you have a name, and God knows your name. And God will bless your name.

This is a reminder that He who has the eyes of a flame of fire discerns. He can tell who's doing it and who's not. You have a few names.

I know your names. Wouldn't it be an amazing thing if the Lord Jesus could do, as He says here, I will confess His name before my Father and before His angels. Which angels? I think it is not, it could be the entire swarms of angels, but there are seven spirits before the throne who conveyed the greeting back in chapter 1. When John says, grace to you and peace from Him

who is, was, and is to come, and the seven spirits who are before His throne, those who carry out the perfect will of God.

Grace, mercy, and peace. Grace and peace. I will confess Your name.

They are speaking grace and peace to us. Our name is confessed before them and however many other angels are within earshot. I will confess His name because I know His name.

You have a few names who are keeping their garments clean. I was going to wear a shirt yesterday and I noticed that there was a weird white spot on one side. Because I looked at it, I was able to quickly remediate that spot so that my garment was clean and somebody didn't look at me and say, what did you spill on yourself? Looks like you, what did you do, squirt toothpaste on you? It was a dark shirt and it was a white pretty obvious blotch.

The only way I was able to remedy that was to look at my shirt and not walk out unawares. It's a beautiful shirt by the way, it was a gift, but it wasn't ready to be worn and to be seen. But be watchful.

Take a look. Don't let your garments be defiled. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments.

If you fix your garments on this earth, you are going to be given heavenly white garments. Small things in this life become big and eternal things in the age to come. You take care of your garments and make sure they are not soiled here.

This is our momentary light affliction. This is our earthly life. You are given these white robes that can never defile, that can never be besmirched, can never be soiled.

He shall be clothed in white garments. It doesn't even say clothed himself. I have the vision that these overcomers, angels will appear with this white robe and will ceremoniously place this white robe on those who cared enough about their earthly garments to keep them clean.

This is confession of our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us. He has the grace and the power to cleanse us, but we have to claim it.

The Lord Jesus died and shed his blood for our sins in his atoning work on the cross, but we have to wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. We have to go to the source of power for cleansing and forgiveness and restoration. We are involved.

We are not passive. We are not uninvolved. We are critically involved in the decisions we make.

You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy to walk with me in white. I walk in the midst of the lampstands. They are going to walk with me in the eternal future.

They've got white garments. They are worthy. These garments will be given to them because

they took care.

You've been faithful in that which is least. You will be faithful also in that which is much. You have been faithful in a few things.

I will make you ruler over many things. Jesus says in the Gospels, He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches, all of the churches. Go back and look at the reference to names in all of the Go back and look at garments in all of the letters.

Go back and look at the overcomer promises for life out of death in all of the church letters. You can go back and forth. If you start the day, just crack open a Bible or get it up on your phone screen of Revelation 2 and 3 and just review these letters.

Remember what we have observed and what we have learned about these. Spend five minutes before you start the day. If you're driving first thing in the morning, get your audio Bible going.

There are free audio Bibles. The thing will read these chapters to you. You can listen to it.

You can loop it. We've got to prime the engine and get it warmed up if we're going to take the load of the day and not fail, not stop, not have our work unfinished. So that takes us to what in my book is labeled the faithful church, to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia, right? These things says he who is holy.

He who is true. He who has the key of David. He who opens and no one shuts, shuts and no one opens.

Oh my goodness. We're only going to get the introduction of this covered. Turn with me back to Isaiah chapter 22.

Did the book of Isaiah a few years back. We are one of the few churches who has done Isaiah verse by verse. It didn't, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

Isaiah chapter 22. This is, remember the timing of Isaiah. Remember he's in the days of Hezekiah and the government is corrupt.

That's all we need to know to start this chapter. So the burden against the valley of vision, what ails you now that you've all gone up to the housetops, all of this being captured by the archers, the valley of vision in verse five, breaking down the walls, crying to the mountains and all the rest of this. Look at verse eight.

This is the center of this chapter. He removed the protection of Judah because of their failure, because of their distraction, falling for deception, not doing all of the things that are consistent with faith and obedience. They were looking in the wrong place.

They looked in that day to the armor of the house of the forest. They saw damage to the city of David that was great. So they gathered together the waters of the lower pool.

They were not able to resist or overcome. They're storing water because dark days are coming. You numbered the houses of Jerusalem, the houses you broke down to fortify the wall.

You destroyed your dwelling places in a vain attempt to fortify the wall. The reason your walls are not going to hold isn't that they're not strong enough and don't have enough stones and you need to destroy your own house to build up a wall. This is a vain effort.

Where is your faith in God? Where is divine protection? God has removed his divine protection. You're trying to substitute your own efforts and you're destroying yourselves in the process. You're tearing your own house down, trying to fend off this threat.

This is the problem in the land. So verse 15, Isaiah 22, 15. This is our passage.

That's background. Let me just review verse 14 because it pertains to what we just covered in Sardis. It was revealed in my hearing by the Lord of hosts, surely for this iniquity, there will be no atonement for you.

Remember in Hebrews, you come to a certain point, there is no more sacrifice for sin, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment. There is no atonement for you, even to your death, says the Lord God of hosts. If you don't change your ways, there's a death and there's no coming back from it.

Thus says the Lord God of hosts in verse 15, go proceed to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the house. This is the corrupt steward, the corrupt leader of the house. This is the government.

What have you here? Whom have you here that you have hewn a sepulcher here as he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, who carves a tomb for himself in a rock. Indeed, the Lord will throw you away violently, O mighty man, and will surely seize you. He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball into a large country.

You think that you've done such a great job. You're such a big noise and a big name. You're going to have a monument even after your death.

You're going to have a sepulcher up high in the rock. Everyone will see it and will memorialize you as someone who did great things. God is going to take you.

He's going to twist around and throw you into a distant country, a great big country where you can hardly be found. Big country, little ball. This is hitting the golf ball and you can't find it.

There you shall die and there your glorious chariots shall be the shame of your master's house. Remember how Naaman wanted to be celebrated riding through the streets. What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor? I will drive you out of your office and from your position and he will pull you down is in the Hebrew, but not in the Greek.

I think it's there. Uh, looking at the height of the sepulcher, I think this belongs. You may see a text note in your new King James.

I will drive you out of your office says God. And from your position, he will pull you down. Then it shall be in that day that I will call my servant, Eliakim, the son of Hilkiyah.

This is a faithful man. Currently not in authority, currently not in the government, currently not powerful. I will call my servant.

How many times have we seen my servant in revelation? I will call my servant, Eliakim, the son of Hilkiyah. I will clothe him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt. Remember the vision of the Lord Jesus, revelation chapter one, he's his, his girt about the chest with this belt.

He has this white linen robe. That's so bright. You can barely look at it.

I will clothe him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt. He is going to replace you. Oh, unrighteous and wicked steward.

He is going to come in and take that office. I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah, the key of the house of David.

I will lay on his shoulder. So he shall open and no one shall shut. He shall shut and no one shall open.

This is the key of David. This is the allusion in Philadelphia. When Jesus says, I have the key of David, I open and no one shuts.

I shut and no one opens. This is what Jesus is talking about. This is what he is alluding to the faithful servant who comes in after corrupt and degenerate government and displaces the wicked, the key of the house of David.

I will lay on his shoulder. So he shall open and no one shall shut. He shall shut and no one shall open.

I will fasten him a peg in a secure place and he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. The house of David, the key of the house of David, verse 22, he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, offspring and posterity, all vessels, a small quantity from the cups to all the pitchers.

What do these cups and pitchers do? This is what you imbibe. This is how you take in the water of life, cups and pitchers, small quantity. This is for individuals to use.

These are not great pitchers that you set at a table for a group. These cups and vessels are small. In that day, verse 25, says the Lord of hosts, the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall.

And the burden that was on it will be cut off, for the Lord has spoken. This in many cases is

taken to refer to the peg that is in verse 24, looking ahead to the Lord Jesus. The problem is this is chronologically backward.

And the peg in verse 25 is referring to what Shebna thought of himself. He thought he was a secure peg. He thought everything depended on him.

He is going to be pulled down. He is going to be set aside. He's going to be thrown like a ball into a large foreign land.

And the secure peg is be fastened on which these promises will hang. So you can see where someone would say, well, the peg in verse 25 has to be the peg in verse 24. But when the secure throne is established, that didn't happen when the Messiah was cut off, but not for himself.

And this is, in my view, verse 25 is not a prediction of Jesus coming and being cut off. This is the old being suddenly and permanently cut off. The one that had a name that it was alive, but is dead.

So this is the introduction that the Lord Jesus gives to himself, to Philadelphia. He who is holy and true, in contradistinction to previous authorities, previous foundations that people tried to build on, previous pegs that people tried to hang their lives on. Those are going to be cut off and be no more.

And everything that hangs on them will fall. The Lord Jesus is the secure peg. He has the key of David.

When he opens, nobody can shut it. If he shuts it, nobody can open it. This is the introduction to the church in Philadelphia.

And we're going to see how important this introduction is with its Isaiah 22 allusion to understanding the remainder of this letter. So what an opportunity we have to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. And it isn't a matter of how close is the rapture.

We already know the imminency of the rapture is primarily the imminency of our own departure from this life. And that is soon for everyone. All of these naysayers that say, well, Revelation obviously, they thought that Jesus was coming back soon and he didn't.

And Revelation is therefore completely off the screen. No. All you have to understand is when Jesus says, I'm coming quickly, that means you've got a limited time.

Whatever amount of your life is left, that's all the time you have left. And at the end of your life, Jesus comes. And every single generation, every single believer from the days of John till now, the Lord Jesus has come quickly for every single one of our brothers and sisters in Christ and those who are alive right now.

If the rapture happens, he has come quickly. If our death happens, he has come quickly. In

either case, we only have our remaining days to respond to these exhortations and strengthen what remains.

Hold fast to that which is good. Cut off and eschew that which is evil. Touch not the unclean thing.

Hate the garment spotted by the flesh. To the extent that we have communication and contact, the only thing that can strengthen any life remaining in these dead and dying things is the word of God. Casual conversation isn't going to do it.

Expressions of personal love aren't going to do it. Embracing conservative cultural values and addressing social issues isn't going to do it. The word of God is what does it.

And if you want to strengthen what remains, you've got to put the word of God in it and on it. You've got to put the Holy Spirit in it and on it. That's how Jesus introduced himself.

He's got spirit. He's got words. Words of truth.

Spirit of life. That has to be the point of contact with anything that is dead or dying. It may be dead to our eye.

It may even have a name that it's alive and it's actually dead. But we should be people characterized by the word and the spirit. And when people come in contact with us, that is the point of contact.

This is the word of God. This is the will of God. This is my identity in Christ.

And the Holy Spirit guides me and shines a light on my path through God's word. And if you want any truck with me, this is my point of contact. Powerful stuff.

Great for application. We'll see what the Lord Jesus has to say to us through the church at Philadelphia next time, this coming Wednesday. But we'll close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for transmitting to us these powerful, meaningful, life-changing truths. We pray that in the hands of the Holy Spirit, they will flame and live. They will motivate us and encourage us.

They will cleanse us. They will strengthen us. They will, like a fire and like a hammer, break the rocks in pieces that are impediments to our progress and our growth.

We pray that we may be those who are alive and have a name that we are alive and can live and serve in a way that pleases you and reflects the glory of the Lord Jesus. We ask it in His name. Amen.