



John 17 - Bearing Witness to the Word

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Introduction

Upper room discourse

- John Chapters 13-17 – “Upper Room Discourse”
 - Passover in Jerusalem on the eve of Jesus’ death
 - Preparing the disciples for what was about to happen
 - Preparing the disciples for their work in the world
 - Focus on the person and work of Jesus
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Key points

- Jesus was about to leave but his disciples were to remain in the “world”

- John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.



Key points

- Although separated from him Jesus' disciples remain connected with him and are to “bear fruit”
 - John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
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Key points

- Jesus' disciples are to “bear witness” about Jesus

- John 15:26-27

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.



John Chapter 17

- “High priestly prayer”
 - “Word of God”
 - Four themes
 - Priority of the Word of God – God’s Glory
 - Provision of the Word of God – God’s Revelation
 - Preservation of the Word of God – God’s Providence
 - Proclamation of the Word of God – God’s Purpose
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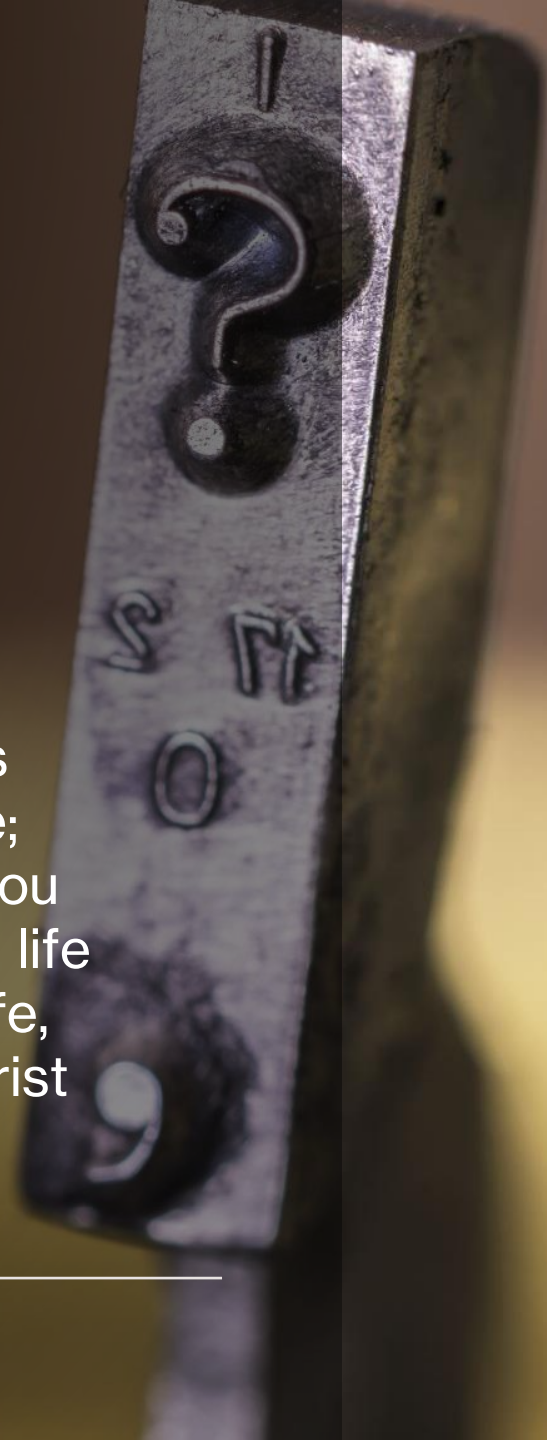
The background features a close-up of a weathered metal object, possibly a hinge or part of a door, with a prominent question mark embossed on it. The metal has a textured, aged appearance. In the upper right corner, there are several white-outlined circles of varying sizes, and one solid blue circle is partially visible. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of brown, gold, and grey.

Priority of the Word of God

The Glory of God

John 17:1-3

When Jesus has spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”



The Glory of God

The primary objective and priority of the Word of God is to bring glory to the Father and to the Son.



“Glory”

That which is worthy of honour and praise.



Distinction

God the Father and God the Son are not glorified or glorious because they are honoured and praised by mankind – rather they are to be honoured and praised by mankind because they are glorious.



Two aspects

- Christ's work on Earth glorifies the Father
 - Given authority
 - Given a particular people
 - Giver of eternal life
- Christ is glorified for his work
 - Earthly glory – the Cross
 - Ultimate glory - Heaven



The background is a deep blue underwater scene with many bubbles rising from the bottom. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the title and subtitle text. On the far right edge, there are several white-outlined circles of varying sizes, some of which are partially cut off by the edge of the frame.

Provision of the Word of God

God's revelation

Questions

- Who are the people of Christ, Jesus' true disciples?
 - What are the "marks" of the true Christian?
 - How do we know God?
 - What is the essence of the Word of God?
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John 17:6

I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me. And they have kept your word.

Revelation

- It's necessity
 - It's subject-matter (content)
 - Justification – Relationship with the Father
 - Sanctification – Relationship with the World
 - Obedience – Relationship with the Word of God
 - Faith – Relationship with Jesus
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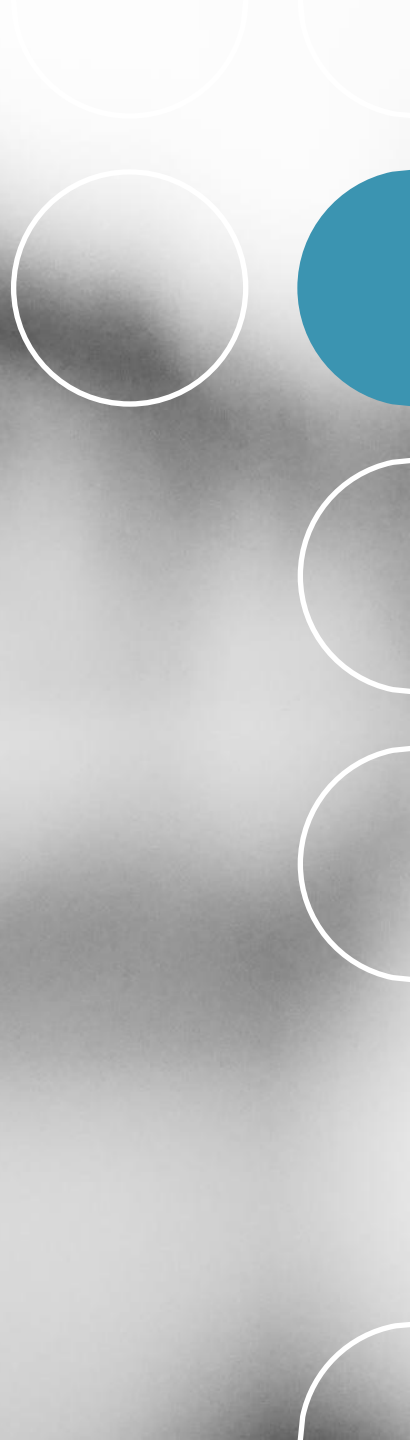
Preservation of the Word of God

God's providence

The question

How does the Word of God remain constant down through the years, especially that now Jesus is no longer present in this world?

God has providentially worked and provided that his Word does so.



Two propositions

The Word of God is protected and preserved from corruption, remaining free from inappropriate influences, false ideas, false teaching, misinterpretation, and misapplication.

The Word of God is protected and preserved by the people of Christ throughout all time being committed to it, submitting to its authority, and having it as their heart's desire, and so that they are able to live godly lives and bear witness to Jesus in an ungodly world.

John 17: 11 and 17

v.11 – “Keep them in your name”

Protection from falsehood

v.17 – “Sanctify them in the truth”

Enable the Word of God to work in the lives of Jesus' disciples

“Keep them in your name”

- “Keep”
 - Why need to be “kept”?
 - Problem of falsehood; corrupted knowledge
 - The reason for Jesus’ concern
 - No longer physically present
 - Perils of the world
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Perils of the world

- External – Danger that comes from the world
 - Sinfulness of the world
 - Hatred of the world
 - Extent and manner of Satan's efforts
 - Internal – Danger of division and disharmony
 - United by the one true Word of God
 - United for the purpose of the one true Word of God
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“Sanctify them in the truth”

- “Sanctify” – being set apart
 - Dealing with sin and its influence
 - Dedicated to the Father and his service
 - Relationship with the world
 - Remain in the world
 - Engage with the world
 - Not of the world
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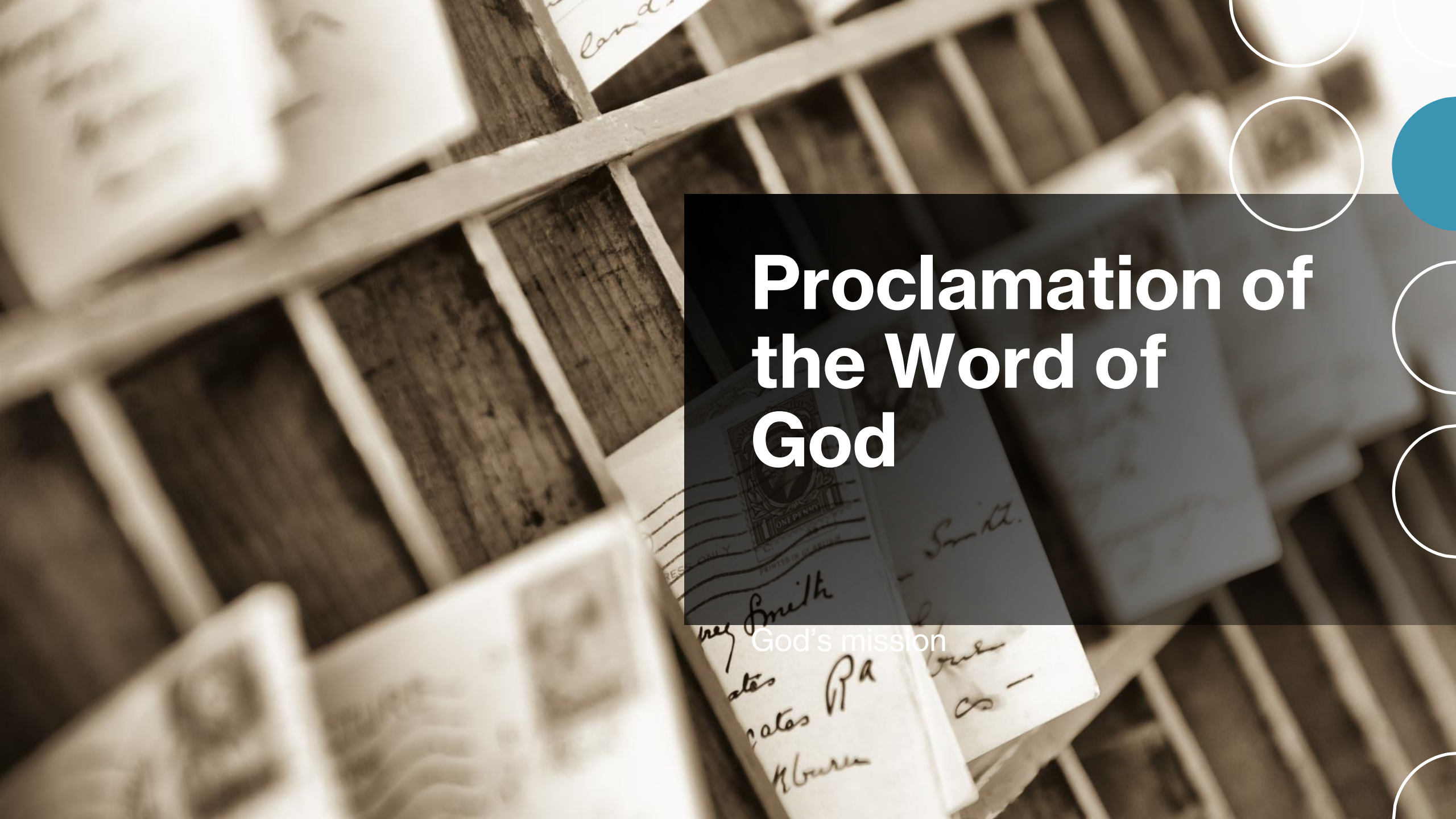
Means of sanctification

Word of God

- Think in accordance with the Word of God
 - Wills aligned with the purposes of God as set out in the Word of God
 - Affections and desires that arise from the love of the Word of God
 - Act in accordance with the Word of God
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Purpose of sanctification

- To bear witness
 - Being united with Christ and his mission
 - We have been sent
 - Where we have been sent
 - The manner in which we have been sent
 - Part of Father's will
 - Obedience to the Father's will
 - Serve as suffering servants
 - Prepared to accept humiliation
 - Defer the timing of our glory
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Proclamation of the Word of God

God's mission

Questions

How do Jesus' disciples bear witness to the Word of God?

How does Jesus build his church?

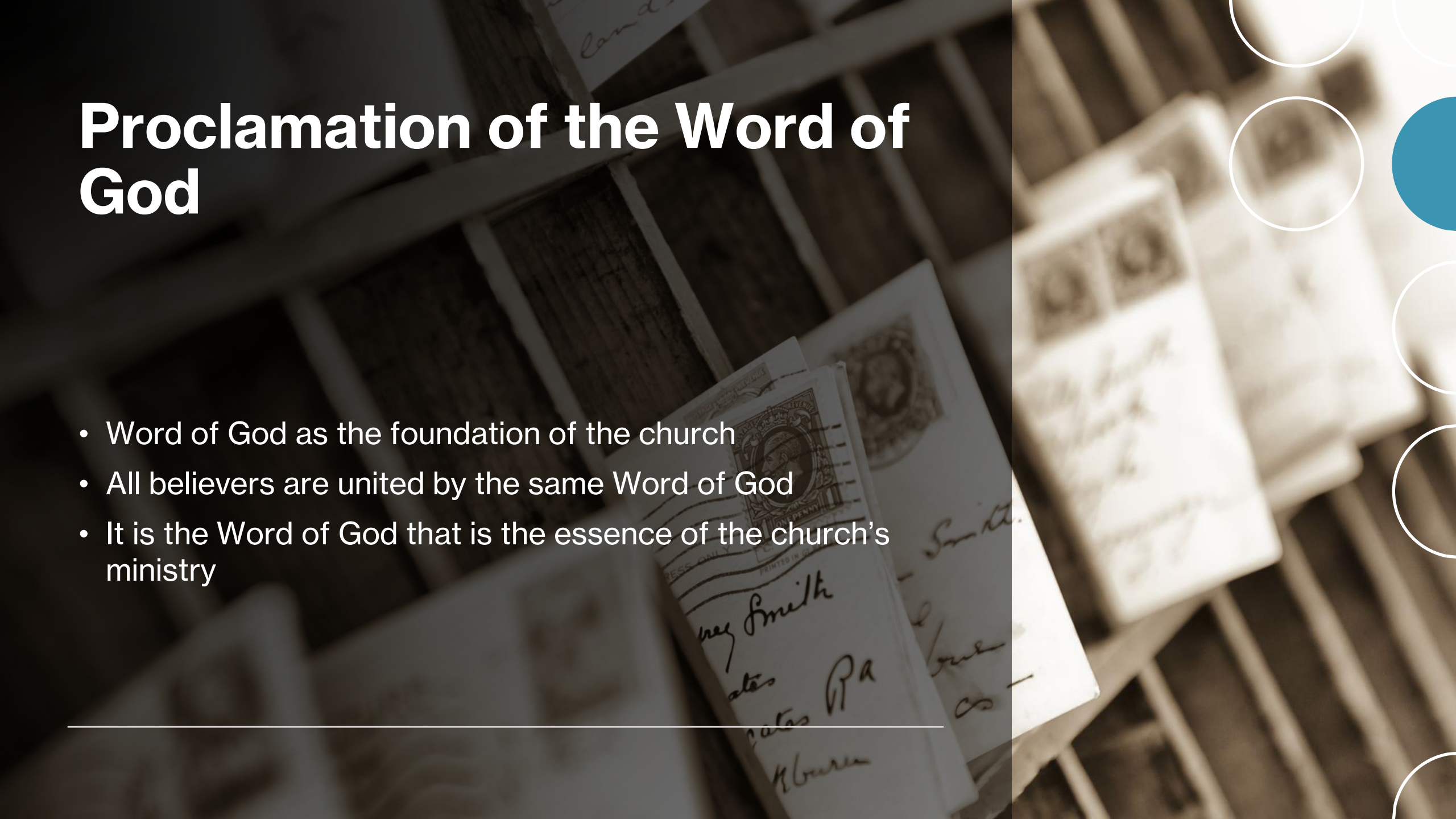
Through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

John 17:20-21

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are I me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Proclamation of the Word of God

- Word of God as the foundation of the church
 - All believers are united by the same Word of God
 - It is the Word of God that is the essence of the church's ministry
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Soli Deo Gloria!