The book of Colossians chapter 1.
While I'm thinking about it, I made myself a note last month when we missed it.
We will have our fellowship meal this Sunday night after the evening of service.
So everyone make note of that.
Look forward to those.
Did I miss that?
No, I've always been three times while I've been up there.
I'm going to put a heart in America.
Our church has been asking for all the priests, not
tomorrow night, but a week before tomorrow night.
Okay.
Anybody from New Bethel wants to come and sing?
At Mount Joy in Ayucca.
I've never been there, but I'm convinced I'll find it somehow.
It's where Jenny, Lynn, and Todd go to church.
And so next Thursday night, church will be singing
at Friendship Service here next Wednesday night.
And I'll be revival in Ayucca at Mount Joy.
Bible study.
Book of Colossians.
We're going to go through, Lord willing.
It doesn't change my mind.
We're going to work our way.
We worked our way through the book of Ephesians.
We're going to go through the book of Colossians.
Just four chapters take our time.
A lot of things in common with these books.
Of course, the whole thing's in common, is it not?
I mean, from Genesis to Ephesians, there's not a
lot that stands in contradiction to one another.
But I enjoy the book of Colossians.
So tonight will be probably pretty brief.
Just sort of an introduction to this book and look at a few verses here.
Then Lord willing, next Wednesday, we'll dive in
to really sort of what is the theme of this book.
So Colossians chapter 1, beginning to read in verse number 1.
And tonight we're just going to read down through verse number 14.
Again, it's good to see everybody here.
Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will
of God, and Timotheus, or brother, or Timothy,
to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ, which are at Coloss,
grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,
since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and
of the love which you have to all the saints,
for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven,
whereof you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

which is coming to you as it is in all the world,
and bringeth forth fruit as it does also in you,
since the day you heard of it and knew the grace of God in truth,
as you also learned of Epaphras, our dear fellow servant,
who is for you a faithful minister of Christ,
who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.
Verse 9, Paul says,
We'll see so many common themes, common prayers of
the apostle Paul for this church, for all churches.
It says in verse 10, That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,
being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God,
strength with all might,
according to his glorious power,
unto all patience along suffering with joyfulness,
giving thanks unto the Father,
which hath made us meet to be protectors
of the inheritance of the saints and light,
who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.
Lastly, verse 14,
In whom we have redemption through his blood,
even the forgiveness of sins.
Let's go to the Lord.
Father, Lord, we do thank you for another privilege to gather.
Lord, in this beautiful building that you have allowed us to have.
Lord, for every person that is here.
Lord, many prayer requests have been mentioned tonight.
God, we know that you are aware of each one of those things.
Dear Lord, I stand here tonight just as aware,
or perhaps more aware than I've ever been.
Lord, our greatest need in this life is to know you,
and we can learn of you and know you through your spirit and your word.
Lord, I pray tonight that you would take your word
and that you would use it to strengthen your church.
Lord, bring conviction where conviction is needed
and comfort where comfort is needed.
Lord, that we might be transformed to your likeness.
Lord, to the praise of your glory and for our own good.
Lord, again, we thank you for this time that you've given us.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen and amen.
Again, Lord willing, we may do a brief Bible study here
through the book of Colossians,
this letter that the Lord led the Apostle Paul wrote
to this church in Coloss.
Just a little bit of background about this place.

The Colossian church was founded.
It was really an outgrowth of Paul's ministry in Ephesus.
Ephesus was about 100 miles away from Coloss.
And Epaphras, who is mentioned here in verse 7,
was a native Colossian or from Coloss.
And he was there in Ephesus and heard the preaching of Paul.
He heard the church, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
And he took that message back, the great gospel,
and founded or established this church in Coloss.
Something that was interesting to me, doing a little background on it.
Most scholars believe that this church was a young church
at the time of this writing, maybe only five or six years old.
How long has New Bethel been here?
I mean, 1800s or, I mean, 100, so now 126 years old or something like that.
Been around a long, long time.
But this is a letter that the Lord is writing through the Apostle Paul
to this young church that was under attack.
It wasn't under attack by the Romans.
It wasn't under attack by the Sanhedrin.
No one militarily or even physically was under attack.
What was attack, what the attack was from was false doctrine
that was threatening to tear this church apart.
I mean, stop it before it even got going good.
And the target of that false doctrine was the Lord Jesus Christ himself.
I was thinking about this.
What's the best way to kill a critter?
I mean, you got a snake in your flower bed or a coon in the garden.
You go for the head.
You don't go for the toe or finger or anything like that.
You go for the head.
And that's exactly what Satan has done through
this modern thought, a mixture of religions.
Things seem to sound somewhat right.
That Satan immediately, through this false teaching,
went for the head of all things.
Satan has always attempted to undermine or kill the head.
I was driving over here today.
You remember that horrible, horrible pronouncement of Pharaoh.
Imagine an edict going out to kill every boy child under the age of two years old
in the region of Bethlehem.
That was in an effort to slay the head.
The temptation in the wilderness where Satan was there
was an effort to cut off the head.
Thankfully, Satan's head was crushed at Calvary.
But still, a defeated enemy can remain to attack.
And that's what is happening today.
That Satan is attacking from a defeated position.

And he does so at times by attacking the people of God.
But this was attacking the very head himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.
And what Satan did through these false teachers,
he did not deny the existence of the Lord.
Anybody with a brain in their head, no matter how evil they may be,
will not deny the existence of a man called Jesus Christ.
We divide time by him.
I mean, atheists have to confess that a man like Jesus existed.
He doesn't deny his existence.
What he simply tried to do is through this mixture of teaching
and religions and modern thought
is to make Jesus less than he was
and less than he is.
Not only did he attempt to do that,
he still seeks to do that.
To make him less than sufficient,
less than deity,
less than God,
less than preeminent,
less than eternal,
less than the all-sufficient Savior.
We read this book of Colossians and it's filled with a lot of practical instruction.
I mean, some good godly guidance.
But the primary theme of this book is,
and man, this is one of the church needs to grab hold to with both hands,
had a conversation tonight.
Oh, goodness gracious,
if we just get to this.
And that is the sufficiency and the preeminence and the deity
and the power of our Lord Jesus Christ that he's altogether different.
He's altogether above all things.
He's the creator of all things, the one that all things were created for.
Everything revolves around him
and Paul writes to this church that he never got to even see.
But Epaphras knew what was going on.
So he calls to Paul for help
and the Lord uses his man
and he's going to get on to the theme
of who the Lord Jesus Christ truly is.
Folks, I'm convinced
to the very bottom of my heart,
you may know every doctrine in this Bible named every
one of the kings and the dates the apostles were born.
The greatest teaching,
the greatest thing that we can ever learn about
is exactly who the Lord Jesus Christ is.
It's more important than an understanding of heaven.

It's more important than anything else in this world
than to understand exactly who it is
that we're dealing with.
But Paul,
we're not really going to get much into that tonight.
He begins really picking up on that.
He talks a little bit about
what Christ did in verse 13 and 14.
But he's going to get into the person of Lord Jesus
in verse 15.
So these first few verses are sort of an introduction,
if you'll have it, to this letter.
And to me, there's really two words.
Now, there's a lot here in these first few verses.
Two words to me
that summarize this
is prayer and thanks.
Multiple times we saw,
let's see, Paul write,
we cease not to pray for you.
We pray for you.
We're thankful for you.
We're thankful for him.
So that's sort of the summary
of this first section.
But it begins
with this consistent greeting.
Look what Paul writes in verse number two.
Look at verse number one.
Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ
by the will of God
and Timotheus our brother
to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ
which are at Colossus.
Grace be unto you
and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Folks, Paul isn't just being polite.
He isn't just being cordial.
What he is doing right here is laying out
a divine precedence of things.
There is a full message just in verse number two.
It is the same introduction that Paul uses over and over
and over again.
Number one, look at how he addressed them.
Who were they?
How did he address them

when he wrote the Ephesians?
To the what's in Ephesus?
To the saints.
Not a man who used to be dead and was dead.
We look back at his life now.
We give him some title.
No, he's writing to the saints.
He's writing to the church.
But he says in Romans 1,
Grace to you
and peace from God our Father.
1 Corinthians 1,
Grace be unto you
and peace from God our Father.
2 Corinthians 1,
Grace be unto you
and peace from God our Father.
Galatians 1,
Grace be to you
and peace from God the Father.
Ephesians 1,
Grace be to you
and peace from God the Father.
Philippians 1,
Grace be to you
and peace from the Father.
Folks, he is laying out
a divine principle.
He is laying out
a divine precedence.
And folks, those two things, they come in this order.
First comes the grace of God,
then comes peace with God.
And they come in that order.
A man that does not have peace has never experienced grace.
The only way you will experience peace is to embrace the grace of God.
But when the grace of God comes in and we wrap our
minds around the grace of God that doesn't just save us,
but it sustains us and it keeps us
and it preserves us,
that's when the peace of God
begins to flow into our heart.
But also,
they both come from the same source,
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Grace isn't to be found anywhere else.

Peace isn't to be found anywhere else.
There's the grace of God that comes,
that brings forth the peace of God.
And the source of those things
is God himself.
But now Paul gets into verse number three.
I want to read verses three through eight.
It's sort of Paul's prayer of thanks concerning them
and really going to sort of kind of look at this verse by verse.
Look what he says in verse three.
He said, We give thanks to God
and the Father,
our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.
I said I wasn't going to be but just a minute.
I know Ethan snuckered when I said that.
Who deserves the credit and the glory and the praise when a man is saved?
The Lord Jesus Christ.
Now I may get some feathers ruffled here with me but
listen, we got to be biblical if we're going to be anything.
The next time somebody
is saved in this church,
let's not congratulate them as if somehow they have accomplished something.
How about we say
we are going to praise
the God of heaven
that he just moved on your behalf.
We're going to be there
to support you
and pray with you
and share the word with you that we all grow to the likeness of God
but the Lord deserves every bit of the glory
for what is accomplished.
Paul says,
We thank God in heaven
for what is accomplished.
Not that man doesn't have a role in this
because he's got one.
We do not.
We'll be doomed.
He said, We give thanks to God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ
praying always for you
since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus
and the love which you have to all the saints
for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven
where have you heard before in the word
and the truth of the gospel which is coming to you as it is in all the world
and bring it forth fruit as it does also in you

since the day you heard of it
and knew the grace of God in truth
as you also learned of Epaphras,
there's that name,
our dear fellow servant who is for you
a faithful minister of Christ
who also declared unto us your love in the spirit.
Paul begins by praising God, thanking God
for their faith and for their love.
Let's remember what we learn from the book of Ephesians.
For by grace are you saved through faith and that out of yourselves
is a gift of God not of works lest any man sir boast.
No man works himself up into faith.
No man creates faith.
That thing is a gift of God.
But what Paul's doing,
he's very thankful for the people that have it.
It's a blessing to run into a man that has faith.
It's a blessing to be surrounded by people
who believe,
who acted upon the light that God shined
into their life.
They acted upon
the stirring of the spirit of God in their life and they turn and they believe
and they trust in the Lord and these people
that they have faith.
And Paul says,
I'm thankful for the love that you have
for all the saints.
See, these two things go together right there with obedience.
The greatest evidence
that a man
has truly embraced the grace of God
that leads to faith in a man is number one,
he minds the Lord and number two,
he loves other people.
It's all over the scriptures.
He says, I'm thankful for what God has done.
I'm thankful for your faith.
I'm thankful.
Now listen,
I am thankful.
I'm so thankful.
My son's going through some things right now.
Young people,
I don't want to make you sad,
but a lot of the people you go to high school

with, you may know them for the rest of your life,
but what's going to end up happening
is friendships begin to change.
Priorities begin to change.
Opinions begin to change.
You begin to start thinking a little bit, or you should anyways,
what's really important and what's not that important.
You start hearing things and you know, Bryson, that just doesn't sound right.
That doesn't sound like it's right in the word of God.
And my son has a dear friend of his who has gotten off of some legalistic mumbo jumbo
and there's absolutely no love in his heart.
Now, he's as self-righteous as a Pharisee,
but he pretty much hates everybody.
No!
The evidence you've embraced the grace of God and you have faith in your life
is you mind the Lord
and you love other people.
Paul says,
I'm thankful to be,
and when I was getting to that point,
you're going to be thankful for those people in your life
that are true people of faith
that embrace the grace of God
and they have love for other people.
You can tell by the way they live and the way they walk and the way they talk.
He said in verse number five,
I'm thankful for the hope that is laid up for you in heaven.
Here, the thanks isn't for them,
but it is for the hope that is laid up for them.
What does that include?
I mean, it includes everything that glory includes.
I have not seen nor ever heard in the heart of the man the things that the Lord
hath prepared for them that love him.
I don't know what's all there.
I know there won't be one ounce of disappointment in any of us,
but where I believe more than the streets of
gold or gates of pearl or match or anything else,
I believe he's talking about the Lord Jesus Christ
who is in heaven right now
interceding on our behalf,
ruling on our behalf,
that that hope is laid up,
it's fixed, it's firm, it's there, it's sure.
I love the way Paul begins these letters.
These were people in Ephesus and Corinthians
and all these other places who were pagans.
Remember what we learned in Ephesians.

Those who were far off,
Gentile people's way out there, what happened?
God pursued.
God came.
God showed.
They heard the word of God
and they believed.
They trusted.
And when they trusted and when they believed,
fruit began to spring up in their life.
Love began to show up in their life.
And Paul says, you've got hope
laid in as a fixture.
I mean,
the tense of this thing is it is settled,
it is done,
all of that is promised to you,
but it is the Lord himself.
But I like what he says
in verse 5.
For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven,
whereof you heard before
in the word
of the truth
of the gospel.
This was a question I jotted down to myself.
When was the last time
I thanked the Lord
for the word of God
which revealed God to me.
I've got about five of these.
I've got some that are dusty.
I've got some that I had passed down.
I've got some, now I've got one with extra, extra large print
because I've got,
we can get so accustomed to this thing
that we lose appreciation for this thing.
But the last time,
because what Christianity comes by
is God's revelation of himself.
He does it through preaching,
he does it through his spirit,
but primarily
he does it through the word of truth.
Here's what
these people heard.
They didn't hear any Dave Ramsey lessons on money management.

They didn't hear a bunch of legal jiggle mumbo jumbo.
They didn't hear a bunch of liberalism.
No,
they come, Papyrus is over there and he heard Paul preach
the gospel to the Ephesians which we just studied about.
Epaphras come back,
he preached the gospel to the Colossians
and God took the gospel with his spirit
and he saved people and when he did he laid up a hope in heaven for them.
He put love in their heart and he showed to other people
and Paul's just thanking God for all these things.
For all these things.
For the hope that is laid up for heaven for you,
for the word of the truth of the gospel.
Look what he says in verse number 6.
which is coming to you as it is in all the world
and bringeth forth fruit as it does also in you since the day you heard of it
and knew the grace of God in truth
as you also learn of Epaphras our dear fellow servant
who is for you
a faithful minister of Christ.
It's worth rejoicing over
just when the seed is planted.
Vacation Bible School and this is something I've had to
remind myself of many times many times many times many times
because I will not see
with my natural eye the things that I long to see
with my spiritual eye and I go you know what God
your seed went out today.
Praise God for it.
But friend it's a whole other thing when you see that seed take root
and fruit springs up.
That's what Paul's thanking God for.
Fruit had come out of their lives.
This was more than some faulty confession.
No, this was evidence that something supernatural
had happened to them.
He says you've heard this you've learned this word from Epaphras.
I love this.
For you
a faithful minister of Christ.
Just a man.
Just a man.
But he was a man
that heard the gospel of God
who took that gospel
took it back somewhere else.

God does what God does.
He builds a church.
Satan how do I know it's real?
Because Satan attacks it.
Satan attacks it.
Epaphras said Paul we need some help.
He said well we're fixing to get some help over there to you
in the form of a letter.
And we're going to find out exactly who the Lord is.
But you know what?
Isn't this a picture?
Y'all
we all don't have to be ordained.
You don't have to have a license to preach.
I love I love that story of the man of the Gadarenes.
Y'all know we're talking about the man who
lived out in the tombs and no chains could hold him.
I mean he cut himself with stone.
We all know the story
that Jesus came
and he evicted the demons out of that man and he
was sitting there clothed and in his right mind.
How do we know this man got it?
I'll tell you about this one thing.
He had a desire
to go with the Lord.
He wanted to get in the boat and go back across the sea.
Do y'all know we don't get to do everything that we want to do?
What was Jesus' answer to that man?
I'm paraphrasing.
You can't get in the boat with me.
You are to go home
to your friends and to your family
and tell them how great things God has done for you.
Young people that's what Epaphras did.
He left Ephesus
went a hundred miles back home to Colossians and said let me tell you about this God.
Amen.
It's that simple.
It's that simple.
Paul prays and thanks God for them
for their faith and their love the hope that was laid out for heaven
the word of the truth of the gospel the fruit that sprang up
the minister that served them but look here
now he gets praying specifically for them
verse number 9
he says for this cause we also since the day we heard it do not cease

to pray for you
prayer and thanks we continue to pray for you hey sometimes listen it's not enough
I don't like to say get them saved we don't get anybody saved the Lord
gets people saved but it ain't done then
that's just that's the that's the starting point that's the beginning line
Paul hadn't quit praying since they got it through he said for this cause we also
since the day we heard of it do not cease
to pray for you and to desire that you might
be filled with the knowledge of his will
and all wisdom and spiritual understanding that you might walk worthy of the Lord
unto all pleasing being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge
of God strength with them with all might
according to his glorious power
unto all patience
and longsuffering with joyfulness y'all see how this is now is transforming
to what God has already done for them to who they were
he said now I'm praying
now I'm praying
that you might be filled with the knowledge of God's will
that's not some type of special supernatural knowledge that just anybody can have
but it's men that who might who have come to know God
might seek God
and get in line with the will of God
I promise sometimes we make the will of God so much more complicated than it has to be
Daniel minding today
if you minding today tomorrow you will be where God wants you to be
it's that simple
we minding today and tomorrow where God wants us and we minding the next day
and we end up being where God wants us that we do the things that we know
we are to do and that God begins to reveal
those things that might be unknown to us he says
I pray that you
might understand the knowledge of the will of God
what is the will of God look at verse number 10
that ye might walk worthy of the Lord
unto all pleasing
being fruitful in every good work and increasing
in the knowledge of God what is the will of God
that Dickie Sparks live like a man who has been born again
that's not legalism
that's Christianity that I'm now a child of the king
what is the will of God I've been adopted I've been cleaned I've been sealed
all of these things that happened in my life
he's changed my name
changed my position the number one priority now the will of God in my life
is that I walk worthy of the position that I now have in the Lord
again he talks about the knowledge

of the will of God
increasing in the knowledge of God
folks it's not talking about having a master's of divinity or a doctorate in theology
it's kind of
the grammar here is a little different but it actually means
a knowledge due to closeness
I want you to think about this for just a minute
most all of you some of you don't really well
most of you know sister Mitzi pretty good a lot of you do
I mean I don't name names some of us really really close
can I tell you I don't care how much you think you know
about her you don't know near as much about her as I do
you know she would not eat white bread
sandwiches because they stick to the top of her
roof of her mouth
won't eat them
hates birds
she hates birds because she got chased by a chicken when she was a little girl
her granddaddy rang a chicken's neck and she sweared that chicken with his neck
flopping chased her she jumped into the back of
the truck and the chicken ended up in the back
she's weird about a bunch of stuff but see I know how do I know it because I've
been living with her for 30 years
we're close
we share money we share a home we share kids we share dreams
we share everything and so what Paul is praying John is you might get to know
God so well not just because you know facts about the Bible
but because you walk so close to God you yearn to be close to God you learn
to conform to the image of Christ because he's done all these things in life now you
and him can complete one another's sentences
amen
amen
a knowledge due to closeness filled with the knowledge of his will
what else is next verse number 11
strengthen with all might
according to his glorious power
unto all patience and long suffering with joy fulness
y'all remember anything about this at the end of the book of Ephesians
be stronger in the Lord and the what
and the power of his might
over and over and over again you'll see all in these New Testament epistles
they had been saved sister Sherry they had been changed but you know what they still
needed they needed the might of the power of God in their life
that's the only thing that's going to enable
us to make it through the day life is hard
Brandon asked me now you had a good week I said
you have a good day I said well it's better

I'm here
I feel like I've survived it
ain't that how we feel most of the time we just simply survived it Paul's praying
praying mind him today do what you know God has told you to do today you get so close
to God because you're walking with God that you can finish one another's sentences
you grow in closeness with the Lord but that you also rely
on the power of his might his might his might his might not our strength God's
strength God's strength God's strength God's strength
all across the New Testament
and folks it's so needed in our lives today
Paul says when I'm weak
then I'm strong
when I'm nearly crushed
as he said this thorn has basically killed me and I've asked God three times
to take it away but you know what God won't do it why he said because my grace is
sufficient for thee my strength made perfect in weakness it's the power
of the mind of God I love this book
isn't the Bible so relevant
it's so relevant to where we are
Paul
he prays
to the saints at Coloss
to the saints in Red Bay Alabama and Belmont Mississippi
grace be unto you and peace from God our Father
your love that you have for all the saints
for the fruit that has sprung up
praising God for the word of God for the hope that is laid up in heaven
be strengthened with his might closest to God but
Paul wraps up this section here and he moves from them
and now he's fixing to get into him
he says in verse number 12
giving thanks unto the Father
which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in life
who hath delivered us from the power of darkness
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear
son in whom we have redemption through his blood
even the forgiveness of sins I love verse number 12
by the way this sentence starts in verse number 9
and goes all the way down through verse number 17
but you can't get the whole thing in there at one time I mean he's saying so much
but he's thanking God now he moves from the people
he moves to God himself who has made us meet to be partakers what does what does that
mean I'm going to tell you what it means folks no matter
how wretched
and filthy and ugly a man's life may be
I'm telling you based upon the word of God God loves that man
how do I know the book of Romans says while we were yet sinners Christ died for us

but we need to understand this
the love of God does not overcome it does not trump the holiness of God or the
righteous standard of God that no matter how much
God loves a man that man on his own left alone
is not fit he is not neat he is not ready he cannot
have communion with the Lord but what Paul says God
you have made us fitting
you have made us neat you have come in and changed our
lives now because of what you have done that us unfit people
are now fit
to share in the inheritance
of God
he says and I thank God for it
and one of the worst things that could ever happen to us as Christians
is to forget what made us fitting
forget who made us fitting
I love verse 13
I'm not going to spend a whole lot of time on this thought but whether you call it
perseverance of the saints or you call it eternal
security I don't know what you've been taught
and it doesn't really matter what any of us have been taught
what does the Bible say here in verse number 13 verse number 12
giving thanks to the father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance
of the saints in life who hath delivered us from the power of darkness
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son
sister tell me what tense is that when Paul's writing what tense is it
huh
what what is it going to happen or has it happened or what
huh
it has happened
I don't know how many hearing aids in I can't hear what
we need to grab hold of this
it's done
it's past tense
that I already have been
taken
from the kingdom of darkness I have been taken out of the kingdom of death
and I have been moved into I have been planted
into the kingdom of the son of God
that is a finished work that God does
past tense accomplished finished done
now even though I'm there
I'm still now
in this world I got to be strengthened with might by his spirit
I'm called to walk worthy of the calling we're with he has called me
I've still got this battle to deal with but I can do all of it knowing
as I said Sunday morning

the pen that wrote Revelation has been put down
the end has already been written that the child of God the saint of God is safe
and the grace and the power of God
had translated us into the kingdom of his dear son
verse 14
in whom
we have redemption
through his blood
even the forgiveness
of sins
redemption
redemption
really two meanings of that word
my grandpa used to take them old bottles
you might remember tab
he'd drink them cases of tabs
and he'd go and redeem those bottles he would give them back
this is an opposite meaning
that Alton Hester
was enslaved to sin
he was a citizen of death
and darkness
and that the blood of Christ
the work of Christ
bought him back
and translated him
into the kingdom of the son of God
and through that process
the forgiveness
of sins
that the child of God
can stand before the Lord
clean
clean
see Paul's fixing to
he's fixing to get into this because there's some folks
that got into some things
they do today
Jesus existed but I mean he's
he's not God
he's the creator of the highest beings or
he was a wonderful teacher
masterful teacher
that don't cut that don't cut
that doesn't cut it
no
he is the very image

of the invisible God
and it's this God who come down
who draped himself and skin and flesh and bone and blood
went to the cross for you sister Susan and he wore your sin on that cross
and he died your death and he stayed dead for
three days and he come up out of that grave
proving himself be God and it's through faith in his work
that he has redeemed you out of darkness
he has washed you clean
and that the child of God in Coloss or Ephesians
or Red Bay or Belmont whoever it may be
we can stand before this God right and clean and whole
with praise on our lips
thank you God
thank you God let's pray
Heavenly Father Lord I pray that you would take your word
and that your spirit
might seal your truth into our souls
Lord that we might see who we now are because of what you've done
but Lord that we might also see the worthy
calling that you have placed upon our lives
God that those here who do not know you might see the hope
that is found in you because you are like none
other you are none other you have no equals
not even close seconds
you are the only one that can save a man and
change a man and cleanse a man and claim a man
and God I pray that there's someone here tonight that they might be
familiar with church they've never embraced
Lord you
that tonight that they would come before you
repent and believe
but God I also pray
that you would strengthen us as your church
worship you in the beauty of holiness
with gratitude and thankfulness on our hearts
in Jesus name I pray Amen let's stand