Nobody else, Colossians chapter 1, good, good, good to be here.
A few weeks ago, I appreciate Brother Alton teaching last week, we began our study of
the book of Colossians and looked at verses 1 through 14.
Two weeks ago we looked at verses 15 through 20.
Tonight, Lord willing, we'll finish this chapter
up, begin reading verse number 21 through verse number 29.
Apostle Paul writing to this young church, writing to our church, writing to all God's
people, he says, and you that were sometime
alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked
works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body
of his flesh through death to present you holy
and unblameable and unreprovable in his sight.
If you continue in the faith, grounded and
settled, then be not moved away from the hope
of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which
was preached to every creature which is under
heaven, whereof I, Paul, am made a minister,
who now rejoice in my sufferings for you and
fill up that which is behind of the afflictions
of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which
is the church, whereof I am made a minister according
to the dispensation of God, which is given to me for you to fulfill the word of God.
Even the mystery hath been hid from ages and
from generations, but now was made manifest to his saints.
Y'all, verse 26, verse 26 is so big.
Old Testament, they could maybe look towards
it, they didn't understand it, they didn't get
it, they didn't know it, because it wasn't
yet revealed, but what is now revealed to the
church, to God's people, even the mystery which
has been hid from ages and from generations,
but now is made manifest to his saints, to
whom God would make known what is the riches of
the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles,
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory, whom
we preach, warning every man and teaching every
man in all wisdom, that we may present every
man perfect in Christ Jesus, whereunto I also
labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.
Let's go to the Lord in prayer tonight, Brother
Dickie, I want to ask you to lead us, if you would.
Amen.
Amen, amen, Lord willing, I will cover these
last few verses in the book of Colossians.
I want to do a little bit of review, a little
bit of recap before we jump in to this.
Paul is writing to this young church, a young church that
is under attack, not from outside persecution of the Romans.

Or some great military force, but it is a church that has been swayed
by, influenced by, attempted to influence through false teaching.
So Paul writes, really the theme of this book is about the preeminence
and the sufficiency and the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Again, it was to counter this false teaching of
these people who did not deny the existence of Jesus.
They would use the name of Jesus, they recognized the person of Jesus,
but what they did through their teaching is they would diminish him.
They would make him less than what he claimed
to be and what the Apostle Paul claims to be.
And I was thinking about that today.
I mean, you know, in some things, it's okay to be partially right.
And other things, being partially right can be deadly.
How big a deal is this really that these people diminished the glory of
the Lord and the person of the Lord and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ?
I heard a quote years and years ago, and I think it was about A.W. Tozer.
It says,
A God created in the heart of fallen man can
in no ways be accurate to the true, true God.
A view of God created in our mind, whom we think, what we think.
It can in no way be accurate to who God truly is.
Folks, a God of our own making, a God of our own mind is nothing less than idolatry.
That's it.
It's nothing less than idolatry.
That's why we need to be very careful when we hear,
because we've said it, we've all said it, but we hear,
Well, I believe, the God that I believe in would not
do this, or the God that I believe in would do that,
or my view of God is this, or my view of God
is that, and not to offend you or to offend me,
but what Ricky thinks of God, or what Farron thinks of
God, or what Nicky's view of God, that's irrelevant.
What matters is that we've got a standard, we have a word,
that we go, and we change our mind, and we change our view,
and we recognize that we're the ones that's going to have to be adopted and changed,
that our view of the Lord and His Son, Jesus
Christ, is that as it's revealed to us in Scripture.
So Paul is writing with that great theme in mind, and we looked at it last week,
in verses 15 through 19, he really begins to dive in as to who the Lord Jesus is.
He says in verse 15, that He is the image of the invisible God.
He's the exact revelation, the exact representation.
Jesus said, He that has seen me has seen the Father.
He is the great I am of the Old Testament.
He is the I am, the way, I am the door, I am the sheepfold,
I am all of these things of the New Testament.
He says, He's the exact reputation, the visible representation of the invisible God.
He said, He's the firstborn of every creature, not in order, but in status.
He stands above all things.
He created all things.
All of this is Colossians.

He created all things.
He's the one that all things are created for, which
gives value to everything that lives and breathes.
Amen?
He created all things.
He's the one thing that all things were created
for, and He is the one by all things consists.
He is keeping life going.
He is keeping it moving.
Paul says, He is the head.
That means He is the ruler.
He is the leader, but it means more than that.
He's the source, and He's the origin.
He's the head of the church.
He's the source of life.
You don't dare diminish Him now.
Don't make Him less than what He is.
He is the visible expression and revelation of the invisible God.
He is the creator of all things, the sustainer of all things,
the one that all things were created for.
He's the firstborn of all creation.
He holds the very high status.
He's the head of these things.
He's the firstborn from the dead,
not the first to rise from the dead, but the first one to defeat death and never
die.
I mean, Paul says a lot in these verses.
He says, So that in all things, He might have preeminence.
Not a place of importance in our lives.
Not that we simply make room for Him on Bible study on Wednesday night.
But this great God and our faith in this God and
our obedience to this God and our love for this God,
that is the preeminence factor in our lives.
And Lord, I'm fixing to be 55 and I'm just now learning.
When I get that right, it's amazing how many other things get right.
But when I begin to try to love other things more, even my wife,
or the things that I need and I get those and they take
the wrong place, everything just seems to get chaotic.
Know that in all things, He might have preeminence.
It says in verse number 19,
For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell,
this invisible God,
all the fullness of Him that's found in His Son, Jesus Christ.
This is who He is.
This is the Lamb of God.
So now Paul, beginning in verse number 21,
begins to get into what he has done,
how he's done it,
who he's done it to,
why he's done it.

We find a word about sanctification.
We find a word about proclamation.
We find a word about suffering.
We find a word about a mystery.
We find a word about preaching.
And lastly, we find a word about working.
You say, Brother Brian, we're going to be here all night.
We're not going to be here all night long.
Let's begin looking at verse number 21 through 22.
We see the what, the who, the how, and the why.
He says,
And you that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works,
yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death
to present you holy and unblameable and unreprovable in His sight.
See if you notice this in your Bible.
Look at verse number 21 and go all the way down through all of these verses.
All the way down through verse number 29.
In our punctuation, this is all one sentence.
One big, long sentence.
So we're taking all of this in context.
We kind of go verse by verse, but He's saying everything
at one time, so you can't just really pull one part out.
But it begins here with what He's done and how He's done it.
Look at this phrase that we find at the end of verse 21,
end of verse 22.
Yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death.
The reconciliation of God in the body of His flesh through death.
This is an important point that Paul is making right here.
There were false teachers in the days of the Colossians.
There's false teachers today
who begin to teach a different view or idea
of who the Lord Jesus really was.
Some view that He was all man and no God.
There was no deity about Him.
He was the greatest of all teachers.
He was a prophet.
He was a good man.
Nobody in their mind would fail to admit
that a man named Jesus Christ exists.
They just take away any deity from Him.
All man, no God.
But there were others who believed
that He really wasn't man.
That He was the spirit manifested in man.
But He really wasn't a man at all.
Because they believed that all matter is evil.
Everything created is evil.
No matter what it is.
So they denied the incarnation.
What is the incarnation?

What do we believe?
Folks, this is huge.
It's huge.
It's huge.
It's huge.
We believe that God, the eternal Son,
the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father, God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
always had been, always will be,
never been a beginning,
never been an ending.
But a little over 2,000 years ago,
the eternal Son laid aside His robe of glory
and He became flesh
and entered into the womb of a virgin
who was conceived through the Holy Spirit of God
and God was incarnated in this world as a man.
And they denied it.
We've got to have it.
Remember, who's sin?
God or man?
Man's sin.
Man's got to die.
Man's got to fulfill righteousness.
Man can't fulfill righteousness.
So what do we need, Randy?
We need a God-man.
And what Paul writes here,
in the body of His flesh through death,
he's pointing out His body,
he's pointing out His flesh,
and he's pointing about this death
that Christ endured and suffered for our sake,
that He was crushed,
that He was wounded,
He was stricken, He was smitten of God.
That through the life of God's Lamb, we find righteousness.
But through the death of God's Lamb,
through the suffering of His flesh,
is where we find reconciliation.
And I love that word.
I like reconciliation more than I even do forgiveness.
You can forgive somebody.
You understand what I'm about saying?
I want to say that Brittany's got something against McKinley over here.
I mean, she's got something against you, she's got
something against you, she's got something against you.
But she forgives you.
But she never really mend.
Does that happen?

You forgive somebody,
but you never really, I mean like,
I've forgiven you, but you ain't doing it to me again.
I've forgiven you, but we can't be friends again.
We can't get close again.
Reconciliation is far more than that.
It's taking an enemy,
a stranger,
someone who was hostile,
and not only forgiving them,
but it's bringing two at war together,
and that was accomplished
to the death and the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ.
That's the what, and that's the how, but I love the who in verse 21.
He says,
in you,
and Miss D.N.S.U.
, that's me,
it's the Colossians,
in you that was sometimes alienated
in enemies in your mind by wicked works,
yet now hath he reconciled.
Those two words are alienated and enemies.
Alienated means to be estranged.
I know of fathers
who's estranged from their sons.
Mothers who are estranged from their daughters.
Y'all know them.
They're estranged.
They can't commune together.
So man and God,
prior to the cross,
they're estranged.
We can't share the same space.
We can't commune,
but we're more than just estranged.
He says there weren't enemies.
That means to be actively hostile against.
It's more than we just disagreed with God, but we're actively hostile against God.
But these are the people,
praise God,
that through the suffering of his flesh,
through his death,
those are the ones that he has reconciled.
And it's not pleasant for us to think about being estranged or an enemy of God.
But I'm convinced folks, that's a practice that even if you've been a Christian,
Brother Dickey,
for 50 years,
it's a practice that you must never forsake.
Because the moment we do,

it begins to lead to arrogance and to pride
because we forgot what we used to be
apart from the work of Christ in our lives.
Now I know who I am.
What?
I've been reconciled.
I've been forgiven.
I've been adopted.
I've been accepted.
I was studying on this this week
and I read a quote that really just blessed my heart.
It says,
One cannot complain that the gate is narrow
who stands amazed that the gate is actually open.
That the gate is actually open.
One cannot complain that the gate is narrow.
What does it mean that the gate is narrow?
It means it's small.
Folks, we've got to bow to get into it.
We've got to get on our face to get into it.
It's only one way.
It's by the way Jesus Christ.
You go, Well, that's a tough way to go.
But the man who's even amazed because he realized that he was hostile to God,
he was the enemy of God,
he has sinned against God,
there's no complaining about that narrow gate because you can't get over the fact
that there's even a gate at all.
What love, what grace, what mercy.
The what, the how, the who.
But look at the why.
Look at verse number 22.
Verse 21.
And you that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works,
yet now hath he reconciled.
Dear Christian, dear Christian,
may we see what our position is in the Lord.
Reconciled.
How it happened.
He did it.
Why he did it.
In the body of his flesh through death
to present you holy and unblameable
and unreprovable in his sight.
Folks, there's far more than this than missing hell.
That's a benefit.
That's a benefit.
It ain't a purpose.
What's the purpose?
Stacey, that in the sight of the Father and the Son

and the Holy Ghost,
through the work of the Son,
he presents you as holy,
as completely set apart for his glory and his purposes.
Not just holy, but unblameable.
It means to be without blemish.
Not only unblameable, but unreprovable.
It means to be free from all accusation.
Not in the sight of the world.
Not in the sight of the preacher.
Not in the sight of the church.
But he says, in his sight.
That is the gravity and the glory of salvation.
That the child of God can stand before God
as holy and unblameable
and unreproachable and unmovable
in the very sight of God
because of the work of the Lord.
What's the title of that psalm?
My hope is built on nothing less.
I got to humming that at work today.
Huh?
My hope is built on nothing less
but Jesus Christ and his righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
But I had to type this verse down.
It says, when he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in him be found dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.
Amen, hallelujah.
That's what Christianity is.
That's what salvation is.
And the whole point of what Paul is saying,
you can't diminish him
because only the God man can accomplish such a thing.
He's the only one that can reconcile the enemy.
And the only way he could accomplish
was for suffering death in his flesh on our behalf.
But he did this
to present us as holy,
unblameable,
unapprovable
in his sight.
Now look at verse 23.
There's a word here about sanctification
and proclamation.
Verse 22.
Verse 22, it says, In the body of his flesh through death
to present you holy and unblameable
and unapprovable in his sight.

I'm going to get tripped up here.
If you continue in the faith, grounded and settled,
and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,
which ye have heard and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven,
whereof I, Paul, am made a minister.
This is one of those verses,
and if you don't, I want you to get Jesus
first, but after that I want you to get this.
This is one of those verses that actually screams out
and shows us the importance
of studying in context.
What does context mean?
What context mean is what has he said
and what is he going to say?
Context means this is one statement in the middle of a sentence.
Who is the audience?
Who's Paul writing this letter to?
Not a trick question.
Who's he writing it to?
Huh?
The Christians at Colossians.
Let's look at these people as they're described in chapter 1,
verse number 12.
Give me thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet
to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of life,
who hath delivered us from the power of darkness
and hath translated us
into the kingdom of his dear Son.
He's writing to people that God who were unfit that God has made fit.
He's writing to people who hath been translated.
They have been moved from one place to the other.
They hath been delivered.
They're not waiting to be delivered.
They already have been delivered.
He's writing about people who have now been reconciled to God.
All of these things are past tense work.
So what are you talking about, preacher?
This ain't got a thing in the world to do about losing your salvation.
This thing has done happened.
This done did.
It's a finished work.
Praise God.
Thank God.
No, this is a word
about sanctification.
That in order... Brian Williams, get this.
Understand this, Brian.
You need to listen.
That though I've been made holy,
though I've been made unreproachable,

though I've been made unblameable
in the sight of God,
in order for me to live holy
and to live unblameable,
it is a necessity that I'm grounded
and I'm founded
in the living hope of my Lord Jesus Christ.
It is a necessity
that we are connected to His word.
It is a necessity that we are connected to His church.
It is a necessity that we pray.
It is a necessity that we confess.
It is a necessity that we forgive.
It is the only way to not be moved away.
Listen to what Paul said.
If you continue in the faith, grounded and settled,
and boot not moved away
from the hope of the gospel.
The only way to not be blown and moved like shifting sand is to be grounded
and settled.
He's fixing to get into it.
How?
In this great mystery.
In the great goodness of God.
Young people,
church is important.
And I got no issue that we took daily Bible reading off the board.
I thank God,
I praise God that I'm not judged here at New Bethel
about how many people we baptize or how much
this church grows over the next five years.
I don't think that's the way y'all judge me.
I don't think it will be the way you do judge me.
But all that being said,
folks, church is important not for the number sense
because young ladies
it is the only way
if you've been saved, if you've been made righteous,
you've been reconciled that for you to live holy and appear holy
and live an unreproachable unblameable life
that brings glory to God
I've got to be grounded and founded in the Lord himself.
And that doesn't happen
apart from the church
of the living God.
It don't.
It's a bunch of garbage.
You can be a Christian and not go to church.
You won't be
a successful one.

You won't be a successful one at all.
I love Mitzi.
And I don't ever want to go home.
I won't be around her that much.
I really won't be around my kids,
her kids.
Well, that's an ugly thing to say.
That's stupid.
You sure you're married at all?
That's the idea
that some people have about church.
You know,
well, I mean, I can just worship God anywhere.
I promise you can I worship him in my tree stand.
But I'm going to tell you what, if you don't worship
him here, you ain't going to worship him anywhere else.
But if you get to where you truly worship him,
you'll worship him on your drive to work.
You'll worship him in the tree stand on your bass boat at your desk.
The reality is Paul is saying
we must be grounded and founded in order for this holiness
and this unreproachable.
See, now here's the thing.
I can't see David Parr's heart.
I can't see your soul.
But I can see
if you're grounded and founded in your Savior
and you're submitted to him,
that holiness and that righteousness
is now going to be visible and evident
in your life
and occurs by being grounded and connected
to our Savior.
It's about sanctification.
It's about proclamation.
Look what he says here.
If you continue in the faith, grounded and settled
and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel
which he heard
and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven
whereof I am
Paul and made a minister.
Now hang on a minute,
preacher.
It's hard to believe.
Is Paul saying that every
old man that lives
Dickie, we went past some slums over in India
before we finally made it to where we were going.
That every Hindu has heard the gospel

of the Lord Jesus Christ.
That every
old lady or boy that lives in the deep
dark Amazon jungle has heard the gospel preached.
That every
individual in Tishomingo County
has heard the preaching of the gospel.
That's not what he's saying.
Nor
is he negating
the importance of the Great Commission.
Folks,
that's one of his very last instructions.
I think last instructions,
I think like the last words of somebody really mean a big deal.
Go ye therefore into all nations
teaching them all things I have deserved baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost.
I've heard somebody say preach the gospel and
if necessary use words I know what that means.
In other words
you can't just preach the gospel and not live the gospel.
We've got to live the gospel.
But can I tell you
to preach the gospel words are of necessity.
they're of necessity.
Now what Paul is saying
is even those who may not have heard the preaching of
man they have yet to have heard the preaching of Paul.
You listen to me here young people.
There is the
great universal preacher in the sky.
There is the voice of God
that has spoken in every language.
That is speaking on every continent in every county in every single community
the scripture says in the book of Psalms that heavens
declare the glory of God and the firmament is handiwork.
Paul writes in the book of Romans chapter 1 that God
has manifested I want to read that verse
Romans chapter 1
this is a huge verse look what this says verse 19
Romans chapter 1
because that which may be known of God what does that mean?
That which we need to know about God
is manifest in them and who?
Is manifest in men wine
for God has showed it unto them
God don't believe in atheists
because God
has shown himself

through creation
and conscience
to the birds that sing to the birth of a baby it says for
the invisible things of him from the creation of the world
are clearly seen being understood that the things that are made even his eternal
power in Godhead so that they are without excuse
here's what I believe wholeheartedly
a man that comes to know the Lord and he's been born again
and God has saved his wretched soul
friend I want my friends to know about this God
that changed me
I want strangers to know that there's hope in the Lord
but I also don't go to bed and not going oh God what's going to happen
if I can't convince all these people in New Bethel of the reality of you
you know why
God says I'm doing it
that's the work of God
folks if a man dies separated from the Lord it won't be due to ignorance
it'll be due to rebellion
John says Jesus is that light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world
that's a big verse
and I love what Adrian Rogers said about that when a man responds to the light
God gives him God sends more light you know why people live in the dark because God
is shining light and they prefer darkness over light and they don't get any more
light but I love that Ethiopian open unit out there in the desert he don't know what
he's reading he don't know what he's doing but he does have the book of Isaiah
right there in front of him God has sent him light
ain't nobody around
but a God who is sovereign who's in control pulls Philip out of revival and says
you go now and you take my word and preach unto him Jesus
respond to the light that God gives you and God gives you more you turn your light
off to the light that God gives you and you're not promised to get any more
what he did how he did it who he did it to why he did it this
sanctification of continuing and continuing and continuing and continuing
this proclamation
of God but very quickly and lastly Paul says a quick word about suffering
mystery preaching and working
verse number 24
then verse 23
whereof I Paul and made a minister who now rejoice in my sufferings for you
and fill up that which is behind of the affliction of
Christ of my flesh for his body's sake which is the church
rejoice in sufferings
I'll make a confession if I'll be the only one
in here I've never rejoiced in my sufferings
I've never said thank you God for the pain that I'm going through
and I don't know if necessarily that's what Paul's doing
but what I do think he's doing
he's looking at this
because what happened is these false teachers

used Paul's suffering as ammunition against him
if he was really God's child
I mean if he really loved you you wouldn't be going through all that if you're really his you wouldn't be dealing with these things in life
but Paul was wise enough to know and knew God enough to know that God is taking this very thing that people are using against him and he's using it to help Paul
Paul got to a place and says if this is what it takes to keep me small if this is what it takes to keep me humble and pliable
then all means Lord you bring it and you bring it
all but he also saw how his sufferings was helping
the church we need to never ever ever ever ever
underestimate I've been so blessed I haven't had to go to these things
but if you do and when you do your willingness
to stand
and continue speaks louder than the man that is preaching
your hope of glory and the one you're resting in
Paul says
this suffering is also helping others people
look at this mystery he says
to fulfill the word of God even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations but is now made manifest to the saints to whom God will make known
what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in
you the hope of glory there's a great mystery
mentioned in Ephesians when we studied that
I'm not going to ask you what it is
I'm going to tell you what it is
the great mystery
that God would take two different peoples through one person
and turn them into one
he'd take those who were far off those who were close those who were Jews those who were Gentiles those who were given the law and the covenants and all these promises of God those who didn't know anything about God at all that through Christ on the cross he would take those two people
praise God and he'd bring them one there's no Jew there's no white there's no black there's no Greek there's no woman there's no female
all are one in one in the Lord Jesus Christ but folks this mystery is even greater than that you say what is this mystery
says in verse number 27 which is Christ in you
the hope of glory what does it mean to be a Christian
it means that the spirit of the living God the Lord Jesus Christ himself
is indwelling the believer and that is my hope of glory that is how I stay grounded that is how I become unmovable that is how we live holy that is how we're unblameable
that is how we're unreproachable that is how we're reconciled that my hope is not in my strength your hope is not in your strength it's not in the preacher it's not in the singing but that we realize that the moment God saved us Deborah that through the person of the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ now dwells inside you and that is the greatest hope it is the seal that is
coming back to get us it's the power that keeps us

the old testament saints they didn't understand this there was a difference was the spirit of God real then yes it was real then but it would come upon
it would come upon to empower
for a moment
it would come upon sense and it would come upon David
but it's different now
it's different now
Christ
in you
because of the hope of glory
there's times that I don't feel very Christ like
my wife sent me a picture I want y'all to get on to her next time you see her
she's in Cracker Barrel she just sent me a picture
it's this black coffee mug
and on this black coffee mug it just said a little ray of pitch black
and I showed it to some people at work
so what does that mean does that mean you like coffee
no that isn't what it means
it means her husband ain't always a little ray of sunshine
when I'm an index I ain't always a little ray of sunshine
when I'm a home I ain't always a little ray of sunshine
sometimes I don't always feel like brother Brian the preacher and if that was my hope
based upon my mood and how I felt I ain't got a chance and you don't need but praise God that ain't my hope my hope is the hope of glory that Christ Jesus is inside me and he's reconciled me
proclamation a word about suffering a word about
this great mystery look here really quick a word about preaching look what he says verse 27
to whom God would make known what is the riches
of the glory of the mystery among the Gentiles
with Christ in you the hope of glory
whom we preach
warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom
that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus
where to also labor striving according to his working
which worketh in me mildly
the working the striving the laboring
how can he do that
the Lord is working in him
but this word about preaching really struck me
I love what he says whom
we preach
not what we preach
whom we preach
true preaching
is about him
true preaching
will cover will cover the whole counsel of God
but the engine

carrying the train
the primary matter
the primary focus
is what Paul wrote to the Corinthians
I'm determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ
and him crucified true preaching
whom we preaching it is about him
true preaching is warning look what he says
whom we preach warning every man
death is certain
hell is real
judgment is sure
wide is the gate that leads to destruction
there's a God to fear
it's warning people
turn
it's turn turn turn
it's preaching Christ but it's also warning but Paul says look also in teaching
every man in all wisdom it's not just warning it's teaching that there is grace
there is hope
there is love
there is mercy
there is a new life
there is a new birth
and it's only found in the Lamb of God
isn't it amazing
this letter written
oh wait
2026
not quite
2000 years ago
how this same message
is the exact
relevant message
that the church of God needs today
let's pray
the father
thank you for your son
who reconciled us to you
through his flesh
Lord thank you that your son through your spirit
Christ in me my hope of glory
Lord that I stand before you now
because you see me through your son as holy
and unreproachable and unblameable
Lord that God help us as a church as new Bethel
to be so grounded and found and settled in you and
your word and your church that we appear and we live
holy
and unreproachable and unblameable

that the proclamation of our God
and his dear son
would be seen in our lives but also Lord heard in our voices
Lord I thank you for your word
and I thank you for the effectiveness of it
in Jesus' sweet name we pray Amen let's stand please