

Hey if you've got your bibles this morning open them up would you to Ephesians chapter one. Many of you who were here last week know that we just now started into a study of this great book this letter from Paul to the church at Ephesus. And as we started in last week and over the last couple of weeks as we've made our way through these just these first few verses. We came last week to verse 4 chapter one where it says just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world. Him choosing us it's here in this verse and in other places in the new testament that we are introduced to this great doctrine of election. God choosing people. And we taught on it last week. We talked about his choice of us and when that occurred and why that occurred and how that took place. And it was great truth. And I was thankful for a time as we came away from last week though I could tell there were questions. There were thoughts. There was a little bit of you know scratching of the head as there always is when we talk about or teach about this idea of God choosing. Any time you begin to teach about or talk about god choosing any time the doctrine of election comes what comes up right behind it is the age old debate between those who believe in God's sovereign choice and those who want instead promote the free will of man. And this morning I thought we would just take some time as I mentioned to you last week and just pause for one Sunday in our kind of our verse by verse study of the book and give some thought to this. I've decided to come back to not only Ephesians one, but really the whole of scripture. And I want to say this to you. My intent today is not to clear up that debate that age old debate will continue. And I think in the next 35 minutes you'll understand why. At the same time I believe there is always opportunity for us especially in a room this size with this many people there's a great chance for many of you to receive some clarity on things that I think can be clarified. And I also think it gives us an opportunity to where clarity really isn't possible for you and I to celebrate the great mystery of our God and the privilege we have of serving a God who doesn't always make sense to us. Whose ways are not our ways? And whose thoughts are not our what? Our thoughts. And so this morning I want just invite you kind of consider with me for a moment initially this, this debate if you will. This will be for some of you new information. Some of you as you hear me talk about those who stand in the camp of the election and those who stand in the camp of free will and there's even another camp. I'm gonna tell you about here this morning. You didn't know there were camps. And you weren't even aware of the fact that there was debate on these issues. And for others of you in the room for years and years and years you've read the books and you've listened to the commentators and you've studied the scriptures and you've heard people stand in places like this and wrestle with this. And so this morning we're going to do our best to very sysynchly give you some things to think about some things to chew on some things to hold on to. but I want to make sure you know up front my intent is simply to do my best having a spent a week of reading and reading and reading and reading and clicking and downloading and pasting and receiving things and looking up stuff. I tell you has. I'm grateful in a sense for all that's been said about this topic but it drives me back to this. It drives me back to this unbelievable word of god. And the great clarity it gives us on this and I believe and the great tension that exists in some facets of this conversation. And we'll get to that in just a moment. So here we go.

There are some who believe with respect to salvation and eternal life and God's involvement in all of that there are some who believe that through divine and they believe this because of what they see the bible teaching. They believe that through divine sovereign election before the foundation of the world in eternity past that God chose the individuals who he would save. Election, God sovereignty choosing the individuals who he would save. This choice was not based on human merit or what God knew man would choose in the future. Some believe for knowledge plays into that. And that's how they like to define that. And that's not what the folks who stand strong in this area of election believe. The choice was not based on merit nor on God knowing what man would choose in the future. It was a choice based solely god's divine will. His choice to choose who he would choose. Now, it's interesting a little scary and little interesting and there's a lot of tension in this as you start to look into it. At this point, there are some in this election camp if you will who kind of leave it at that. They believe that God chose people for salvation. And there are others who go further than that though. And want to make a very big deal out of and they want to be clear with the fact that not only do they believe he chose those who he elected before the foundations of the world for salvation, but they believe and they espouse a doctrine of what's called double predestination. Which means he not only predestined those who would be saved but that God before the foundations of the world predestined not based on merit but only his own choice those who would go to hell. That before the foundations of the world all of that was already determined done deal signed sealed delivered by a divine decree. You're in. You're out. And that's it. And there are some who like I said stop a little shy of that. They believe whole heartedly in the doctrine of election. They believe God elected those who would be saved when it comes to those who aren't saved they come at it from a little different angle. And we'll get to that different angle in just a moment.

Ephesians 1:4 they would hold on to that. Some passages in Romans that we'll get to. In Peter's writings God chose those who would be saved in before the foundation of the world. Second perspective some would believe the scriptures teach that God makes salvation available to all through the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of the son Jesus Christ. This they would call unlimited atonement. The atoning work of Christ is good for everybody. The sacrifice of Christ is something that's offered to the entire world. And this camp would say that those who choose to repent that those who exercise the choice that they've been given. Those who repent and surrender to Christ are saved. And those who reject like Adam and eve. They were given a choice. They rejected. Those who reject Christ's gift of forgiveness and life are lost and subject to eternal separation in hell. There are those who stand firmly on this doctrine of divine election. There are those who stand firmly on this doctrine of free will. There's all kind of passages that are used. Some seem to me to be a reach. Some seem to sort of make sense. Second Peter 3:9 is one that the folks who are in opposition to election will often times refer to. The Lord is not slow about his promise. And some count slowness but is patient toward not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. Putting it out there knowing it all. Won't come

but wishing they would. And making it available to everybody. Election free will I mention to you last week there is a third camp. You can just write this down. Corporate election, that's right. There are some who believe that election is in fact true that God did elect. God did before the foundation of the world select for himself. In this case not individual but a people. And they'll say that God's always been about a people. God elected Israel. God elected the angels. And so they say here not an individual election, but a corporate, plural election. God elected the church. That's who God elected they say. The church. And it's the church that at the end of the day that will be his. And it's your choice. Then they come back to choice. It's your choice whether you'll be in Christ whether you'll be in the church the body of Christ or not. But they look at the letter to the Ephesians. They look at the Paul's writings and they make note of the fact that much of this writing having to do with election was written to peoples to groups. And that what Paul's doing here and what the scriptures is teaching is a corporate election. You can look into it. I think there are some short comings there that I would warn you about. But I could keep going. We could go to number 4 number 5 number 6 number 7 number 8 number 9 all kinds of camps and all kinds of thoughts and all kinds of human perspectives and opinions on this. In these situations I tend to most of you know me by now. In these situations here's what I tend to do. In situations where I'm not sure or in situations where some things aren't clear in situations where there's some mystery or tension I tend to fall back on what I know. And I what I believe to be clearly true and what I believe to be clearly true and I what I believe what I see and what we believe here the bible teaches this morning I think is good for us to come back to. And I'm not gonna avoid these things. But I want you to see these things in context of what we believe to be true about God and salvation. You with me? And so I'm just give you a chance to take notes as we go. As we make our way through this you'll see where the debate comes into this. And at the end I hope you'll have some clarity and hope we can celebrate the mystery and also be grateful for the truth that we do see. Number one you can write this down. Let's just start at the beginning. Even though God created man perfectly right in the garden prior to genesis 3. Even though we were made in the image of God in Genesis 3 with the onset of sin man loses that perfection and man becomes inherently sinful. And I want you write that down. Human beings are naturally now today post Genesis 3 human beings are naturally sinful. Romans 3:23 for how many have sinned? Say it out loud. For all have sinned. Anybody in the room want to argue with that? Raise your hands. Okay, I didn't think so. Romans 3:23 for all have sinned but it's not just the presence of sin. What I want you to see here is that we are by virtue of what the scriptures teach naturally sinful. What I mean is you, you while you learn while you and I both learn to progressively how to sin we were born the scriptures teach sinful. We were from the beginning and not just from the first cry but even inside our mother's what? Wombs. Psalm 55:1 you can see it there on the screen. Psalm 55:1 David says behold I was brought forth in what? In sin. And in sin my mother conceived me. We've talked about this before. It's not so much referring to the specifics regarding the act that the mother was engaged in. no, we're talking about the nature of human beings. The nature in this case of the woman and that nature that gets passed along. Psalm 58:3 you might want to

got that down. Psalm 58:3 you'll see it there on the screen. Psalm 58:3 says the wicked are estranged from the womb. These who speak lies go astray from what? And I love that word estranged. Look at that word estranged. You and I understand that word estranged. It's such a great word to use here because it so paints the picture of sin and what sin has done. Estranged couples for instance estranged people are what? Are they together or are they separated? They're what? Separated, sin separates us from God. The wicked are separated from God. When? From the womb. We're from the very beginning sinful because we're humans. How did this come to be you ask? Look at Romans 5. Romans 5 gives us the answer to this. It was interesting reading this week what some have said about this and one author that I was reading said you know what you shouldn't be mad. If you're gonna be about something or if you're gonna really scratch your head on something leave election alone and go to Romans 5 and shake, shake your head and scratch your head and wonder how the whole passing along of sin from Adam to you worked out. But none the less here it is just as clear as day my friends. How did we become naturally sinful? Well, it started back in genesis 3. Look at Romans 5 verse 12. Therefore just as through one man Adam sin entered into the world and death through sin. And so death spread to all men because all sinned. All sinned in Adam the one man through whom sin entered the world. Look at verse 16. Romans 5:16 First part of 16. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. The gift is not like that which came through Adam. For on the one hand, the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation. It was the transgression of Adam that brings about the condemnation on mankind. It is the Seminoles they talk about it in the theology is the Seminoles passing along of the sin nature. It's done just by virtue of being a part of his race. He did it. We got it. Sin enters in genesis 3 and it hasn't left. Human beings my friends are naturally sinful. Number two the God ordained consequence for our sin. The God ordained consequence for our is physical, spiritual and eternal death. Physical death we weren't intended to die. Sin enters into the picture, now man dies. Physical death, spiritually we were to be in intimacy with God. We were designed by God to live in perfect union with him. There was no strangeness. There was no separation. Sin comes in and man is estranged from God. Spiritually he experiences death. And eternally we were supposed to live with him eternally. Now in the presence of sin left to ourselves we spend eternity separated from him. Romans 6:23 The God ordained consequence of our sin is death. Romans 6:23 many of you know the, many of you know the passage. Some of you kids in the room could quote it. For the wages, wages what we earn, what we get what's coming to us, for the wages of our sin is what? Death. But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Stay in Romans and go over Romans 8. The God ordained consequence for our sin is physical, spiritual and eternal death. Romans 8: 6 says. Romans 8:6 says for the mind set on the flesh is death. But the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God. For it does not subject itself to the law of God for it is not even able to do so. And those who are in the flesh those who are in the sinful flesh those who are separated from God can not even please God. Drop down to verse 12. So then brethren we are under obligation not to the flesh to live according to the flesh for if you are living according to the flesh you must

what? Die. I know we haven't gotten there yet but we will in short time. Go to Ephesians 2. We're still in Ephesians one. Go to Ephesians, second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians go to Ephesians chapter 2 verse 1 where it says right there and you were Paul talking about their life prior to knowing Christ. You were dead in trespasses and sins dead. We've talked about that before. Dead means dead. No life, nothing flat line, zero, dead, done, over. You were dead. That's the spiritual condition of the person outside of relationship with Christ. Dead and what cause the death was your trespasses and your sin. I believe human beings are naturally sinful. I believe that God ordained consequence for our sin is physical, spiritual, and eternal death. Thirdly I believe the only remedy to this dilemma. The only remedy offered by God for man's sinfulness and it's deadly consequence is repentance. Repentance, the surrendering of ones heart and life to Christ and his ways. I believe the only remedy god offers for the consequences of sin is repentance and a commitment of surrendered to love and follow Jesus Christ. So many places we could go. Go back to the gospels if you would. Go to the first one. Go to Matthew. Go to Matthew chapter 11. It says right there in 11:28 again some of you are familiar with this for others of you it may be fresh and really good news. Come to me Jesus says. Come to me Jesus speaking. Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden. And I will give you rest. I love what my note says down here at the bottom of my bible. This is an echo. Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden. This is an echo of the first beatitude back in chapter 5 verse 3. Note that this is an open invitation to all who hear, but phrased in such a way that the only ones who will respond to the invitation are those who are burdened by their sin weighed down by their own spiritual bankruptcy and the weight of trying to save themselves by doing good. Only remedy come to me. Only remedy Jesus Christ. Luke 13:3 Matthew, Mark, Luke, John go over to Luke chapter 13. Go to Luke 13:3. It says there in Luke 13:3. I tell you no, but unless you repent. I tell you no but unless you repent you will all like wise what? Perish. Unless you repent. John 3:16 For God so love the world. Actually, go to John instead of just quoting it. Let's look at it. And let's actually look at John. Look at John 3:14. Let's just look at that whole thing. It's worth looking at. John 3:14, 15. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the son of man be lifted up? So that, verse 15, so that who ever what? Say it louder. Who ever believes will in him, in Christ, have what? Eternal life, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not what? Shall not perish but have eternal life. The remedy offered by God for man's sinfulness is repentance. Belief in the person of Christ, faith in the work of Christ. Look at John 8, go from John 3. Go over to John 8. I love hearing those pages turn. Good job. Keep looking. It's kind of fun just to dig. My friend, Rodd Ovitz, says we're prospecting the scriptures. And that's what we're doing. We're digging in here. Seeing what it actually says. John 8:21, John 8:21 and then he said to them I go away and you will seek and will die in your sin where I am going you can not come. So the Jews were saying surely he will not kill himself will he? Since he says where I am going you can not come? And he was saying to them 23, he was saying to them you are from below I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you, that you will die in your sins. For unless you what? Say it. Believe. For unless you believe that I am he, the Christ, the

messiah, the savior, the redeemer, you will what? You will die in your sins. And keep going. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans go to Romans 10. One of my favorite passages of all scriptures Romans 10:9 through 13. The only remedy offered by God for man's sinfulness and its deadly consequence is repentance. The surrendering of one's heart and life. Romans 10:19 that if you confess with your mouth that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be what? For with the heart a person believes resulting in righteousness. And with the mouth he confesses resulting in salvation. For the scripture says for whoever believes in him will not be disappointed. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek for the same Lord is Lord of all. Abounding in riches for all who call on him for who ever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. Amen. I believe that human beings are naturally sinful. Do you? Church, do you? Alright. I believe God ordained that the consequence would be physical, spiritual, and eternal death. Do you believe that? I think the scriptures teach that. I really do. I believe the only remedy offered by God for man's sinfulness is repentance. You believe that? Alright. Number four, I believe and I can stand here today with great confidence in my own heart this doesn't seem fuzzy to me. This doesn't seem unclear. It seems to me as if the scriptures teach this. Number 4, the bible teaches us that salvation is three things: initiated by God, carried out by God, and initiated by God, carried out by God with those whom God has mercifully chosen. I believe the Bible teaches us that salvation is initiated by God. Where is it Hebrews 12? Where it says he is the author and perfecter of our faith. It's always. It's always started. Just think about it. Any interaction between God and man I mean anything eternal anything redemptive it always starts with him. Think about Joseph. Think about David. Think about Abraham. You pick it. Think about the prophets. Did anybody just wake up one day and say hey I'm gonna go talk to God about this whole thing? No, God comes to them. God initiates. God starts. God takes the first step. First John 4:19 We love him because what? He first loved us. The bible teaches us that salvation is initiated by God. Hebrews 12, first John 4, the bible teaches us that salvation is carried out by God. Do you understand this? Go back to the gospels again. Go back to the Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Go to John. Go to John. Go to John 6. John 6:44 John 6:44 here talking about how salvation is carried out by God. John 6:44 says no one can come to me here Jesus himself speaking. No none can come to me unless the Father who sent me what? Draws him. God is the author. God is the initiator. Nobody comes to Jesus. Nobody comes to faith unless God is drawing him. I believe this is true. Look at John. Look at John 6:44, now go to 65. John 6:65 And he was saying for this reason I have said to you that no one can come to me unless it has been granted him from who? From the father. I believe the bible teaches us that salvation is initiated by God. It's carried out by God with those whom God has mercifully chosen. Look at Romans 9. you go to Romans 9, 14 through 16. Romans 9:14 – 16 what shall we say then? There is no injustice with God is there? Why is Paul saying this? Well he's in the midst of a discussion, a teaching writing about election. What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God is there? May it never be. For he says to Moses I will have mercy on whom I have mercy. And I God and he's God and he can do this. And he has the authority. And has the power. And he has the discernment. I will have

mercy on whom I have mercy. And I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs but on God who has what? Mercy. But on God who has mercy. Ephesians 1:4 before the foundations of the world we were chosen in him. Second Thessalonians, go back past first Timothy, past or before, before first and second and Timothy you'll come to first and second Thessalonians. And you see there in second Thessalonians 2:13. but we should, Paul saying here to the church at Thessalonica. But we should always give thanks to God for you brethren beloved by the lord because God has chosen you from the beginning before the foundations of the world for salvation through sanctification by the spirit and faith in the truth. I want to make sure I'm really clear here. I believe with every ounce of my being that salvation is from God. I believe that God initiates it. I believe that God carries it out. I believe he carries it out with those he has mercifully chosen. I think it's made possible by God. I think it's accomplished fully and completely by God. I think it's fully secured by God. It's offered only by God. It's offered only by God. I believe that to be true. I think the scriptures are absolutely clear on that. Do you see some things there that we've read that would lead you to believe that's pretty clear? Yes or no? okay, number 5. and this is where, this is where some would say and it's okay. I'm a big boy and I'm in recovery. So I don't care what you think of me. How's that? A little joke for us in the family here. This is where some will say I'm you know I'm backing up. This is where some will say I'm chickening out. And this is where some will say I'm really not truly engaged in the in the full scope of the doctrine of election. Say what you will. I believe that the bible and it's always interesting to me when you talk to somebody about election or you talk to somebody about free will. They always say hey listen it's in the bible. And I always say I know. They both are. I mean it's right here. I believe the bible also teaches now listen that god sovereignty allows man to participate. Try to use my words carefully here. I believe that God sovereignty allows man to participate in the redemptive transaction. Man has nothing to do with salvation and it being complete and it being made available and it being good and it being thorough. Are you with me? Man has nothing to do. God made it possible not man. God delivers it not you. God's the one who secures it. God's the one pursues. You with me? You and I have absolutely to do with those foundational elements of this great gift called salvation. He did it. Amen? And then he comes after you like he came after me. And he begins to draw you to himself. And he allows you and I, I believe in that process to participate in the redemptive transaction. Again I'll take you back to some of what we already saw. John 3:16 he calls for you and I to believe. He calls for you and I to make a decision. To choose belief over disbelief. Look at John, a friend pointed out some of these to me. It was very helpful. John 5. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, go back to John. Go to John 5. I want to just take you through a few of these. John 5:24. John 5:24 Truly, truly I say to you. Are you there? John 5:24 Truly, truly I say to you. He who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. And does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life. How? When that person believes when that person surrenders. God allowing us to participate in the redemptive transaction. Go over to 6:47. we were just in 6:44 talking about how God is at work here drawing people. Now in that very same context go to

6:47. because in 6:47 after 6:44, 6:44 said 6:44 said no one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him and 6:47 says truly, truly I say to you he who believes has eternal life. The two what working in contrast to each other? Or is the two mysteriously working together? Go to Acts 2. Go to Acts 2:21. Acts 2:21 here in the midst of Peter's sermon and it shall be Acts 2:21. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood. Verse 20 before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. And it shall be verse 21 that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Everyone who believes everyone who makes that decision to fall literally or figurative on their face to bow the knee of their soul to call on the name of the lord will be saved. Acts 10, go just a few pages over to Acts 10:43. Acts 10: 43 Of him, of him all the prophets' bare witness. Acts 10:43 Of him all the prophets bare witness that through his. Who's him? Jesus of him all the prophets' bare witness that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sin. Everyone who believes in him look at 16. Acts 16:27 Acts 16:27 interesting thing here the earthquake comes and Paul's freed from the jail. The jailer realizing his life's on the line because a prisoners escaped panics. When the jailer awoke and saw the prison. When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors open he drew his sword and was about to killing himself supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice saying don't harm yourself. We're here. And he called for lights and rushed and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas and after he brought them out. He said sirs what must I do to be saved. And they said, believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be what? And you will be saved. I'm not. I'm very careful to not make subjective experience in any way triumph you know truth. I'm not saying that. But I just want to invite you to think about yours. But I want to just tell you about mine. I just want you to know that in the back of that room in that church. I've told you before. In 1983, September, back row right side Dr. McCarthur teaching from Romans 7. Oh retched man that I am who will save me from this body of death. I just want to. I just think back on that. And I remember the months leading up to that. I remember God was at work make no mistake. I was reading books I used to throw away. I was listening to tapes. I couldn't careless about in years gone by. I couldn't get enough. And he's drawing me. And I'm engaging in that. And I'm asking questions. And I'm having conversations. And I can't believe the things I'm saying. And on that night the spirit of god moved in me. And I bowed the knee of my heart. And I submitted myself to him. And I cried out to him with tears dropping off my cheeks onto my shoes. I can see it today. And I believe in that god gave me the way I like to say it is allows us to keep our spiritual dignity in this transaction. Does that make sense? He saved me. He saved me. I didn't bring something to the table and by virtue of my repentance or my confession I didn't place some final key role and nor did you. But he allows you and I to participate. And for that I'm thankful. You know it's amazing to me. We've got to go. Let me say this to you. All week long as I looked at this it struck me. And I talk with a friend about it. All week long as I read this listen. All week long as I read this, I read. I read stacks. I read stacks of papers about this whole thing. Enormous controversy, unbelievable disunity all week long as I read this it dawned on me. Paul and peter they wrote a lot about this. They actually both wrote a lot about it from both sides and never once do you ever get the sense that they're confused.

Think about that. They weren't confused. They knew something. They'd seen someone. They'd lived with in Peter's case. There was a clarity that they had. That years and years and years and years and years and reams, and reams and reams of commentaries have left you and I confused. They weren't. and I do want to say this. I hate to sound like I'm flip flopping back and forth. But I need to say this to you. Be careful with this. Because a lot of times what you and I do with this is we read about these doctrines and we hear the truth about it. And to us it doesn't seem especially this idea of a god who chooses it doesn't seem fair. And read one guy this week about human preoccupation with fairness. Where does this come from he wrote? We serve a god who is just, listen. He's just and justice sinfulness demands that justice be brought. And man is what? Just leave it at that for now. And in this quest for fairness all of a sudden we just start rearranging things because we can't imagine. I can't tell you how many times I heard that this week. I can't imagine. Well you know what? This isn't about what you and I can imagine. This is about what this says. And I believe what this says is really, really clear. And I believe it doesn't answer all of our questions. And I do know this. I have no idea. I have no idea what god has orchestrated before the foundations of the world. So I am gonna proclaim the truth to everybody. And we're gonna live out the truth to everybody. And we're gonna serve people. And we're gonna love people. And we're gonna proclaim the scriptures. And we're gonna let god do his divine work. And we're gonna celebrate what he does. And if you're here today and your soul is stirred. And you know he's been calling, leave the debate behind for goodness sake. And respond to the gift of god. And let's leave this place today having enjoyed the chance to think about it. Let's go home and love our wives. Let's go home and love our husbands. Let's go home and love our families. Let's go home and be good employees. Let's go home and be faithful to our friends. You get what I'm saying? There's some things that we're confused about. There's some things that are really, really clear so let's go and do those things that are really really clear. Why don't you stand? Let me pray for us and we'll go.

Father God thank for this family. God thank you for the hundreds of people who raked leaves last week. They brought their kids and they, they got with their friends and they were a blessing to so many in this neighborhood. And God I pray that because of our love for you and our gratitude for you that we would be a gracious people willing to give ourselves away priests who are willing to go and pass you along to others. God thank you for the great truth that we've been able to look at this morning. Thank you for the confidence that it brings. And where it brings question and where it confusion Father I pray that we could celebrate a God who can't be figured out but a God who we know loves us deeply. We've experience that. We've seen that. The scriptures bare witness to that. So God be with us as we go. Allow us to people who proclaim. Who proclaim the gospel. Who live out the great truth of salvation. Who model for an on looking world as we talked about last week distinct and unique living. And God may we do that with great strength. In your son's name we pray. Amen.