

Colossians 1:21-29

Once Far Off - Now Striving In His Strength

Good morning, Church. It is so wonderful to be here with you all.

Today, we are going to continue our verse-by-verse study of the Book of Colossians.

We will finish Chapter 1... I am sorry it has taken us so long to get through the first Chapter; it is such a rich letter from Paul.

Well, not sorry... it is so good to get all we can from God's Word...

Last time we were together, we looked at the Preeminence of Christ, the Supremacy of Jesus...

He is the Exact Representation of everything we would find in the character of God.

Jesus came in the flesh as a Man, as the Logos, the Word...

We really pressed through to understand this in its fullness and in its application to our lives today.

Our time concluded last time with us recognizing that, through understanding the fullness of Christ, we have been reconciled to God through His Blood.

Being reconciled to God, we have now been given this ministry of reconciliation, bringing this hopeful message to those around us...

Today, we are going to look more closely at what it means to be a minister of Christ and to serve our Lord as Christians.

The Apostle will give some warnings here to the Colossians that are very applicable to us here in the American Church today, even here in Old Town Victorville.

I hope that you came with hearts open and ears ready to hear this morning. This text is a significant and influential portion of scripture.

We will be in Colossians 1:21-29.

I have titled the message, “Once Far Off – Now Striving in His Strength.”

Let's Pray...

When Jess and I moved back to California in 2009, after the 2008 housing market crash.

Construction went bust, and for a Framer entering full-time ministry, it was an interesting time for us.

I had been out of a full-time job for some time, but in that entire year, the Lord kept me busy with side work and jobs between different contractors at Church, so I only had to collect unemployment for 2 weeks...

So, we moved back here to start full-time as a youth pastor, and we went looking for a home.

The only problem was that the bank wasn't going to loan a guy who had been bouncing around jobs for a year any real money... plus, all the banks were skeptical at the time, lending money to anybody because they'd all gotten carried away leading up to the housing crisis.

We were able to secure an \$80,000 loan.

Now, that was not much, not at all... and all the houses we were looking at were in terrible condition.

The former owners, I don't know, mad at the banks that they overextended them on the loans, destroyed the houses, which were now worth way less than what they owed on them...

It was a terrible, sad time.

Families were forced out of their homes... foreclosed on... homes abandoned... and one thing this desert has a lot of is tweakers, who went through the homes taking the copper wires and pipes... and those were the homes in our price range.

We actually found a couple we thought we could make do, but investors were beating us out every time...

Until we found the one, it was an old house built in 1969; it had some miles on it and was abused. The outside was solid, built with block, and the inside was fixable.

We figured it was the best we were going to get... I was a builder, so we would make do...

We made our offer... \$75,000... and it was accepted...

I remember, before the realtor said the bank would not even loan us the money, I had to fix some things.

Before I owned the house... I went and repaired the roof... just so the bank would loan us the money to buy the thing.

After we signed the papers, we found out that the house we bought had been burned down twice, vandalized many times, flooded, and that the neighborhood rumor was that it was haunted.

We moved in... We got to work in that home, it took some time, as we lived there, but we began to restore it, this neglected place...

From that moment on, the home was not just repaired, it was inhabited, sustained, and steadily brought to life...

It was not long before the youth group began meeting there for Bible studies in this once-condemned place... (some of you remember meeting in that home when you were kids) thought to be haunted... There was now life and a family... the walls were strong and made secure...

The foundation was restored, the wiring was fixed, and the paint and drywall were redone...

The house was never neglected again...

Our little family even started to grow in that home... two little ones learned to walk on the living room floor...

We have since moved... I looked it up on Zillow on Friday, and that house is now worth almost \$400,000.

I wish I held onto that thing.

Well, Paul, this morning is going to paint a picture for us in Colossians...

We were once broken... alienated and even hostile in our minds toward God.

But God reconciled us through the physical body of Christ.

Then, and this is pretty remarkable, Church, Christ came in us, dwells in us, Paul will say, “Christ in you, the hope of Glory.”

You see, the goal for us as Christians is not simply to be rescued from condemnation, but to be transformed toward maturity, as Christ takes up residence in us.

In our once broken down vessel, this shell, this temple, and He gets to work, restoring, fixing, dwelling in us, He works in us until we are presented holy and blameless before Him.

Here in Colossians 1:21-29, Paul shows us what we were, what Christ has done, what now lives within us, and why the Christian life is a steady movement toward maturity powered by Christ Himself.

Let’s get into our verses, starting with verse 21...

1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has

reconciled **22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight —

Paul here continues to clarify this doctrine of reconciliation by pointing the reader there in Colossians to their former life before Christ.

This is something we should consider this morning as well.

The person before salvation.

He says that even though belief has come now, we were once alienated from God and in fact enemies of God...

What does he mean by this? Goodness, if the Colossians were once alienated and enemies of God, does that really mean we were once as well?

This seems a bit harsh, Paul... don't you know that might offend your hearers? You could be a little nicer here...

But Paul is more concerned about Truth always... He is more worried about the soul... knowing that even if the hard truth is delivered... the reader and hearer will chew on it... and meditate on it... and the seed will take root over time...

Paul uses the word alienated, meaning that they were once estranged from God or separated from Him.

The Bible teaches us that all men, all women, have sinned and are separated from God, and it is the condition of every human before receiving Christ's righteousness and being saved.

Maybe you have come to Church today, visiting as an unbeliever, and that is a good thing; we do hope that non-Christians do visit our Church...

We actually pray often that unbelievers and those who are far off from Jesus would be drawn into this place to meet with Him.

But the first thing you must do, to have a genuine encounter with God, is admit that very fact, that you are estranged from Him.

And that is okay, that is the starting place, honesty, that is the point where He begins to bring you to Himself.

Sometimes, we try to deceive ourselves by thinking we have been good enough on our own, or we have had a decent religious life without Him... but that is how the enemy keeps us further from Him...

Seeing things truthfully is the only way; there is an impassable gap between us and God, a separation.

Paul uses the word estranged, or at odds, living as an enemy even with God.

He would write to the Romans....

Rom 8:6-8 For to be carnally (or naturally) minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **7** Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. **8** So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

The enmity of their minds led to wicked works, both in attitude and in their actions... they were at war with God...

Because the mind of the unbeliever is at enmity against God...

This explains why the unbeliever must repent, change their mind... before they can be saved...

That is the bad news; once estranged, we were once enemies with God, that was the reality for the Colossians, and it was once our truth.

But we share in the same Good News as the Colossian believers, for many of us, we were reconciled to God in Christ...

For those who are in Christ, we have experienced this reconciliation.

We are reconciled that we might be presented to Him, Holy and Blameless and above Reproach.

The purpose of this reconciliation is a personal holiness...

It is essential to understand that God does not make peace with us so that we can continue to live as we want, in our rebellion against Him.

He has reconciled us to Himself so that we might share in His Life and His Holiness.

When we put our faith in Christ's work on the Cross, we are guaranteed to be presented to God, holy and Blameless...

There absolutely should be a marked Transformation when a person repents of their sin and recognizes the work of Jesus.

When we understand it is Jesus who saves us and even keeps us presentable to the Father who is in heaven, there is nothing about this man here in me that can reconcile myself to God on his own.

It radically changes the way we think and live.

Last time, we emphasized that it was the blood of Jesus that saves, and here we learn that it even keeps us...

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
This is why abiding in Jesus is so essential... He will keep us from stumbling...

Jesus said in

John 15:3-6 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

This abiding in Jesus is crucial, Church. I am not sure if you understand the enormity of this principle in your walk with the Lord.

Maybe some of you do stumble; stumble often...

Maybe you are a young person about to set out on your own, about to make decisions for the first time, out from under your parents' faith...

Maybe you are just a new Christian...

Listen, this is where many get into trouble in their faith... this abiding principle is not taken seriously at all...

But the Bible is super clear, we need to stay connected with Jesus, we need to Abide...

Although God's Sovereignty and Divine Election are seen in God's Word, we also see them clearly balanced with man's free will, and we come places that teach that we must choose to follow Jesus and stay connected to Him.

The Bible, being that double-edged sword it is, swings both ways, and this morning, right now, it is about to swing the way of abiding...

Paul will throw in a big "if" here in verses 23...

We will be blameless and above reproach "If" ...

Look now...

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Now, two parts of this verse are pretty important here...

The first part, this Big “IF” Paul is dealing with, is whether we continue in the faith.

Paul’s heart here is for those in the Church in Colosse not to be swept away in false doctrine, and taken away from their salvation, so that they can continue in the Truth of the Gospel that saved them.

To continue in the faith, to not be moved away from the hope of the Gospel that you heard.

And if it is so essential that each of us diligently continue to Abide in Christ... ours is an Abiding faith...

We are saved by Grace through Faith... by Grace alone, not of works, lest anyone boast... so it is not a merit-based salvation...

However, a person can seemingly get to a point where their lifestyle so rejects that Grace and rebels against all that God has willed for that person's life that God hands them over to their debased mind and allows them to go their own way.

A person who was once saved by that Amazing Grace, who does not abide, remain connected, who even in the end rejects the Holy Spirit's leading, can they lose their salvation?

Great scholars have debated Eternal Security for a long time...

I heard Raul Reis teach these very verses, and he took a tough stance, saying to the extreme if a person is in a sinful lifestyle, even drinking, fornicating, in a homosexual relationship, doing drugs... he very clearly said, he believed they would go to hell.¹

¹ https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ccgs/audio-library/51_colossians/2.51/2:51-05.mp3

That is a strong stance... I am not sure it can be so black-and-white in God's Word... and we are not God to judge people so definitively.

Goodness, I have seen men who have struggled with alcohol their whole lives, come to the altar, pled with God, God would deliver, sometimes for a year, or years, but then they would fall, addiction would grab them again, the beast it is... and tear their lives to smithereens... they would break... and their lives would crumble...

And maybe for some time, a year, the addictions would ravage their soul... and back to the altar, or in a prison cell, a cry to our Lord, whose Yoke is easy and burden is light...

And they would again be lightened... the light of our Savior burning in their eyes...

Joy springing up from within... But it would not be another year or two... a job loss, a scorned wife reminding him of his many past mistakes, piled on with some unspoken trauma, demons being invited back to torment him...

An old friend, a quick drink, and back down he went, and it seems at that point, because God will no longer get glory from that man's life, it just seems the Lord takes him home... kills the flesh to spare the soul at that point...

In my younger zeal, coming out of addictions, hearing 1 Cor. 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Then hearing a pastor say, if you die while in those sins, you will go to hell, I would be the first one cheering him on... clapping... get 'em...

But... in ministry... I have seen things that just are not that black and white...

Wait, sitting at my mother's deathbed, while they are pumping her full of morphine so she does not die in torment from the cancer that is killing her?

Mr. Pastor... would that mean she went to hell... because she was under the influence?

There are many moral absolutes that conflict in this life, and sometimes we follow the higher moral obligation.

This is seen all throughout God's Word...

And you see... we have to be careful to get so stinking dogmatic... because what Paul says immediately after those verses... is this...

1 Cor. 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

There is how a person is saved... by being washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

I cannot say that I have the answer for Eternal Security for you this morning, as some of these clever theologians expertly claim so dogmatically.

I used to be more of an expert on everyone's salvation, but the more I grow in the Word, and in life and ministry, I have learned to leave that ominous job of eternal judgment to God...

I do see clearly that the Bible keeps an honest reader in check, a sincere heart in check...

And if you are in a sinful lifestyle this morning, banking on God's Grace in the end, you are playing a perilous game and on the wrong side of the doctrinal debate.

If you are fornicating, thinking, "Well, God knows my heart, and He is okay with it." You might be playing with fire there...

If you are unashamedly cheating on your spouse, thinking you will be fine on judgment day, there may be issues with your doctrine.

If you are comfortable being at the bar Friday Night getting smashed, coming to Church to lift up Holy Hands to Jesus on Sunday, that is a little sketchy Theology, unless you're a Calvinist, for some reason

they think that is okay... I don't know which version of the Bible they read, though.

Listen, all I know is this, the Bible is clear, Jesus is clear, Paul is clear here, you never have to worry about your salvation at all if you continue in the faith...

Or as Jesus said... Abide in Christ...

Only you can know that about yourself this morning... no man can judge that, no theologian or pastor, you alone, and Christ alone can know if you are genuinely connected and continuing in the Faith, if you are Abiding in Him, and He in You.

Does Christ reside in you? Is He rebuilding you, fixing you up, restoring life, using you for His Glory?

Then your salvation is secure.

The second thing in these verses is what Paul will finish the Chapter with: this statement about preaching the Gospel, for which Paul became a minister.

The word minister can also be translated as servant...

Paul became a servant of the Gospel Message...

Now, Paul suffered greatly because of his stand for Jesus Christ. Look what he says here in verses 24...

Sacrificial Service for Christ

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

Paul suffered more than most in the ministry...

Here, he mentions what was lacking in Christ's afflictions, a point that has been a source of confusion for some.

Just to be clear here, it is essential to note that Paul is not saying that the sufferings of Christ were not sufficient for salvation... thus, as the Roman Catholics believe, there will be a place called Purgatory, where we will be dealt with further after death.

This is where our sins will be further cleansed and dealt with.

That would add to the cross, thereby discounting most of the New Testament teaching.

So, if this is not suffering that is part of the redemptive plan of God, what is Paul referring to here?

Remember when Paul was stopped on the Damascus Road, Jesus said to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

Jesus took Paul’s violent persecution of the Church personally, as though the suffering was His Own.

It has nothing to do with atoning for sin at all...

And for Paul, maybe even for us this morning, when we have empathy for those who are persecuted in the Church, we can fill up or bear with the sufferings and afflictions of Christ.

When Paul gave his list of perils to the Corinthian Church, the very last thing he put was...

2 Corinthians 11:28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

This was how Paul filled up in his flesh what was lacking in the afflictions of Christ.

He was in prison for his ministry to the Gentiles, which he did not see as a bad thing...

Romans 5:3-4 and not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Church, as Christians in this fallen world, we will suffer, it will get hard, and we are called to perseverance.

This American Christianity we have today, where we look for the easy way, the Church that will do the most for me, entertain the greatest... this is the most unchristian thing we have seen...

I read a story this week...

Dr. Helen Roseveare, a British medical doctor, has served in Zaire, Africa, for more than 20 years. For 12½ years, she had a busy but generally wonderful time serving as the only doctor to an area with more than half a million people in 1964.

The revolution overwhelmed the country, and she and her coworkers were thrown into five and a half months of almost unbelievable brutality and torture. On one occasion, when Dr. Roseveare was on the verge of being executed, a seventeen-year-old student came to her defense and was savagely beaten as a result.

Dr. Roseveare was very sick. For a moment, she thought that God had forsaken her; even though she did not doubt his reality, she felt abandoned.

But God stepped in, overwhelmed her with the sense of his own presence, and said something like this: “Twenty years ago you asked me for the privilege of being a missionary, the privilege of being identified with me. These are not your sufferings; they are my sufferings. All I ask of you is the loan of your body.”

As the force of that hit home, the doctor said she was overcome with a great sense of privilege. Helen Roseveare's sense of identification with Christ, of union with him, was elevated by her suffering, and she rejoiced.²

We are called to lay it down... it is not about us...

On Friday night... The ladies were setting up for their event...

And Dana Harmon, one of our faithful leaders here, was in the back...

And she said, "Pastor, the event sold out, the ladies are coming out."

She got a little emotional...

I know why we had a challenging year; things were a little crazy. This is our first event after a difficult year, marked by significant changes, high emotions, and hard trials...

² <https://sermons.logos.com/sermons/373240-part-12-1-peter-4:12-19?sso=false>

Maybe the first event would be a dud...

And I told her, “It is always going to be hard, ministry will always be difficult, we have an enemy that hates everything that is happening here...”

But if we can stay faithful, you remain with your hands to the plow, I’ll keep coming up to the pulpit to teach, and we all keep moving, this is what God will do, even when it feels like it is all falling apart.

Because this is Christ’s Church in the end...

I told her, “We really have to worry when there are no problems, and we are on smooth sailing.”

That is what many people are looking for in their Church experience.

Paul here identifying with Christ through His sufferings... this is the Christian way... we are in a Battle... we are not at Disneyland...

So, Paul continues... Verse 25...

25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

Paul spoke now of abiding in Christ, glorying in tribulation, being able to rejoice in sufferings, and now we see why here...

Because he understood his calling to minister to the Gentiles.

This was the Lord's calling on his life... when the Lord met him on that Damascus Road, he immediately went into the city to pray...

The Lord then sent Ananias to give him his calling...

Acts 9:15 "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

Paul heard that calling, and obeyed it effectively...

He was a faithful steward, even while facing much opposition and adversity.

This is what it means to be a steward of the ministry, doing what God has called me to do with my life...

You all have a ministry you are called to: you have been blessed with Gifts and Callings to represent Him well to the world around us.

Are you a steward of that calling?

Jessica, my wife, was serving in the Children's Ministry this Wednesday...

She calls it Holy Ground...

Church, it is so wonderful what God is doing over there...

I don't even know how to explain it to you...

I wish Jess would just come up here and tell you what she told me Wednesday Night...

She had Crocodile tears coming down her face...

She describes it like a mission field... the kids are hard, some are bad.

She said, "Here in Old Town, you have to be prepared even to get flipped off; you might hear cussing over there..."

She said, but some of the kids are hurting, they are not coming here for anything else, but for Jesus...

Pastor Jake and Lauren will give their Bible story, and she said, "The ones who are here, who desperately want to hear some answers for their lives, are listening to him..."

There are other kids maybe who are here that it is hard for them to pay attention, and it is chaos over... Let me tell you why...

Four teachers... 50-70 kids now on a Wednesday Night.

Up to 120+ on a Sunday...

How many of you have been Christians for decades?

Jess says there is something special happening over there... but if you are going to be troubled by troubled kids... You will burn out in a couple of weeks...

You need a heart as big as an ocean, and a heart that can get bruised often but never closes...

She had a kid under her table; she had to go under with him and spend some time under there, getting into his world and into his heart, before he was willing to come out and trust her.

It is not school, we are not trying to cram knowledge into them... we are trying to open their hearts up to receive Jesus and to experience a very real God...

The Word of God needs to be taught in a way that engages their imaginations, so that it does not just become head knowledge, and we create a generation of know-it-all Pharisees...

We need sold-out Christians... who are ready to lay down their lives for a God they know and love...

We need loving, engaging, imaginative, creative, prayerful, Jesus-loving ministers of the Gospel over there to reach these little ones...

It is Holy Ground... Kids are coming here from the neighborhood.

Kids who are hurting Church...

Jess said, Pastor Jake called the kids to a time of prayer... and one little girl, no older than eight years old, new to our ministry, dropped to her knees, as though she had been waiting all night for someone to tell her it was time to talk to Jesus. This is where she cried.

I don't know what you are doing with your calling right now, if you are stewarding it correctly... or if you are one of the ones who is supposed to be over there on Wednesday night helping the faithful few with the giant nets God is filling up for us.

The fish are wiggly Church... hard to keep in one place... but you know who you are... God has been speaking to you for some time...

We don't need one-nighters or people who will be bothered by the enormous task of it all... it will be tough...

Those who understand when you lose a night of sleep it is not time to call off, but it was spiritual warfare, and you need to come in, and battle for their little souls.

If you are willing to lay it all down... to steward your calling... to teach many weary nights, through tears, toil, and pain... with rewards, joy, and happy heights, and stories that will go into glory... please see Pastor Jake after service and tell him you are ready...

And let's get shoulder to shoulder in this work until Christ comes...

150 ladies showing up on Saturday for a women's event... surely some of you share the mission's heart of this Church... to serve our Lord... until He comes...

Jess and I stayed up till almost midnight, as she shared all the stories of what happened in that Children's Ministry, just one Wednesday night...

Her mom is in the nursery right now... and all she talks about with me is all her little kids she can't wait to see every week...

It is Holy Ground over there...

We all have a place, a ministry, a calling...

Paul says this now in verse 26...

26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. **27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Paul's preaching set forth a mystery in that God's salvation would now reach the Gentiles.

This seemed impossible to the early Jewish mind...

Now, a mystery is not so much a riddle in Biblical thinking, but more this idea that it is a truth that is known by further revelation.

Hidden from the ages and generations.

The Old Testament had them concealed.

Jesus came to this world to accomplish God's plan of creating one Body, a Church, out of Jew and Gentile.

This was a foreign thought before the New Testament revelation.

Eph. 2:14-15 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Jews and Gentiles could now sit down at one table and count themselves as one in Christ... This truly was a miracle.

This had come about only because of "Christ in you, the hope of Glory."

This indwelling of the Lord Jesus Christ, this is what made the miracle possible.

Christ in us is the Hope of Glory... this is what transforms our lives.

The Jew would try to relate to God through good religion.

Transformation does not come from our own ability, but from Christ in us.

Jesus is transforming us from the inside out.

We are stewards of this mystery and are commissioned to go into the world to make it known.

All of us are commissioned into the ministry, all of us who have Christ in us, working in us, Christ in us, the Hope of Glory.

We are to share this hope with others.

Look at verses 28 and 29 as we close this out...

28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. **29** To this *end* I also

labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

We preach Jesus! Warning every person... so that we may present them perfect in Christ.

This is our goal, this should be our goal, to bring salvation to the people around us.

We lift up the name of Jesus to bring salvation - it is the only Name by which a person can be saved.

Listen, if you are not a Christian this morning, I want to speak to you for a moment...

When we began, I told you about my poor, condemned home, unsafe, written off, and overlooked by others.

Jess and I saw not what it was, but the potential it could be.

Maybe that is your story - You have been written off, overlooked, and ostracized...

You are lost, abandoned, alone...

In Christ, your foundation can be repaired...

Your debt can be paid.

The condemnation can be removed.

God can reconcile you through the body of His Son.

And He will never step away from the work that needs to be done in you.

He will not renovate your life from a distance.

He will be present, powerful, and committed to finishing what He has begun.

That is why Paul says, “continue in the faith, stable and steadfast.” Not because the house depends on us – but because the One who lives within it is faithful.

The goal is so clear...

So that one day, every room of our life will reflect His glory, and we will be presented Holy, blameless, and above reproach before the throne.

Christ will take up residence in you, transform your life, make you New, come to Him this morning, He is knocking on the door of your heart, open up and let Him in...

If you are a Christian here this morning...

Don't abandon the work. Don't walk away from the foundation.

Trust the Builder. Submit to His Work. Maybe you have grown weary while doing good... and you have slowed down... checked out... or even thought about leaving it all behind...

It is time to surrender to Him again, abide, and reconnect with the Power source...

Rest in this confidence.

Your house is no longer condemned.

The Blood of the Lamb claimed it, and the work will be completed.

My wife always reminds me, and I always need to be reminded... “There is not a lot of time left... we need to get busy... we can’t be thinking about our woes and ourselves...”

She is right...

Look at those last verses again, maybe make this your memory verse this week... **Colossians 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.**

Amen!