Title: Resting in the Good Shepherd

Description: In this Sunday evening message from Psalm 119:169-176, Pastor Anthony Kim of Calvary Road Baptist Church comes to Tau, the final stanza of the psalm, where the psalmist's trials are still unresolved, yet his trust in God's word stands unwavering. It traces his prayer for understanding and deliverance, his praise that rises from personal to corporate worship because all God's commandments are righteousness, his deliberate choice of God's precepts and his longing for His salvation, and his closing confession, I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant. The message points to the Good Shepherd who laid down His life on the cross, who leaves the ninety and nine to seek the lost and keeps His wandering sheep by His grace, and it invites believers to rest in Him and the lost to be found by Christ.

Transcript:

We have arrived to the final section of Psalm 119 presents a heartfelt plea to the Lord. We're going to reflect the psalmist and his mindset which he is acknowledging again and again of God's instruction as the sole source of genuine understanding and rejoices in the complete sufficiency of God's word to satisfy all spiritual needs of the human soul. And the psalm begins this proclamation of blessing upon everyone who then lives according to the Lord's instructions.

However, we're going to see that he reaches this concluding section by marking this as the Hebrew letter Tau. This stanza represents the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, Tau. And it's a striking truth. The psalmist remains in the midst of his difficult circumstances throughout these final verses. Although the psalmist refrains from explicitly naming his adversaries or difficulties as he has done throughout the book of psalm, what we see here is his earnest request that reveals that his tribulations have by no means ended.

Far from being a well-ordered resolution where we would want a wonderful ending to this stanza with just all of his enemies gone out of his life, his external circumstances all worked out. That is not what we see here. Difficulties are not resolved. The end of Psalm 119 functions more like a cliffhanger being on the edge. What's going to happen? And so the ongoing struggles persist long after reading the text from this evening.

But even in the face of persistent external pressures, his trust in God's word stands completely unwavering. That's what I want us to get.

You see, the letter Tau is the final letter, as I mentioned, of the Hebrew alphabet. And it carries this picture of a cross also signifying a sign and a covenant. And so it gives this prophetic imagery that foreshadows the blood of the Passover lamb applied to the doorpost which was a protected sign of the Israelites household from the final plague which was the death of the firstborn in Egypt. And we see that in Exodus chapter 12.

But it's also there's another illustration, a prophetic imagery of the forehead mark upon the faithful remnant found in Ezekiel chapter 9, verse 4. These faithful remnant of believers set a mark upon their foreheads and as a mark of sigh that they would cry for all the abomination that was being done in their midst. And it was to spare them from the impending judgment and destruction due to the idolatry that was happening in Jerusalem.

As the alpha is the first letter and omega the last letter of the Greek alphabet. Jesus is likewise the Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and the Tau, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet serving simultaneously as the priest the altar the sacrificial offering. He embodied the start of the ritual as the priest. He then is the middle of the ritual, the altar and at the end of the ritual, the sacrifice, the lamb of God which take away the sins of the world. Jesus demonstrates that he is the author and finisher of the new covenant.

And at this time, please stand out of the respect of God's word and follow along with me in your Bible as I read from Psalm 119, beginning with verse 169 through the end of 176. I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies for all, I'm sorry, 169. "Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord: give me understanding according to thy word. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments." This is God's word. You may be seated.

We're going to take the first two verses which shows what a believing prayer looks like that's been enlightened by almighty God and deliverance. Here we see that the initial verses of this concluding stanza captures the psalmist earnest petitions for divine intervention and spiritual insight. You will see the repeated phrase before thee in verse 169 and then again repeated in verse 170 which underscores that genuine prayer requires deep reverence. We see

this with the Lord teaching the disciples "Hallowed be thy name." We must start with hallowed be thy name. And so we see here the repetition of before thee. Before thee.

Nevertheless, despite our profound reverence, we may approach God in prayer with total assurance. So on top of deep reverence, we must come with total assurance that God is going to hear our prayers and he's going to answer them according to his will. Knowing that he is the one that gives us his word which never changes, never changes, and his promises are always guaranteed.

So we begin with verse 169. We see the psalmist cry out. We've seen him cry out in previous text and he cries out specifically, "give me understanding according to thy word." That original term for cry carries this distinct expression of offering that signifies a plea that is brought forward with urgency behind it. Yet at the same time of that urgency, it's grounded in firm assurance. So it's not this panic crying, not sure if God is going to hear him. No, it's a cry to the deepest level with a firm foundation, firm assurance that God will hear and answer him according to his own will.

So rather than prioritizing outward circumstances like praying for his physical health or even his financial situation or maybe even his family matters. No, the psalmist goes directly to inner transformation first. He wants to have that transformation that only God can do. He knows that and he knows that this is the most important thing. And so instead of praying for relief from his current situation, no, his central request right off the bat as it were is spiritual understanding. Spiritual understanding.

You see, he is refusing to be content with just mere knowledge here or what he has already understood regarding past understandings. No, the psalmist seeks understanding again and again and again and again. And so he recognizes that genuine spiritual insight is never automatic. It's not just going to come to you unless you cry out and you ask for understanding. You see, a gift that's imparted by God is he is waiting for you to come and receive, but he's not going to force it on you.

So, with that imagery in mind, that's how the psalmist is praying here. I want to receive more, more grace, more understanding, but he must then ask for it. And so this verse reminds believers of God's invitation, his constant invitation to come to him with earnest, persistent prayers, fully confident that he is willing to listen and answer. And he's expressing the psalmist in desperation.

The psalmist writes with this complete confidence that the author of all truth will respond to his plea. Psalmist knows that without God's help, his own perspective will stay limited. Think about that.

Where are you right now? Is there something that you just are not getting clarity on? It might be you're not really clinging to God and asking specifically for more understanding. He will. I remember one very godly man said, pray that your horizon will be stretched further out. You ever pray like that where you only see just a certain distance but then when you suddenly pray you see further and wider and greater. That's what God wants us to see. He wants to see the full picture.

Remember what I shared with you that analogy of the Grand Canyon when the sun hits the rocks? You only get to see a glimpse of it when it's rising, but as the full set, you see the full theme. He wants us to open up and to see, wow, there's more there. There's more there. There's more there. He's the son and we need to ask him for more. Amen. We should always ask for more. He's a good God after all. He was showing us only good things. So we ought to pray for these good things such as more understanding.

And so John Owen who is a Puritan observing this text he said the special work of the Holy Spirit in illuminating our minds to grasp scripture is called understanding. Without an inward effectual work of the spirit, human self-confidence cannot comprehend the mind of God. True insight is a grace to be received toward persistent petition. So the apostle speaks to Timothy, "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." 2 Timothy 2:7.

If you know John Owen, he gained a lot of spiritual understanding. His writings are read throughout the ages because God showed them incredible things as it were stretching his horizon and seeing greater depths of scripture. And so may we pray in the like manner as also Paul stating to Timothy that to "consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." In all things.

Then we go on and see in verse 170 and we see now the psalmist second plea he goes on and says, "Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word." See, those who seek deeper comprehension of scripture will frequently face intense spiritual opposition. Have you ever experienced that? The more God shows you, the more the enemy wants to attack you, not less. And so, be watching and pray. Watch how the enemy

comes and attacks you. And don't be caught off surprised. Like Peter says, don't be surprised by the fiery trials. Don't be surprised. But remember, who is sovereign? God. God is sovereign. It is very important to remind yourself of that as you're continue to ask for more understanding. He is sovereign.

And so although the enemy will seek more active attacks and undermine you, don't allow him to weaken your prayer life. Don't allow him to get you off, as it were, the word of God. Continue to search. Continue to explore his understanding. And you'll find even if the enemy attacks, it's worth it. Amen.

So supplication is then his fervent request here in verse 170. And he and with this word supplication behind it is humility. It's humility. When you're praying with supplication, remember it's humility because you're acknowledging with supplication and prayer request to supplication is your absolute weakness. You realize that you're asking him to supply a need that you don't have and you should come then with absolute weakness, neediness, and helplessness while affirming God's here it is greatness and his power and his wisdom. He's going to provide everything that you lack. What does he say? My grace is sufficient for you. In weakness, my strength is perfected.

So then we demonstrate here by the psalmist that God's intervention can provide rescue by means of grace. By means of grace. Think of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego declaring that their God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace. We see this in Daniel 3:16-17. In the same way the psalmist comes before thee. This expression is very similar to Daniel praying with deep reverence as well as unwavering trust. Whatever happens in this furnace, I'm still going to trust him. Whatever the fiery furnace is, I'm still going to trust him as a believer. Christ. That's what you must put on as it were. Christ both in your praying and reading of God's word and he will help you in a time of need.

Let's go on to verse 171 to 172. He goes on and says, "My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness."

So we go on from the verses previously of petition to now to praise in these two verses. The psalmist expresses a deep love and respect encompassed by the word adoration. You see surrounded by ongoing afflictions as we saw in the previous text. His soul finds strength not in worldly ease but through private worship and shared fellowship with God's people. I love this. It's not just the psalmist alone here. He breaks out into corporate worship. We're

going to see this. But in verse 171, he goes to personal worship. He says, "My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes."

In worship, God is teaching us all his statutes. And we reverence over his word. The psalmist determines to pour forth then this outpouring of praise of deep adoration. When the Lord imparts spiritual insight and understanding and delivers him from those of his enemies, his lips gush forth with an expression of praise. That's, as it were, a natural spiritual reaction as it were.

And this verse reminds that our learning process with God's commands leads not only to understanding but ends with worship. It ends with worship. Oh, please, brothers and sisters in Christ, don't take your time with the Lord lightly. Don't just say, "I'm just going to read the scripture and then not go into worship." No, no. Read scripture and then break out into worship and praise. That's how you glorify God.

And so this praise is not contingent upon his fluctuating feelings. It is a deliberate act of response to God's word. That is worship. I'm worshiping you in this. It's a response to God's word. How are you responding to God's word? Not just reading God's word, but responding to God's word. Think of doing that every day. How much growth will you have by your daily obedience of responding to his word? How much greater understanding will we have from this time next year?

You see, his thanksgiving is ignited by God's instruction. He wants to hear his instructions because it provides him spiritual blessings that cause him to erupt again in grateful praise. And we know that when scripture speaks, God speaks, right? 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by," who? "inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." I love that phrase, thoroughly furnished. It comes from a ship analogy.

In ancient times, the word was often used to describe a ship that was fully loaded, repaired, fitted with all the gears, sails, and provisions it needed to successfully sail through rough weather, and reach its destination. You see, when you're thoroughly furnished, it doesn't matter what types of things get in your way, you will reach your destination. Think of Paul. How many disaster after disaster after disaster happened yet he finished what he started. I have fought the good fight of faith. I think we all want to say those words. And we want to hear the commendation by our Lord. Well done, thou

good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord. That's why this is so important to be thoroughly furnished. Greater spiritual understanding, greater outburst of praise to our God along the way.

You see, we see that genuine understanding of God's word fosters deeper worship, deeper love with our God and our savior. The Lord desires that knowledge of him deepen. Yes, he desires that of us. He wants to be open to that and our relationship will then lead to greater deep love for him and greater respect for him.

And just as Jesus explained that those who abide in him will bear much fruit. John 15:5 there's this secondary benefit where we are overflow of this love. You see he gives us more than what we ask for. And so the overflow comes out into bearing much fruit. And so relationship is centered in God's word. Absolutely. But it also produces spiritual fruitfulness and praise.

That goes on now. I love this because it goes right into verse 172. Personal worship to then corporate worship. Look down in verse 172. "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness." The Hebrew term there for speak specifically means to sing. It means to sing.

So singing to others about the word of God and in turn others will then sing back in corporate worship such as we see in Isaiah 6:3 which says, "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

It was wonderful to sing holy, holy, holy after an all-night prayer with us men that one evening. Do you remember that? Take a side note. That's my favorite hymn. And it was just a wonderful thing. After an all-night prayer meeting, we bursted forth and sung this. And I believe one brother said, "I will sing it all night." I mean, all morning back home.

See, the psalmist does not attend worship as a passive spectator. By the way, the word entertainment means that a passive spectator. Did you know that? Just listening or watching without active involvement. That's what entertainment means. But you see here, we don't see that. We see one crying unto another. It is an active participation. That is what corporate worship is.

And I don't mind how you sing. None of us mind how you sing as long as unto the Lord. He sings because all of commandments. All of God's commands. This is why he's singing. He sings because all of God's commandments are right. With the word righteousness, he's going, "You're right. You're right.

You're right. You're right. Holy, holy, holy. You're always right." That's what worship is.

And this is the bedrock of biblical inerrancy, which means that the Bible is free from all error right here in this text. He is all right. It's a repeat of Psalm 119 verse 160. We read that a couple of stanzas ago, which says this, "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." Don't you just love that? I really just love that passage because we're going to be singing everything right in heaven. And I pray that we have perfect voices as well along with that.

And so we are called to reflect this truth in our daily lives by offering praise to God through both our words and our actions amidst the multitudes of voices right that are vying for our attention today. And it's so much more. It's so much more.

But I often remind myself and God showed me this that I would hear his voice above all other voices. So that's why I put Matthew 6:33. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." That's all you need to do is just hear from him. He'll give you the best counsel, the best correction, the best love, the best grace and mercy and on and on and on and on. So we are called to reflect this daily in our praise to God through both words and our actions.

So the psalmist then highlights that intentional praising of God's righteousness serves as a powerful testament to the enduring value of scripture and the steadfast justice of our creator.

Now we go on to verse 173 to 174. He goes on, says, "Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight." You see, confidence in scripture continually yields a heart of reverence and deep love for God. It governs our daily choices and fuels our deepest longings for the Lord. I just love that word, longing. Don't we long to be in heaven? Don't we long to see our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ face to face?

And so we see in verse 173, the psalmist prays, "Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts." It's a picture of God in his outstretched hand that he will provide immediate help and intervention in his life. He is the only one that can take care of our spiritual needs and also take care of our spiritual enemies. So the psalmist wholeheartedly embraces God's instructions over all the noise and he trusts in the Lord to uphold him in the time of need.

Hebrews 4:16, that we "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." It's a throne of grace. It's a throne of grace.

And so why is God's hand ready to help? Because the psalmist has intentionally, look at the words, "I have chosen thy precepts." Another Puritan writer Stephen Charnock notes of this passage, "Cheerfulness in service and obedience reflects a proper view of God. Whereas melancholy or rebellious obedience treats God as a hard master. We cannot choose our own rebellious path and expect the Lord to bless our detours. We must actively embrace his instructions." End quote.

Do you see how important it is to have a heart of praise? A heart that wants to obey, to want to follow his clear instructions instead of thinking God is a hard master. I think of the parable of the talents, the man with the one talent. He said, "You are a hard master." But everyone else, they cheerfully did what was instructed. We have two paths. One path leads to a clear path and direction with clear instructions. One is rebellious and a crooked path that leads to all types of disasters.

So we look at then verse 174 as we see a heart that's continually cultivated by God's word and communion with God in prayer. We see in verse 174, a heart, a heart posture that is deeply, you see the word longing for thy salvation. I said a moment ago, I love this word because long means to patiently wait with great expectation. Do you wait for great expectation? Right? That feeling when you were a kid Christmas morning and you're just waiting to see what's under the tree. This is greater than that. This is a gift that lasts for all of eternity.

This is character formation. Character does not change. Once it is built by God, you will live as such. That's why character is so important. Never forget that. So he longs patiently with great expectation. And we see this word great expectation by the way. Psalm 42:1-2 panting after God like a deer after the water. That word panting means great expectation. That's how we should be when we're wanting to receive God's perfect gift.

And sometimes God delays his deliverance, not because he is indifferent to our prayer, but because he sees that our trials, there's still more to strip away of idols. Dear child, as it were, he's saying, "You got too much in your heart. You're not wanting my gift as expectantly as a deer panted after the water. You're going to a different source. Come back to the source that only I can

provide, the pure still waters." And so he's waiting for all that idols to get away and that clouds our hearts. And he does this by refining us to make us more pure.

Are you being purified by God's word? Are you being purified in your worship to God? Or is there a double heart? Are you worshiping other things that are love or are lesser importance? Because God is a jealous God. Amen. He expects us to have our whole hearts set to him in our devotion. And so we bring us to a place where we desire him above all else. And that is what wholehearted devotion is.

And we've been seeing this throughout Psalm 119, haven't we? The psalmist is repeatedly expressing delight in God's word. That word delight is repeated over and over again. It's that deep joy, that deep expectation of receiving God's gifts. So now connecting that joy with longing for complete deliverance with that word salvation. This longing fosters joy. That joy further deepens our longing. You see how joy and longing goes hand in hand. So true contentment to sum it up is fully grounded in the truth of God's word. Are you fully content in God's word or is it something plus God's word that's going to bring you satisfaction and contentment?

Salvation in the immediate context often referred to rescue from persecution or oppression or personal grievance. We've seen that time and time again. Yet it can also point forward to our ultimate salvation, our glorification in the Lord Jesus Christ. And so there's that tension of the immediate and the eternal. And you know, Apostle Paul wrestled with that, to live is Christ, to die is gain. There is that healthy tension that we continue to live here because he wants us to serve here because he wants us to. And it's up to him when he wants to take us home. And that's again wholehearted trust in our God.

The believer's heart then resonates with the same anticipation, desiring both daily deliverance from trouble and the eternal hope given through Christ.

We now go and end with verses 175 to 176. He goes on and says, "Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments." The psalm reaches its climactic conclusion here in this last portion of the text with a confession of human weakness and an ultimate appeal to the good shepherd.

Verse 175, "Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me." He turns now from longing into petition again. Full circle. We

started with petition. We end with petition. The ultimate purpose then of physical and spiritual life is here. It is the glorification of God. This is where we see the end. To praise God is to acknowledge him above all else. Letting our lives purpose then radiate with all glory to God. And so the psalmist prayer that his soul lives in order to continue to praise God is the point and it's illustrated here with the ultimate reason for living to glorify God and to enjoy him forever as the Westminster Catechism puts it is to honor and worship the one who then made us.

Thomas Manton and John Calvin on this particular text both emphasize that God's judgments refer to his revealed word and providential decrees serving as a protective shield against the unbridled confusion and hostility of a fallen world. See, God's rules are never designed to confine us. They are supportive structures meant to keep us secure and flourishing.

You ever been sent out into the forest and try to survive? How scary is that? That's where someone put it. If you're just thrown in with no boundaries, nothing, no restrictions, how are you going to survive? But what if you put boundaries just like here with our academy? What did the kids do? They're laughing. They're playing. They're enjoying because why? The boundaries. A car is not going to run them over. An animal's not going to attack them. Boundaries are good. Boundaries are good for us spiritually as believers as well. This is how we flourish. We do things according to God's word and his will.

The final verse delivers a startling twist here. You see it here. Here he says, "I have gone astray like a lost sheep." I have gone astray like a lost sheep, "seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments."

The psalmist closes this psalm by describing himself as a lost sheep. He does not blame anyone else for his condition of being lost sheep. The psalmist understands that his problems is not only caused by the outside enemies. But here it is that he has a problem inside of himself. He himself has sinned. He has gone astray like a lost sheep.

Another prayer writer Thomas Carlyle says this. David's life reflects the true emblem of human progress. A struggle often sore, baffled, and driven to wreck, yet marked by relentless repentance and a purposeful return to goodness. I love that. That's the truth, isn't it? We're not going perfect in a straight arrow, as it were, to perfection. It's two steps forward, three steps back type of thing, isn't it? Three steps forward, two steps back.

See, sheeps, as we know, are notoriously prone to wandering and incapable of finding their own way back. They need a shepherd. And so, like a sheep without a shepherd, he confesses his tendency to wander. But the strange sheep prayed to the good shepherd by saying, "Seek thy servant."

I love that. Seek thy servant. There's humility behind that. Even though he had gone astray, he was still God's servant. He was still wanting to obey. So the proof of that is God's servant was that he asked God to seek him, not him seeking after him. For no one seeks after God.

This brings us back to the signature of the symbol Tau, which is the cross. What he needs and just like we do is a shepherd who laid down his life on the cross for the sake of his sheep. The psalmist cries out to the good shepherd who leaves the ninety and nine to seek out the lost. A lost sheep cannot save himself. He also realizes that salvation comes not from something but from someone. The Lord Jesus does not abandon his servants. Rather, he's persistent and he's pursuing and doing it with sovereign grace, restoring us back to the fold.

You see, just upon our salvation, we are put in that fold. But the honesty is we often wander off and he comes back and rescues us. And then we wander off again and he rescues us because why? He's the good shepherd. He'll never leave us nor forsake us. The psalmist rests then in the good shepherd because the Lord will always be by him, will always rescue him and so he can rest. The psalmist can rest and we as believers in Christ can rest.

So, as we close this wonderful final stanza of Psalm 119, we're reminded that our Christian walk is sustained by divine grace from start to finish. As he is the author and finisher of our faith, we depend upon him to even give us the faith. And so when our circumstances remain difficult and troubles continue to linger and we also experience those unresolved cliffhanger moments like the psalmist does, we don't come to a climax but we come back to where he began. That there's dependence upon not ourselves but upon him.

And when our own foolishness causes us to wander, the Lord Jesus has promised that he will neither abandon nor forsake his own. We don't look then. This is important. We never look inward anymore for strength. We don't look downward in this world, but upward to our God. And we look crossward to the good shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep.

And just as the New Testament ends with the invitation to sinners to repent, so the psalmist ends here with the need for the people of Israel to be restored

by the good shepherd. You see, we all want to hold fast, but in fact, it's Jesus holding us fast. He is the one that's the hand that keeps us from wandering. And so we have confidence as long as we are in his instructions, abiding in his truth, we will bear much fruit and that as the psalmist prayed that he will give us understanding according to his word and that he will seek after the servants which is us. Thank God for his mercy and his grace. Amen.

Let's pray. Father, it's so wonderful to know that we don't live this life as it were statically as if we're going to be going from imperfection to perfection. But along life's difficult paths, we often wander and we often fall short of your glory. And it's only because of you and your grace that sustains us. We are sustained by your grace. And we can live by your mercy. And so we depend upon you, Father, again and again and again that whatever restoration we have, it is because of you. And we praise you for that.

And so, Father, I pray that you would help my dear brothers and sisters in Christ to see this as clarity to their own lives. If they have been looking back in their life and seeing similar situation like the psalmist that this will give them assurance that you'll never leave them nor forsake them that you'll continue to be the good shepherd whom it is of the Lord Jesus Christ to all of us as believers in Christ. Thank you, Father, that we don't have to depend upon our strength but your strength.

And so I pray, Father, that you will continue to bless your people in this way. Continue to grow them in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help them to be in the full stature, maturity in Christ. And I will thank you, Father, for all that you do here and throughout at Calvary Road.

I also do pray for the lost in our church that you would, yes, those that have never been brought into the fold. I pray for them as well. Lord, as Jesus said that he will leave the 99 to seek after the one, I pray that that would be done here tonight by one that is lost and will be found by Christ and him alone. That they would know that it is him that is the son of God that died on the cross for their sins and that they can receive the full payment by his precious blood cleansing every sin away and receiving now a right relationship with you God the father in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.