Chapel 1. $(\frac{1}{3})$

... get some practice in speaking to a little fringe along the back and a lot of spaces, but I don't think at my age I particularly need that practice. So I'd appreciate it if you would move further up so that we will be more together as we hear the Word of God. And I would like to call your attention now to a number of passages today, but I would like to start with one verse, with I Corinthians 9:27, a most astonishing verse. Think of Paul, the apostle, Paul the man who has served the Lord so effectively, Paul, the man who had gone from one end to the other of the Roman Empire, in all sorts of dangers and difficulties and problems and hardships, standing for the Lord, rebuking Peter to his face, presenting the Word of God against all difficulties of every sort. and here we find Paul saying in 1 Corinthians 9:27, but I keep under my body and bring it into subjection, lest that hy any means when I have preached to others I myself should be a castaway. Now, of course, Paul is not suggesting that he may be lost. Paul knows that he has believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, he knows that he's born again and that the merits of Christ are laid to his account. He is not questioning the certainty of his salvation. But Paul recognizes the fact that after years of labor for the Lord, after years of serving him effectively, of just doing everything for him, turning aside from everything in order that he might make all his efforts count for Christ, that still it is necessary that he keep under his body and bring it into subjection lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a, literally disapproved, our King James Version, a castaway, and the connection I think is a very vivid way of bringing to a rather precise idea of what it means. That I, myself, after all I've done for the Lord, should be disapproved, castaway, a vessel of no further usefulness, because I failed to keep my body. Over in Colossians 4:14 we find the apostle Paul sending greetings to the Colossians, and there he associates with himself, in his letter, two outstanding men, verse 14, Luke the beloved physician and Demms, greet you. Paul is saying to the Colossians I am sending you God's Word and I want you to have the greetings from the fine servants of the Lord who are with me. Luke the beloved physician, Luke the author of the book of Luke, the gospel, and of the Acts. Luke the man whose name ranks so high in Christian history and Christian tradition every since,