Amen. I want to share a passage of scripture
with you tonight before Brother William comes
to take the stand. I'm finally getting settled
in over there at the Parsonage. I brought
some of my personal effects and pictures and
set the things up in my study today. One of
the pictures that I have, many of y'all have
probably seen it before, is this dirty little
lamb all covered in mud. And you get a real good picture of this lamb. And back behind
it you see the image of a pursuing Lord Jesus.
Hot on the trails of that little lost lamb.
I don't think there's another chapter in
the Bible that reveals the heart of God more
than Luke chapter 15. People murmured that
Jesus spent time with these sinners and he began
to go into three parables. One about a lost
son, one about a lost coin, and one about this lost sheep that he went and he found.
And he put it upon his shoulders. They didn't drag
him home, he carried him home. When he got back
he said rejoice with me for I found my sheep
which was lost. It's a picture of the joy that
occurs when someone is saved. And there could
be nothing more precious tonight than for someone
who doesn't know the Lord than to repent and find the arms of our good shepherd.
But there's another verse that was on my heart today. That
is not the only reason we gather for revival service.
We should pray for the lost.
We should pray, we should pray, we should pray.
That every lost sheep in Tamisho Mingo County is found.
The words of Peter in 1 Peter chapter 1 were
on my heart this afternoon. Peter's been shown by the Lord that he's about to leave.
He refers to his tabernacle, his tent. That's what this body is.
It's not a permanent structure.
It's a temporary one. And the Lord has shown him that
he's about to put this thing off.
So Peter says, while I'm here, he says, wherefore I would
not be negligent to put you in remembrance
of these things, though you know them and be
established in the present truth. Peter's writing to the church.
He is writing to sheep who have
been found. He is writing to coins who have been found.
He is writing to sons who have been returned, whoever come home. And he says, I'm
not writing to tell you something new. You're
establishing the faith. But here's what he says. Yea, I think it is me, as long as I'm
in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting
you in remembrance. He says, I want you to recall
to your mind all that the Lord has done.

The great price that has been paid, the great debt
that we owe to all of these things, he says that it might stir you up. And folks, this
didn't have a thing in the world to do with
people running the aisles or waving their hands
or shouting at the top of the logs.
It's the same word that is used when the gospel says
that the sea arose. It's about the inner man,
the soul of the saved individual, that rising
will bring up in him with a new fervor and desire
to worship and serve the Lord is God.
Folks, we gather tonight that a lost sheep may be placed
upon the shoulders of our Lord Jesus.
But friend, we also gather for those of us who are establishing
the present truth that the Lord might stir something
us up in us to worship him and to serve him with
all that's in us. Brother William, you come tonight
and share what the Lord has laid on your heart.
It's again a blessing for us to be here.
Look forward to coming and being in the service again
tonight. See what the Lord has in store for us.
It's always good to be with Brother Brian and
Sister Missy. We appreciate them and love them.
Look forward to coming and be with y'all.
All the week, last week, I was in day and night service all week long.
And I'm going to tell you, it's like a
solid run, just running all week long and going in
the morning and preaching and eating and then going
home and coming back and preaching again and
fellowship and just a solid run. And I thought
last night, I thought I felt like I was still in the run.
Y'all know what I'm talking about.
Now, I've tried my best today, just take a deep breath and say,
now, Lord, we're in a different place. Help us out
here. So, it sure is a blessing to be here.
I love you and I pray that this revival meeting
touch your life and draw us closer to the Lord.
We need Jesus. Amen. I want to read a verse or two in
your hearing tonight and give you what I feel like
that the Lord had given me. You'll find the text in the
same chapter, the ending of it, Luke chapter number 15.
And I'm going to preach tonight, if God will help me,
on the danger of complacency. I want to talk about
that thought for just a few minutes, the danger of complacency.
Stand with us, if you would, and we'll honor the Bible.
Verse number 25. Now, his elder son was in the field. And as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, thy brother is come. And thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received

him safe and sound. And he was angry and would not go in. Therefore came his father out. And in treated him. And he answered and said to his father, lo, these many years do I serve thee. Neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment. And yet thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with my
friends. But as soon as thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, son, thou art ever with me. And all that I have is thine.
and it was meet that we should make merry
and be glad for this thy brother was dead
and is alive again and was lost and is found.
Our Father, we bow in your divine presence,
O Lord, again this evening,
thanking you, dear Father, for all your blessings.
We thank you, dear Lord, for this church
and these that are bowed with us.
Lord, I know there's great needs here tonight because we're needy people.
Lord, we need you tonight.
We ask you, Father, to help us one more time
anoint us afresh with fresh oil.
Lord, strengthen the inner man.
We ask you, Father, to go with us now.
Help us not to be hearers only,
but to be doers of the word.
Go with us now, Lord, and we'll be careful to
thank you and we'll praise you for all you do.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.
Amen.
The danger of complacency.
I think every once in a while we get that way.
I really do.
I think the busyness of life
and the busyness that the world draws us into all the time
causes us to be just complacent
to the point to where we don't care
what goes on anymore.
Just as long as we can get through the day,
get home, get in the recliner or in the bed,
then we'll be all right.
But everything will be fine.
We bring that same attitude over to the house of God
because we get so busy in life and busy.
Sometimes, you know, you can get too busy
doing business for the Lord
and next thing you know, you get complacent and you miss a blessing serving the Lord.
I want to preach that tonight,
the dangers of that complacency.
We find it in the text.
Did you know that you can come to church every Sunday morning, every Sunday night,

every Wednesday night, all the time, there's a revival meeting,
every time there's vacation Bible schools,
every time the door's open and you can be sitting in the pew
and you can still be out of the will of God?
Amen.
You can still be out of the will of God.
Here, the Bible talks about this brother
that faced the danger of the complacency in his life.
The Bible said that his father told him
everything that I ever had, you had it at your fingertips right here at my house.
The Bible said everything that was mine,
he said you had that.
And so if he missed it,
he missed it because he became complacent
in being around the father's house.
I don't want to ever live to come to the time
where I live past feeling.
Amen.
I don't want to go through the motions in my Christian walk with God
until I don't feel anymore,
until I just come to the church house and I sit down
and fold my arms and say, preacher, bless me if you can.
And sometimes I think we get that way.
And we get out of what we put in.
So there's a danger of being complacent in our Christian walk with God.
The Bible said here was this older brother.
I don't know how long
that this younger brother had been gone.
I don't know if he'd been gone
so long until this other brother wrote him off.
I think sometimes we get to the place to where when our brethren
don't come to church anymore,
we don't go see them, we don't go talk to them,
but they don't come to church no more
for Sunday after Sunday and year after year.
We just get to the place
until we just ride them off.
Sometimes we feel like that God will get them.
It doesn't matter what we think, but God's going to get them one day
and then they'll come back.
Sometimes we get complacent with that.
The Bible said here was a brother,
this brother that has lost his joy for sinners.
He'd lost the joy
for seeing sinners being born again.
The church ought not ever get to the place
until we can't rejoice over souls being saved.

That ought to be something that's embedded in our heart by Jesus
every morning when we wake up,
every night when we go to bed
is to have a desire in our heart to see sinners saved by the grace of God.
This man, you remember,
the Bible said,
my son that was lost is now found,
but it seems like that he doesn't care anymore.
He's out in the field and the Bible said he has to ask the servants,
what is that music that's going on
and what is that going on in the house of God?
What's that going on in the Father's house?
It's the fact that he had gotten complacent in his life
until he had no longer rejoiced over sinners
being saved by the grace of God.
The danger of complacency.
I hope I never get there.
I tell you, if I ever get there, I don't want to get here.
Amen.
I don't want to preach the gospel
when I no longer care about sinners being born again.
I'm not so much interested in educating you,
trying to come up with some kind of something that was new that you hadn't heard of
and maybe will tickle your ears, but what I'm interested in
is that we can get a heart for sinners once again
and feel what it feels like to have joy and rejoice.
The Bible said angels in heaven rejoice more
over one sinner that's been saved.
Imagine that tonight,
that heaven rejoices, all the angels rejoice around
the throne of God over one sinner being saved.
Imagine what happens when two sinners get saved.
You can imagine what rejoicing is going on in heaven.
We don't hardly rejoice at all when anybody gets born again anymore.
We don't have that joy of seeing sinners saved.
The Bible said here how the elder son was in the field
and he said as he came and drew not out of the
house and he heard music and dancing going on
and the Bible said he called the servant and asked him what does these things mean.
It had been a long time
since that young man has felt the Holy Ghost
in an old-fashioned meeting.
Amen.
It's been a long time since he's felt what it felt like
to really be in fellowship with his father
and be in fellowship in his house.
Complacency is a dangerous thing

and we all fall in it from time to time
and it's dangerous.
It'll pull a church down.
It'll pull a people down
when we no longer care about
what's going on in the father's house
in so much until he didn't even go in the father's house.
The Bible said now
how he had drew near and had to ask what was
going on and he said to him thy brother has come
and thy father hath killed the fatted calf
because he hath received him safe and sound.
You'd think that he would have loved that brother wouldn't you?
He not only lost his joy but he lost his love for his brother.
Losing your love for your brethren
is a terrible thing.
What's terrible about it
is you can sit right beside them
every Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night
and every time the doors open at the church house
and still lose your love for your brother.
Somebody say amen.
You sure can.
Amen.
You sure can.
Not much smile,
not much joy,
not much gladness to see them anymore
because we become complacent
and really it doesn't matter
if they're sitting there or not
but we've lost our love for our brethren.
I tell you,
how can you love God in whom you have not seen
if you don't love your brother in whom you have seen?
Amen.
You've got to love the brethren.
The Bible said,
I know that I've passed from death unto life
because I love the brethren.
I'm going to tell you, we ought to have such of a drawing
to God's house, to the Father's house
until we get to the place to where we want to see the brethren.
Amen.
We want to see one another at the house of God.
The fellowship becomes complacent.
There's a danger of that and losing your love for the brethren.

We're all different.
Every one of us are different.
We do different things.
We think different.
We walk different.
We talk different.
We're different sizes.
We look different.
All of that stuff but the Bible said that it takes all of us
to make up the body.
Every one of us
to make up the body of Christ.
Sometimes there are those that seem insignificant over at the house of God
but love them anyway.
You're getting that, ain't you?
Amen.
Love them anyhow.
And it's easy to love that one that's in the limelight
that's behind the pulpit, the pastor and his wife.
It's easy to love us and it's easy to uphold us but it's that insignificant
child of God that just needs to know that the church, the body of Christ
loves them as much
as they love him.
He lost his love for his brother.
He didn't care if he came back home or not.
He didn't care if his brother walled around in the hog pens of life.
Fact of the matter is the Bible said he got angry at him.
The Bible said
that he began to get angry
in verse 28
and would not go in the house because his brother was in the house.
Imagine that.
He got so complacent
in his walk with his father
and his love for his brother
until he got angry when his brother come home
and the Bible said would not go in
therefore came his father out
and entreated him.
I'm going to tell you
all ten commandments
are hinged on two.
Love God
and love your neighbor as yourself.
If you'll love your neighbor as yourself
you won't steal from him.
You won't take his wife from him.

Amen.
All the things that were manward that God gave us
you will not do simply because you love your brother.
And then the other four that six of them went manward four of them
went Godward
and if you love God
you'll want to do all the four.
Amen.
But he got angry.
He got angry at his father for rejoicing because his brother come home
he had completely wrote his brother off.
He failed to love him like he should have loved him.
The danger of complacency we don't care.
We don't care
if he's here or not.
We don't care
about him anymore.
I'm going to say this
because it's on my heart.
Amen.
Sometimes it's the older brother
that causes the most trouble.
Sometimes there are people that have been in the church house
for years and years
and years and years
and they've been here all this time
and they've sat here all this time
and sometimes they've got complacent towards the brother
and when a brother finally does come home and he
sure he's been out in the world
and sure he's watered around in the hog pen
and he probably stinks when he walks in the father's house
ravished with sin
all about him.
The Bible said that he spent
the brother said
that he devoured all the living with harlots
and thou hast killed for him a fatted calf
and that drug addict
that used to be sitting on the front bench
over at the house of God
that got saved years ago and you perhaps was
here when he got saved and he served the Lord
but something happened along the way I don't know what happened to him
maybe he decided
to jump ship I don't know but then he gets right with God
and he makes it back over to the house of God

and the older brother is sitting here saying
as that young man or that young woman gets up
and testifies how good God's been to him and how he brought them back
and how he loved them and how he forgave him
and the older brother is saying
sure he did
sure he did
if he really loved God he wouldn't have done what he'd done well
I don't know about that
that's between him and God
but I do know this
that rather you're out yonder
or rather you're in here there's the danger of being backslidden
and away from God
rather you're sitting here or out there
and when the brother come home he got mad at him
he got not only mad at him but he got mad at God
because here
or got mad at the father
and said he had spent all of his living on harlots but yet you'll accept him
wow
wow the brother had completely forgot
about the grace of God
didn't he
yeah we forget about
the grace of God
in complacency
we just sit there
and watch the grace of God just flow
and it doesn't even faze us anymore it faze anything that we ought
to be shouting about is the fact that God's grace saved us
amen
ain't that what saved this young man
that came back
it was the grace of his father
amen that came back when he made his way back to the father
the Bible said that he ran to meet him
he didn't wait for him to get
to the father's house he runs out and he meets him and says go get
the fatted calf ready kill the fatted calf get the ring get the robe
let's make merry he's come home hallelujah
I'm gonna tell you
we forget about the grace of God this man
this older brother
in his complacency forgot
that God's grace reaches far
far away

remember
it was God's grace that reached down and got you
when you was out in the hog pen
when you was out in the world and in sin
it was God's grace that got us
David said he picked me up out of the miry pit that's where
you and I was at the same pit David was in the same pit that this young
brother was in
the same thing everyone was in
that miry pit but the Bible said he reached down and picked me up
and set my feet on a solid rock hallelujah we forget about God's grace don't we
yeah we do
in complacency it does
but the last thing
complacency will cause you
it will cause you to forget about
God's goodness
God's goodness the Bible said
but as soon
as thy son was come which he hath devoured
thy living with harlots and thou hast killed for him the fatted cat
and he said son thou art ever with me
and all that I have is thine everything
it's God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom
I mean God's people God's sons and daughters
it's God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom
I mean everything that we're heirs and join heirs
with Jesus Christ everything that God has
we can rejoice in it every promise that God
has ever made
it just goes right to us every good and perfect
gift come from above I mean God's good isn't he
we sing about it we talk about it but boy experience the goodness of God in our life
don't ever forget it but you'll forget it in complacency
when we sit down we forget that it was God's goodness
that feeds us it's God's goodness that puts a roof over our head clothes on our back
food on our table it's God's goodness
that helps us along this journey
ain't God good
complacency will cause you to forget about the goodness of God
to embrace that in our lives
boy I tell you
just got through finishing building my house and
got that thing finished up and got it done
and I had been so wrapped up
in getting that thing finished up and getting Miss D moved in there
she is

likes her nest
she was out of her nest and she got back in her nest
and here a few days ago I was in the house by myself and sitting down in the recliner
and I got my Bible out and I sat down and I got to looking around
I got to looking around and what I failed to do was embrace God's goodness
in all of the busyness
and I looked around and and I couldn't help but think about how
good God's been to me
he gave me much more than I can ever take care of
does that make sense
yeah
yeah he sure did
and I think about God's goodness
and in all these years God's been good to
me and not only me but he's been good to you
this young this older brother
failed to embrace God's goodness
and what his father had in store for him everything that I had you had access to
but because of his complacency in his
life he
failed to see that I think sometimes we do that don't you
I think sometimes we lose that
joy to see souls saved
we sit around and we no longer love our brother
you know
the sad part about that is
we'll be more friendly with the world than we will with God's people
he warns us that the world is an enmity to God
and that you can't walk with the world he said
how can two walk together except they agree
and we're trying our best to have one foot in the church and one foot in the world
and asking the Lord to bless our lives he ain't gonna do it
you can't live like that
get a hold of God's message get a hold of
God's way get a hold of God's people love them
love them love the brethren
love your brother
sisters in the Lord
but you know
I wondered how much
he said something here and I'm facing the clothes if you
get a song he says something here that really bothered me
he said in verse 29
he said to his father lo these many years do I serve thee
neither transgressed I at any time thy command
and yet thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with his friends
he had he had lost his want to

in serving the father
in his complacency
it was it was like the the boy that his father said go
out in the field and work and he said no but yet he went
and he went to the other and said go out in the field and work and he said I'll go
but he didn't go that's exactly the picture that we find in this young man everything
that he did he didn't do it out of the want to
in serving his father he did it because he had to
and I'm going to tell you when you're serving the lord
out of a having to you're going to miss a blessing
yeah if you're teaching a sunday school class if you're doing the music if you're
playing the piano and all that if you're doing every
bit of that out of just serving and not wanting to
then you're missing something in your heart and the danger of complacency is there
it's merely just a piano it's merely just an
organ it's just a song and and it's not here
it's not here
it's become complacent we go through the motion
but he lost his want to
I don't ever want to lose my want to preacher
I want I want to I want to be better for the father
after all I'm living in his house
I want to be better towards him and his and his other children
get us a song ready brother Alton
the danger now let me ask you a question in your Christian life
is there
complacency
to where you lost
that joy of seeing a soul saved
you lost that love for the brother
boy that's sad there isn't it yeah and serving the Lord and forget about the grace of
God and stop embracing his goodness
something's wrong
something's wrong and I'm going to say we've just come complacent
let's stand together and sing you don't have to