Thank you.
Are we on?
All right.
Do I need to start over
again and repeat what I said?
I said it's been good to be in
the house of the Lord this morning.
If you have your Bibles, Matthew
chapter number 13 this morning.
I just want to say it's a
privilege and honor to be here.
I remember to pray for Brother
Brian and Miss Misty this morning.
But I do count it a privilege
and an honor to be with y'all.
A few new faces around.
Sir, somebody say something.
My ears, I don't know what
it is about this time of year.
It sounds like glass is breaking.
Every word that's said, so I might
misunderstand or don't hear something.
But it's good to be here.
I've been looking
forward to it this morning.
I was told that this water
is about six weeks old.
But I sure need some of it this morning.
Our grandkids have
been at the house the past
couple of weeks or
during the day that it is.
And that youngest one, he'll get every
bottle of water out of the refrigerator.
And I come behind him when he leaves.
I pick him up, dump him
out, and throw him away.
Because I'm germaphobe.
I don't like eating or drinking
after the youngest one.
He'll take a drink and let the dog
drink out of it and have a bag of chips.
So I just, I'm thankful
for that this morning.
I was preaching at a
church several years ago.
And they had a red Solo cup every service.
And I, it's just the way I am.
Y'all do what you want to.
The Lord look after us.

There's a red Solo cup sitting
on the pulpit every Sunday.
And I got to wondering where
that thing was coming from.
Back before COVID, I spent more
money on hand sanitizer than anybody did.
I've just always been that way.
And I wash my hands
probably 100 times a day.
And I don't know what it was.
I guess the devil was
trying to get me sidetracked.
I was wondering where that
glass of water come from.
So one Sunday morning, I went in
the back where I knew the cups were.
And I knew where the ice was.
And there was a man come in there.
And he done shook hands
with everybody in the church.
And he opened the
cabinet up, got that cup out.
And he opened the freezer up.
And just reached in there and
grabbed a big old handful of ice.
And put it in there and
filled it up with water.
I said, oh, man.
I can't be drinking out of that anymore.
Matthew chapter 13 this morning.
And I was with Brother William
yesterday and Jamie and his grandson.
And when Brother Alton
called, it was just immediately
the Lord took me to this
verse and this chapter.
It's one of my favorite chapters.
I don't know if I've
preached out of it here before.
But I want to read a few
verses and share with you.
And hopefully, I can share
it with you the way the
Lord gave it to me yesterday
evening and this morning.
And I just want to be a help
and encouragement to you.
And if you find your
place, I'll begin reading.
And if you want to stand

for the reading of the word of
God this morning, we'll read
Matthew chapter number 13.
And I'll read in verse number 24.
It says, Another parable put
he forth unto them, saying,
The kingdom of heaven is likened to a
man which sowed good seed in his field.
But while men slept,
his enemy came and
sowed tares among the
wheat and went his way.
But when the blade was
sprung up and brought
forth fruit, there
appeared the tares also.
So the servants of the
householder came and said unto him,
Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in
thy field from whence then hath it tares?
And he said unto them,
An enemy hath done this.
The servants said unto him,
Wilt thou then that we
go and gather them up?
But he said, Nay, lest
while ye gather up the tares,
ye root up also the wheat with them.
Let both grow together until the harvest.
And in the time of harvest,
I will say to the reapers,
Gather ye together first the tares,
and bind them in bundles to burn them.
But gather the wheat into my barn.
Let's pray.
Our dear Heavenly Father, we
thank you so much for loving us.
Lord, we bow before you today.
Lord, we thank you, Lord, for what
we've already experienced here today.
And Lord, I pray that you'd
help each and every one of us.
Lord, I pray that you'd give us
what we each stand in need of today.
And Lord, I pray that you'd bless
the preaching of your word for us.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.
In Matthew chapter 13,
there's seven or eight different

parables that are mentioned
here in the first nine verses.
And all of them are talking
about the kingdom of heaven.
And the first nine verses, we
see the sower and the seed.
And verses four through
seven, we see that there's
a large number of those
that the seed was planted
that didn't allow the word to
take root and give it time to grow.
And then a small, you read on,
there was a small number that did.
And also a few allowed the fruit to
bear, the seed to bear fruit in their life.
And then we come to where
I read in chapter number
24, we see the parable
of the wheat and the tares.
And if you look on down further in
the chapter, in verse number 36, it says,
And Jesus sent the multitude
away and went into the house.
And his disciples came unto him, saying,
Declare unto us the parable
of the tares of the field.
And in the next four,
five, six verses, Jesus tells
them and he explains
what he's talking about here.
But I believe, and just for the help
of the Lord a little while this morning,
I want to preach on being
careful of a counterfeit.
Be careful of a counterfeit.
We're living in a day, there's
this friend of mine that comes over
and just about 75% of the time his
phone rings, it's a spam, a spam call.
There's so many counterfeits
today and there's so much stealing.
And trickery and people being deceived.
And I don't believe it's ever been.
And I think it's just going to
get worse and worse as we go on.
If you go into the courthouse
in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee,
there's a big old warning
poster there talking about

how people are trying
to counterfeit who you
are just so they can
steal your property.
There's people today,
as Christy, I asked her
to look this morning
on the way over here.
In 2025, Americans lost an estimated of
$148.2 billion to online scams and fraud.
There's people out there that all they want
to do is trick you just to steal from you
and deceive you and take what you have.
And identity theft,
there's 14 to 16 million
experience identity
fraud or theft every year.
Someone, this is sobering right here.
Someone becomes a victim of
identity theft or fraud every 4.9 seconds.
And as we look into the
Bible and what we see
in the parable of the
tares and the wheat,
we see that there was a
fraud, a scam that was set up.
There was some trickery going on here.
The Bible, as he talks
here, is talking about
the, I want to say, the
modern day Christianity,
the modern day church, as we
see here in this passage of Scripture,
that it's a mix of good and that
there's the bad mixed in with it.
We see that there's
many today that are
professing believers as
well as genuine believers.
Talking about professing as we read,
excuse me, in the devotion this morning.
He read out of Matthew 7.
It says, we shall know them by their fruit.
That's what we're talking about here
this morning, about people being known.
There's those that just
profess to be a Christian
and there's those that are
actually genuine, true believers.
And we see the work of the

devil, how he's busy counterfeiting.
And I want to say that everything that the
Lord has, the devil has counterfeited it.
I called the bank here a few months ago
and I knew what the answer was
before I even asked the question.
I know the manager and I
know him through our son.
Our son goes to church with him
and has been a good friend to our son.
And I called him.
I said, Rex, can you give
me a counterfeit dollar bill?
Or can you give me a
counterfeit $20 bill or $100 bill?
And of course, the answer was no.
And I asked him a few questions about it.
And they don't study.
They don't let their tellers.
They don't get their tellers
to study the counterfeit.
There's just so many of them.
There's no possible way.
There was a guy I worked
with over 20 years ago.
He had spent time in federal prison for
counterfeiting $20 bills and he got caught.
Went back to federal prison,
learned how to counterfeit $100 bills
and got caught counterfeiting them.
After he got out, went back to prison.
There's just so many counterfeits.
But what the bank teaches their
tellers to do is they study the real thing.
Study the real thing.
With the help of the
Lord this morning, I
just want to preach
just for a little while.
Make sure you have the real thing.
Make sure you have the real thing.
There's so many that's being deceived
and so many that is trying to fraud.
And there's so many.
You know, we're living in a day where, man,
things are changing so fast and so quick.
And our country, don't get
me wrong, I love America.
I'm proud to be an American.
I'm proud to be from the state of Alabama.

I love our country and I
love what it was built upon.
But, folks, we're being deceived about
the past and the history of our country.
The God that we serve, that our
forefathers, I'm going to say this.
I made this comment to Brother William.
If you could go back and
listen to what he said last
Sunday, there's no way
because it wasn't recorded.
But he got to preaching over out
of 1 Kings about where Elijah, he said,
If God be true, you serve him,
or if Baal is true, you serve him.
Folks, people today are
rewriting the history of America.
The God that we serve, that money
that we have in our pocket that says,
In God we trust.
That was the God of the Bible.
That was the God of the Bible.
And now there have been so
many that are counterfeited.
But here in this passage of Scripture,
it talks about those that just profess,
those that just act
like they're Christians.
Joe, those that just know all the
language and how to speak and what to say.
And then there's those that
are hypocritical in their worship.
And then there's those that are genuine.
In verse number 24 and verse down 26,
we see that there was good seed planted
and that there was also some
bad seed that was planted.
Christ is the one that
sows the righteousness and
the devil is the one
that sows the wickedness.
And then in verses number 27 and
28, we see the questions that man asks.
But here we see the wheat that was sown.
If you do any type of farming,
farmers, they want to get the good stuff.
If you know anything about
farming, they rotate their crops.
One year they'll plant corn and next year
they'll plant soybean or swap it around.

One day this week, we
rode up to Tennessee
and that was week
four last, I think it was.
And there was soybean and it would
look like it was about ready to harvest,
but just scattered out through there,
there was just little stalks of corn.
You say, well, that don't belong there.
That's not what's supposed
to be growing right now.
You know, when there's
something out of place, it's
not always real easy to
detect in the beginning.
You know, they just want
to trick us a little bit at a time.
And slowly as things
begin to develop, we can see
as we learned this morning
in our devotion about,
we're known by our fruit.
And yesterday, Brother
William had his son, had
Jamie and his little
three-year-old grandson.
And Brother William would be on the tractor
and then Jamie would get on the tractor
and one would be spreading,
the other one would spread.
And me and little old Asher,
his little three-year-old grandson,
I'd open up the fertilizer
and I'd open up the
lime and they'd mix it
and they'd go spread it.
And we got down to the wheat.
Brother William wanted to
plant some wheat on his fields.
And I opened that bag
up and little old Asher,
he'd come over and
he'd look down in there.
And immediately, he stuck
his hand down in there and
he started pulling out
what didn't belong in there.
You see, even as a
little three-year-old, he
spotted that there was

something different.
There was something that was in that
wheat bag that didn't belong in there.
You know, if you just give, I'm
getting a little very far ahead of myself,
but if you just give, if
you give things time,
the truth is sooner or
later going to come out.
As the Bible says here about the wheat,
they planted good wheat and, excuse me,
again, the wheat came up,
but also the tares came up.
Also, I asked my investigator
sitting back there this morning, I said,
how long does it take for wheat, for
summer wheat, spring wheat to come up?
And she said, well, it takes about seven
days before it starts looking like grass.
And I said, well, how long does it
take for it to start forming those little,
the little berries that
they're going to harvest?
And it's about two months
that the berries start,
and then another couple of months or however
long it was that they can harvest it.
But here, you know, immediately, the Bible
doesn't say the day that they planted,
that when the grass, when
the wheat began to grow,
you couldn't tell it that
there was tares in there.
But it says, it talks a
little bit about time.
In verse number 25, it says,
But while men slept,
his enemy came and
sowed tares among the
wheat and went his way.
You know, that's just what the devil does.
He comes in and he sows them old tares
in a church or in our heart or in our home,
and then he goes on about his business and
just lets us tear it all apart ourselves.
He don't hang around for that.
The Bible says he went away,
but also it says while men slept.
He didn't do it in the daytime.
My daddy and my mother

and even my grandparents,
they would tell us nothing good
happens after the sun goes down.
I mean, I was a teenage boy,
and I still didn't get to go out.
And like everybody else
does, daddy, he always says
there ain't nothing good goes
on after the sun goes down.
Son, you need to be at home.
But the Bible says here
that while men slept, that's
when the devil come in
and he sowed those tares.
And it says, but when the blade
was sprung up and brought forth fruit,
there appeared the tares also.
So I just want to say
just a minute about the
difference between
the wheat and the tares.
If you look at pictures of wheat
growing, and I like farming.
I don't farm.
I used to do a garden every year.
I remember one year I had the
bright idea I wanted some tomatoes.
For me and Christy, I
planted 40 tomatoes plants.
Man, we had tomatoes for everybody.
But if you look at a
wheat as it begins to grow,
and as it begins to mature,
and as those little berries
begin to form in there,
and as they grow,
it's a perfect example of a Christian.
You see, when that stalk comes up,
and those berries begin to
grow on there, they get heavy.
And they get heavier.
And that old stalk just
begins to bend over.
I looked over in Proverbs this morning.
I was sitting back
there, and the Bible says,
yeah, these six things
do the Lord hate.
Then he says, nope, there's seven of them.
And the first one is pride.

You see, a true Christian,
a true Christian is a humble person.
A true Christian is a humble person.
And it's easy to
distinguish of what we are,
because you can only hide it so long.
You've heard the statement,
fake it till you make it.
It don't work that
way in the Christian life.
As that wheat begins to grow,
it bows itself to the ground.
There's the tares.
If you look up the name of that,
it's called a darnel seed.
But it grows just about the
same rate that a wheat does.
It grows, but it stands tall.
And it produces those
same looking little berries
that the wheat does.
But they're poisonous.
But they're dangerous.
You can't eat them.
They're not good for you.
But there's actually,
there's no weight to them.
So that old plant just stands real tall.
That's when they knew something was wrong.
When it was supposed to be bearing fruit,
somebody has done come in, and
man, they've done slipped us a counterfeit.
Somebody's done messed
up what was going on
here, what we was
trying to do a good work.
And vile men slept.
His enemy came in and sowed tares
among the wheat and went his way.
But when the blade was
sprung up and brought
forth fruit, there
appeared the tares also.
So the servants of the
householder came and said unto him,
Sir, didst thou not sow
good seed in the field?
Did you not invest in good seed?
And did you not go to the best supplier to
get these seeds that we was going to plant

because we wanted the best harvest?
Folks, what we have this morning
is the best.
What we have this morning is,
if you're here this morning
and you have Jesus Christ in your heart,
man, we've got the best.
We've got the most
expensive there ever was.
He didn't cut any corners.
He didn't try to save a
little money here and there.
He'd give us His only begotten
Son that whosoever believeth in Him
should not perish but
have everlasting life.
As we look and we see this, we
see that good seed was sowed.
We see that men were sleeping
and while they slept, the devil came in.
And then we see the servants.
They noticed, as I said,
eventually, sooner or later,
the truth does come out.
Mother used to always
tell us, boy, it says,
them chickens are going to come
home to roost one of these days.
You know, sooner or later, folks,
I was in a revival with
Brother William this year
and the night after I was there,
the night I didn't go,
he called the next morning.
He said, Barry, you ain't going to
believe what happened yesterday.
I said, what's that?
He said, there was an 84-year-old man
been in church all of his life,
come down,
asked Jesus Christ to come
into his heart and save him.
He said, 84 years old.
I got to thinking about that.
He said the man had
been in church all of his life.
How uncomfortable could it possibly be
to faithfully come to church
but not have Jesus in your heart?
I know other people that,

and I know we're not to judge,
but I'm just,
we do notice,
the Bible says,
you know them by their fruit.
You see people that come to church
and man, they look so miserable
and everything that ever
comes up for discussion,
everything the church tries to
do, they stand up in their pride
and they stand up and
they want to argue and
say, well, we can't do
this or we can't do that
and they're just fighting all the time.
I wonder, man,
how miserable of a person
do you have to be
to just keep on like that?
When you've got the real thing and
we can have Jesus Christ in our heart,
why would you go on that long?
80-something years old
finally comes forward and
he says, man, I just
never had the real thing.
Never had the real thing.
I ask you this morning,
what do you have?
Everything out there is,
there's a counterfeit.
Man, the Chinese
and all them folks and
all these other countries,
they've counterfeited everything.
In the machine shop, we
buy these little carbide inserts.
The Chinese have got so
good, they make them identical,
they put them in the same box
and they have the same tag on them.
It's not until you get
to looking real close
where you can see that they're counterfeit.
But you know the minute you put them in
that machine, oh, that ain't the same thing.
They don't last near as long.
Everything that's out there,
everything that the Lord has,

even the church and
what goes on in the church,
the devil just wants to
get in it and destroy it.
The Bible says about the devil
as we read here and he
says, the enemy has come in
while the men were sleeping
and sowed tares among the weed
and then went his way.
The Bible says,
be sober,
be vigilant
because your
adversary the devil.
A lot of people
misquote that verse.
The next word,
it says,
as a roaring lion
seeking whom he may devour.
He's not a roaring lion.
He's counterfeiting himself.
He's not in charge of this.
He counterfeits himself
to tear down
every wheat field that
God has ever planted.
He tries to tear down
everything that the Lord has ever
tried to establish and the Bible says,
be sober and be vigilant
because your adversary the devil
is as a roaring lion
seeking whom he may devour.
Excuse me.
But I'm glad
we have the word of God.
And what the,
in verse number 28,
well, verse number 26,
and he said unto them,
an enemy hath done this thing.
The servant said unto him,
wilt thou then that we go
and gather them up?
But he said nay,
lest while you gather up the tares
you root up also
the wheat with them.

You see,
they processed
and they grow together.
You see the difference
between a wheat and a tare?
That wheat,
it needs that nurture,
all that stuff that we
have in the ground,
that fertilizer.
Man, we put lime down,
we put everything down.
But it needs that to grow.
But when somebody else gets in
and somebody else comes sow their seed,
you see,
it needs the same nutrition
that we need to grow.
And it's taken from what we need
and many times we,
we just don't know what to do.
I'm thankful for the word of God.
He said, well, just let them
grow and I'll take care of it later.
I was thinking about this evening
and I get real far ahead of myself.
If you can make a mess of something,
I can make it a mess.
You know,
it would do us a whole lot of good
just to leave it all to the Lord.
Just leave it to the Lord.
I don't know who's here this morning
or what you stand in need of.
I don't know if the devil has
sowed some of those tears even here.
But as a Christian,
he says,
let both grow together
until the harvest.
One day,
one day,
it's all going to be over.
You know,
just as yesterday,
Missy's mother passing away,
we don't,
we don't know
what our,
how long our life is going to be

or how long it's going to last.
But Alton,
you give us a song of invitation.
One thing we do know,
the Bible says,
it's appointed unto
man who wants to die.
Just simple message this morning.
If you got the real thing
or are you counterfeited?
Have y'all ever been passed,
have you ever had counterfeit money?
When they take it,
when you go to the bank
and you try to pass
that counterfeit dollar,
they're going to take it.
You're not getting a new one
in exchange for it.
You're not getting the real thing.
You're not getting that back.
You've already lost that.
And I'm afraid this morning
that there's people
sitting all over,
churches all across this nation,
all they have is a counterfeit.
But one day, it'll be too late.
Why waste your time this morning
as we sang and
sing, brother Alton?
Okay.
Okay.