3994 Victoria Avenue Vineland, Ontario L0R 2C0

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A House for You!

Overview

Give that last slide up, just you just had there. You can be comfortably seated. I want you to see something. Songwriters need to be careful about their theology. I know the fellow who wrote this song, my friend from California, Steve. Steve intentionally wrote these words. Oh, the glory of your presence. Look at the words up there with me. Oh, the glory of your presence. We, your temple, give you a residence, reverence. Come and rise to your rest. Somebody, a worship leader, decided I don't like that word. The Lord's resting.

He must need to rise. No, no, no, no. I talked to Steve about this. Come and rise to your rest. Where does he rest? In the presence of his people. When we praise God, we create a throne. We create a throne. Jesus isn't rising from his rest. He's rising to his rest. We give you reverence, we give you praise, and we invite you to come and rest among us. Let's sing it one more time. I see this all the time in churches, and when I have a chance, I just say, change the wording, please, back to how it was written.

Let's just sing it acapella. Oh, you're coming, Linda. It's okay. I love this song. We were one of the first churches to ever sing this song back in Toronto. You were there, Betty. When Steve came from California, we were one of the first churches to sing this song. He taught it to us, and I've loved it ever since. Oh, the glory of your presence. We, your people, give you reverence. A little faster, a little faster. So arise to your rest and be blessed by our praise as we glory in your embrace as your presence now fills this place. Hallelujah.

That's the first verse. Arise, arise within our worship. Oh, the glory of your presence. We, your temple, we give you reverence. Come and rise. So arise to your rest and be blessed by our praise as we glory in your embrace. As your presence now fills this place. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Praise his wonderful name. We're going to start to We're going to start to send out the message in about two minutes from now. And so I'll just talk to you for a couple of moments. We do have a lot of people. It doesn't look like it, depending on when you look at our YouTube, you'll see not very many people there.

Well, not everybody can be watching our transmission at the same time as we're sending it out. Maybe they're in church somewhere. But there's not just a few folks that take advantage of what we send out over the internet. We do not send out our music over the internet. There's lots of churches that do that. And there's oodles, oodles of sites where you can tune in and listen to gospel music. And they're wonderful. They're almost always on in our house. But there are people who count on this hour.

They're tuning in in a few moments, or maybe even an hour from now, and they say, this is our church. We need to hear this. And I get comments, I get phone calls. And I don't live for that kind of news, but it's really encouraging.

And so thank you for understanding what we're up to. We got cameras floating around and special lighting. And if we didn't have the special lighting, I'd be up here in the dark, because the camera can't figure things out. So that's how come we do things the way we do. So now I'd like to start my message for you this morning. And I've entitled it, A House for You, A Place for You. I want to speak about this this morning. It's found in John's chapter 14, and in verse 2, where Jesus said, in my Father's house are many residences. You can call them a mansion. The translators like that word. Mansion is a little richer than the original intention of what Jesus was saying. Everybody doesn't get, you know, a 35-acre mansion and your own jet airplane. You know, you get a residence, a personal residence, but it's there for you.

It's there for you. So I want to talk about your Father has prepared a residence, a place just for you. John 14 in verse 2. Now I choose this morning to use some illustrations and some pictures. So just I hope you don't mind me taking you down a little road that I've been on as I've traveled. First of all, I want to bring to your attention a major story that took place in March of 1910. A missionary by the name of Henry Clay Morrison was on a steamship. He and his wife had spent their life in ministry in Africa. On their same steamship was President Teddy Roosevelt. So here is a clip that I found out of a newspaper from back March 1910. Media outlets around the world swarmed as President Roosevelt emerged from the East African interior, greeting him with massive fanfare and journalism coverage as he transitioned back from the wilderness to civilization. It's a great story. How come I want to talk about both these people?

The story is actually written out for us. You can find it anytime you want to. Go and look up Henry Clay Morrison and put in the word missionary and several pictures may come up, one of which I've copied for this moment this morning. So the story goes that when the great steamship landed at New York City, that the Morrisons had to wait quite a while before they would disembark. And in fact, probably they were told everybody stay in your state room, your room wherever you're supposed to be. Maybe they're told you can go in and drink coffee in the cafeteria, but please stay out of the way. Somebody important is on board. And so here the couple were after a lifetime of serving in missions, they just like everybody else, and it's fair, they were told just keep your place. So apparently there was a band playing and the people, the docks were crowded with probably thousands of people because Roosevelt was a very, very popular guy. And with the sound of the band playing and the people cheering and shouting and maybe the Morrisons got to a window, although they probably didn't have a window in their room, but they would have found a way maybe to look out and to see what all the hoopla was, they would have seen this mass of people and the celebration. And eventually then the president descended down the walkway and he's been overseas on a hunt. He's been over there killing elephants, giraffes and whatever else got in the way of his big gun because he loved to go to Africa and hunt. The people didn't care about that.

This is our president. This is the guy we love. And so eventually after the crowd dissipated and the people all headed and trying to follow Roosevelt, wherever he went from there, probably gone on a train or somewhat, doesn't really matter, finally the rest of the peasants were allowed to get off the boat. And it really disturbed old Henry because as he walked down the plank, churches had sent him, said, oh God bless you, you're the guy, you're the guy. And without a doubt, East Africa, that's where you get malaria. That's where I got it. And I'm going to tell you what, it's no picnic. You feel like a spike is being driven through your head and it's very possible that you won't survive this one. I had a doctor warn me, said, David, stay here, stay here. I'm going to put you in a hospital bed and because we don't know what strain you've got. There's many strains of malaria, many, many missionaries succumb to malaria. And so she said, you're staying right here. And I said, no, I already ordered a plane and it's coming for me.

I ordered a private plane and sure enough, I heard this plane buzzing over our place out there and I ran out on this grassy field and jumped in the plane. There's pictures of me getting on that plane. I look like death warmed over. I'm a sight. She begged me not to go. She said, I had to stop in Amsterdam. She said, I don't think you'll be alive when you get to Amsterdam. I said, I have to go. I got to get home. I've been away for far too long already. When I got to Amsterdam, I was one sick puppy. Obviously I survived. And, but these people must have gone through stuff like that.

And here they are coming down the plank and there's not even a singular trombone playing. There was no one there even to meet them and greet them and help them carry their luggage, whatever luggage they had. And so the story goes on that he went into a depression and he was so disturbed. He said, I can't believe this. All our lives we labored and the people knew that we were gone. They knew, they knew, they knew, but they didn't even come and meet us at the boat. And his wife, thank God for wives. She said to him, Henry, I think you better go into that bedroom, get on your knees and talk to the Lord. I can't fix this. The story goes on that he was only in there for about 10 minutes and he came out and she said, so what happened? He said, the Lord met me. All right. And this is what he told me.

Nobody was there to celebrate your return home. And this is why you're not home yet. Do you love that story, Siegfried? Do you love that story? You're not home yet. And as I was preparing this message, I'm not trying to relive again what happened last weekend, but I thought, my old buddy, Ron, he's finally home. And people are saying, do you think he's caught up to Lily yet? I think that Ron is so enraptured with the presence of Jesus that Lily is standing in line. He said, oh no, I think, no, no, no, no. I'm going to tell you out. He outshines them all. When John, who gave us the book of Revelation as the spirit of God moved him, when he saw Jesus in Jesus' heavenly state, he passed out. Just the sight of Jesus.

It wasn't the golden streets. It wasn't any of that stuff. It was just the sight of Jesus. It says he fell like one had just died. Somebody told me a silly little story recently about this fellow who said that he dreamed when he got to heaven, he was carrying this luggage with him. And he told the undertaker, bury me with this suitcase. It's gold. I've been saving all my life, gold bars. I'm taking it to heaven with me. And when he got up to the gate, the dream goes on that he met some angelic figure or who knows.

And he said, what do you got in your suitcase? And he started mumbling away and hesitating. He's got this luggage full of gold bars and the roads. He says, I thought you might need a little pavement repair around here. The streets are filled, are covered with gold. Who cares? Who cares? Jesus outshines the gold. You're not home yet. So this passage, fear not. Don't be afraid because I am preparing a place for you. This was spoken to the apostles and the very word apostles means sent ones, sent ones. As a father sent me, I'm sending you. And what did Jesus, what did Jesus experience as a sent one? He was really the very first, first sent one with the glorious news of redemption. And what did Jesus encounter?

Trouble, trouble, trouble. They tried to stone him. They downgraded him. They as much as cursed him. They hated him. And Jesus said to the father sent me, I'm sending you. You're going to be like sheep that are going to be attacked by wolves. You're going to have trouble, but don't let it get you down. The sent ones. Now this message was not just for the apostles. It's for us. We're right now in our country in a pile of trouble. And if you're not up to date on that, if you're watching the mass media, the big media, you have no idea what's going on.

Trust me. But those who are tracking in with independent media, who are not bought and traded and sold by government agencies, they're telling the real story. And our country is in for very, very, very, very difficult times. Spending, spending, spending out of a bank that's empty. We're just printing money. We're in for troublesome times. Pastor, don't talk like that. We need to face the reality. We cannot spend our way out of this abyss that we're in. And there's going to be trouble in our country. Trouble. And so how will we face it? I had lunch with a pastor this week.

He said, David, he said, I don't want to use the word fear, but he said, I don't know how I'm going to lead my congregation. I didn't bring this up. He did. He said, are you watching? Do you realize what's happening? Europe is collapsing right now. It's collapsing. And as sure as you can listen to me today, it's coming to this country. And how shall I, if you call me, how am I to respond? What am I to say? Well, Jesus already gave us something to say. You're going to run into trouble, whether you stay put or whether you do what I ask you to do. Go, the great commission, go and spread the gospel.

No matter what posture you take, we're all in for trouble. But Jesus said, don't let your hearts fail because of trouble. I'm with you always. I'll never leave you. I'll never forsake you. And do keep in mind, there is a tribulation coming. There is trouble like the world has never seen. And I'm sorry to tell you that there are many Christians, many pastors, some of them are my friends who believe that we are going to go through the tribulation, and they're totally ignoring some marvelous passage of scripture. We are not going through the tribulation. I don't believe it. But the word says we are not set up to experience great, great trial and tribulation. We're not set up for that. We're not going, we're not appointed.

We're not on the list to experience wrath. He's coming. And that's the hope. That's the hope that keeps us alive and keeps us going. Let not your heart be troubled. He said this to his disciples who are now about to become apostles, sent ones. Surely you're aware of it, been a Christian for years. You probably heard pastors speak about some of it we don't know for sure.

Most of it has been passed down to us through reliable historians. What the apostles did experience, what they did experience was horrendous. It was terrible. They paid a great price for their willingness to serve Jesus and spread the gospel. Jesus is preparing them for that.

Don't let your heart be troubled. You believe in God. You've always believed in God. I need you to trust me. I need you to believe me. Why did he have to push that one so hard? Well, they've always had a trust in the invisible God. They've always had a trust because of what Moses told them, of what the Pentateuch told them, of what happened during the Exodus and in Leviticus and Numbers and Deuteronomy. They're all familiar with that. But God to them was an invisible. But now they're confronted with the one who's the visible one. And he's trying to warn them, you can't even imagine God suffering for your sin. You can't even imagine what I'm going to go through.

And you need to not let that knock you down. You believe in God. You need to trust me. When you see me hanging naked on the cross, you've got to trust me. You've got to trust me. Don't let your heart be troubled to the point of desperation. You believe in God? Believe in me. No matter what your eyes tell you, no matter what your ears tell you, you believe in me. You know what the Bible says? Jesus told us that we're about to enter in, and I think we're already halfway there or more than halfway. The church is going to lose its way. The church is going to lose its way.

And it's already happening. It's already happening. The gospel is being set aside for what I think of as this book is being set aside and churches this morning all over this country are hearing Coles notes. Do you remember the bookstore called Coles? It was the abbreviated, it was the abbreviation of some book that you're supposed to study for university or whatever. The challenge is if you try and abbreviate this, what part are you going to leave out? Because every word in this book is divinely inspired and you and I have no right, no right whatsoever to pass along and change it. Do you know what the Bible printer is going to hold on to your Bible and never let it go? Do you know what they're going to do coming? You're going to say, pastor, you're full of crackers. I'm telling you right now, those people who are reconstructing society as we know it today, if this doesn't trouble you, it troubles me. I'm hanging on to this book right here because this book is divine truth. They're going to take out him for God.

I heard a preacher once, but recently, recently, who spoke this very clearly. God is transgender. I had a very good friend. She's gone to be with the Lord. Are you sure she's with the Lord, David? I believe that God forgave her. We were in Bible college together and she took me on. Her husband sat there and grinned like a cat that just ate a whole tin of sardines. He loved it when Dave and Phyllis got into it. She said, how do you know God is the masculine gender? I said, he is referred to constantly and he's known as the father. Well, this country is trying to eradicate the very word father because somebody who's of another strain, another, you're going to hurt their gentle little feelings. They want to get rid of the word father, get rid of the word mother.

We're heading in for very, very challenging times. Don't let your heart fade. The Bibles that are coming out soon are changing wherever God's name shows up. They're going to remove the word father. They remove every sense of gender. That's troubling. That's troubling.

What will happen to, who is it, the Bible society that puts those little red Bibles in motels? I don't know if they're still doing that. The Gideon. What kind of a book are they going to start putting in the motels? Salvation is here. It's not in Cole's notes.

Don't let your heart be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me because he's going to give them a reason to believe in my father's house are many residences. And if that was not true, I would have cleared it up a long time ago. I love the next words. I go to prepare a place for you. Have you got sort of a visual in your head? In my father's house are already many compartments, but for you, Peter, for you, James, for you, John, I'm going to go into construction as soon as I get home and I'm building a special place just for you. I go to prepare. So the word prepare doesn't just mean construct, design, erect. It means do it upright. You ladies like pink, put in your order. We had a fellow come this past week who's a member of our dreamer team that come on Tuesday evenings.

He's a painter. He's such a fine young man from Smithville. And he said, I said, will you come and you help me? I said, I haven't, I can paint, but I haven't got the time. I haven't got the time. You just got to come and help me. He said, what color? Do you have any particular colors? I said, not pink. That's all I said. I said, my name's David and I don't like pink. I don't believe my mansion, my house up, up there is going to have any pink in it. Watch this.

If I go, is that a question? No, he's not putting a question in there. I might go. Well, I might not. He said, I'm going. And that's the platform that I'm about to build something for you. He's not, if I go, he's not going to use the word when I go. He just says, I'm going. And if I go and I'm determined to go to prepare a place for you, watch this. I will come again and I will receive you to myself. So that where I am, there you may be also. And where I'm going, you know, you know. And the way to get there, you know.

This is the first mention of the rapture in the book. This is the first mention of the rapture. I'm going and then I'm coming. I'm going to go and prepare. And then I'm coming for you. So that where I am, you will be. Please notice, I will receive you to myself. He's not going to send a herd of angels to collect us. No, he says, I'm coming. I'm coming. And I'm coming to receive you. I'm coming to receive you. So that where I am, you can be also.

And where you go, where I go, you know, you're going. And so the rapture, the word rapture means pulled away. It means like a rocket pulled away in an instant. In an instant, we'll be pulled away. It's speaking of our bones in our grave or our dust in the urn. How's God going to work all that out? Let not your heart be troubled. He's not worried about all that stuff. What about Jerry that comes here frequently? He's only, he's down to one leg. We have so many Jerry's here that when I speak of them, I say, Jerry, they say, which Jerry? I say, Jerry, one leg. When he gets to heaven, he's going to have two legs.

Okay. The rapture is in the word. So a place for the sent ones. I'm going to prepare a place so I can receive you unto myself, a place for the sent ones. Because when he's sending them out, watch this. He's sending them away from their current homes and they'll never come back to their homes again. John died on the Isle of Patmos.

Peter ended up apparently crucified upside down. One of them was boiled alive in oil, or I think they tried to boil him and it didn't work. Please don't worry about never seeing your home again. I have a home for you. It's made just for you and I'm going to see to it. I have a home for you.

And then all of us believers, we have a home to go to so that our spirits go to be with him. Our soul spirit goes to be with him. And then he comes for our body. So remember this. The rapture is not the same thing as the second coming. The rapture, Jesus comes down. I'm going to use the word partway. He stops. He takes us home. In the second coming, he comes and he stays. He turns up the enemies, all of them that have attacked Israel, and he will set up his kingdom on earth and Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world and that will be his glorious throne. So the rapture comes to take our bodies out of our graves to be reunited with our souls. And then we come with him.

My favorite preacher, well I have so many of them, but one of my favorite preachers, Stuart Mulligan, preached a sermon in his church at Agincourt Pentecostal Church. April was present. I wasn't there that Sunday. And he called out and he said, April, how are you with riding horses? She said, I hate it. He said, get used to it. Stuart Mulligan had it that we're all going to ride on horses. Of course, then that brings up the question, so are there horses in heaven? And a little fellow down in the front row says, and what about my puppy? Don't go there. Don't go down that rabbit trail. Somebody gave me a book just a few hours ago, and the book is all about there's going to be your pet in heaven. I don't want to go there.

I'm interested in seeing Jesus and checking in with Moses. I want to talk to both the guy that survived the flood. You remember him, Noah? I'd like to tell him about the flood that happened in North St. Catharines recently and how horrendous it was. And somebody will say, you don't talk to him about that. Heaven's going to be glorious. We're going to see them all there. Hello. He'll be coming in a moment, the twinkling of an eye, the dead will be raised, and so shall we ever be with the Lord in our heavenly abode. A little bit of personal stuff here. The forest had a farm out near Hagersville on what's called the first line. My dad went off to serve in the Navy, and wouldn't you know it, the Air Force showed up at my forest farm, and they told my grandpa, who was struggling to run the farm now anyhow because his sons had gone off and established businesses, and then Reg, the last one, he headed off to serve in the Navy.

The Air Force showed up and said, Mr. Forest, here's a couple of thousand dollars. This is our farm where you go. And they turned the forest farm into a flying field where they trained Canadian fighter pilots for the Second World War. So my grandfather and my grandmother moved into the town of Hagersville, and they bought this house. So my dad came home from the Navy thinking he was going to go to the first line. He had to keep on going to downtown Hagersville. So then, of course, as a child, I ended up going to this house a lot. I would go there every summer, and I'd spend a couple or three weeks with my grandmother. I can't go through Hagersville without slowing down and looking at this house. This was my granny's home, and I can't explain it, but I felt this was my home. My grandmother spoke of Jesus.

I've told people in this church, but for the sake of those who are weren't here at one of the many times I said so, that when I would sleep in that house, beautiful summer mornings, and what awoke me in the morning was the sound of someone talking. The way that that house was heated was a grate in the floor, and my grandfather, when he wasn't spitting tobacco at it, my grandmother would say, Addison, please. My grandfather would go, he was so funny. I don't think there's tobacco in heaven, but I would roll over, and the grate, here's my pillow, and I roll over the side of the bed, and the grate was right there, right there, and as I looked down through the grate, my grandmother didn't plan this.

This is how it worked. When I looked through the grate, there was my grandmother kneeling at an old wooden chair, and she was praying for her family, so I listened to pray for Earl, and for Jack, and for Reg, and after she got past her sons and her daughters, then she went through the grandchildren, and I would listen keenly when she would say, and oh, Reg and Marion, those two precious boys. I thought, oh, that's me, and my grandmother would pray specifically for David. That was my best bed of all time, because that's where I pray for me, so about two years ago, I'm driving along the street, and I've never done this before, but I pulled in that driveway. That's the garage at the back. You see, that belongs to the house. I pulled in, and I went, and I knocked on the door, and a gentleman, elderly gentleman, opened the door, and he said, What can I do for you? I said, My name's David Forrest. Forrest? Yes, sir.

He said, I bought this house after your grandpa died. He said, While your grandpa was alive, he said, I talked to him and said, Addison, you're going to go before me. I want this house. There's something special about it, and he said, When your grandpa died, he said, I went and knocked on the door the moment the funeral was over. He said, I attended that funeral, but he said, I went, and I said, I left word with Addison. I want to buy the house. He said, They're very kind to me, and they sold me this house. He said, What are you doing here today? I said, Sir, this is my favorite house, my favorite house of all time. I said, I feel more at home right here than anywhere else. I said, I spent hours on this porch. I said, I could tell you what was in behind the farm that's out. I used to go out there and watch old Mr.

Webb milk the cows. I said, This is my favorite house, sir. He said, You want to come in? I said, He said, I haven't made very many changes. I said, Thank you, sir. He said, You want to see upstairs? I said, There's a bedroom I want to see. He said, Go ahead. As I approached the stairs and I stepped up on the first step, I put my hand on the railing. Now, this is not a picture of my grandmother and grandfather's house, trust me, but this is the closest railing that I could find on the internet. But it's very obvious to me that my grandfather crafted the railing. He built the tabernacle, if you knew it, the original tabernacle at Brayside Camp. My grandpa hewed the beams and put that thing together.

He was a very crafty fellow, something like myself. And so what he had done is he crafted a hickory, a long dowel around, you know what I'm trying to say, a long strip of wood, all nicely polished. And it was hanging on the wall with kind of a makeshift couple of metal. And you can see on that picture there, there's maybe four or five metallic things that are hanging down. But that one, there was only a couple on them, a couple that were hanging onto it. And as I put my hand on that bar and I stepped up,

I went like this at it and yes, it rattled. And the old gentleman said, you know, Mr. Forrest, I've been meaning to fix that thing for 40 years. I said, sir, you fix that railing and I'll never speak to you again. I said, that really needs to be loose like that. I said, my grandmother, my grandfather never repaired it. Please just, he said, well, I'll leave it just like that for you. When I went upstairs, I looked through the grate.

My grandmother was not there. That house to me was home, something inviting, something that I cherish. Whoops. How did these people get in here? We have three. Sherry, if you were at the funeral the other day, she led the worship. She's the oldest. Then the next one is our son. His name is David and he's in a pulpit this morning, just east of Kingston. So proud of that boy. And then there's this one. Her name is Melanie Jane. But when she was a babe, her brother couldn't pronounce her name.

We said, Melanie. And he said, me, me. I said, no, Melanie, Mimi. I said, okay, Mimi. She's still my Mimi. What's that got to do with house? She taught me a very difficult lesson. Mimi and Dave Jr. decided on the same day to head off to Edmonton, Alberta to study for the ministry. Dave came back eventually to Ontario and he's pastoring down in Brockville right now. But Mimi Jane never came back. Why should I be surprised? Because I did it.

All of a sudden we were living in this lovely home that I had purchased in Brantford, about five doors from Alexander Graham Bell's original house. He still lived there when I was there. I'd see him walking his poodles. Mimi's gone. Dave's gone. Sherry's married. We got this big house we're looking after. Friends came over to see us by the name of Krulik. And he said to us on a New Year's Eve, what are you guys doing with this big house? April said, I don't know. She said, Dave is in Africa. I never see him anymore. I live in this house.

I take care of this house. I have to take care of everything. So we got down on the floor that night, New Year's Eve, doesn't matter what year. And we prayed. And I said, Lord, if it's your will that this house be sold, you got to send a buyer. Because I don't know how to figure this thing. I love this house. I don't want to let it go. But if you send me a buyer, I'll sell it. 48 hours later is a knock at our door. And it's a fellow, doesn't matter his name. He'd heard of me, didn't know me, knew who I was. And he said, I have it on my front porch.

I have it. He said that you and your wife live here alone and she's managing this all by herself. Would you be in the mood to sell? I said, come on in. And we signed a deal that night, sold the house. And we moved to Alberta. But the way we went to Alberta is I hauled some furniture out there in an open carriage, on an open wagon, lost an axle. Truck drivers were calling me. Doesn't matter. That's a dumb story. I had several accidents hauling our furniture. And then I came back for April and we rode on my Kawasaki 1200, April and I together on the motorcycle. And I bought myself a 32, 35 foot motor home because I'm an evangelist and I'm traveling for the Lord.

And April, you're going to travel with me. And one winter we spent in Calgary, 45 below, and we lived in the motor home with blankets up around all of the walls, sitting there. Mom, we were in love. And on one particular day, the cell phone rang in my motor home. April answered it. Some of you've heard this.

And she says, oh, David, it's Mimi. I said, great. Say hi from dad. We didn't have a speaker phone in this thing. It was an original, right? And so, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And then April says, she wants to know where we are.

I said, well, we're just south of Fargo, North Dakota. Melody wants to know, is Fargo, North Dakota on this planet? And I thought, ouch, I'm in trouble. Why does she want to know that? April's sitting there saying, uh-huh, uh-huh. See, April's not impressed with any of this by now. She didn't want anything to do with the motor home. She wanted a nice little white painted picket fence. She just wanted her pots and pans where she could find them. And here we're rolling down the highway in this big buggy. April turns and says to me, she's mad because we gave her dog Sandy to the couple. He was here a few months ago. He goes to Eastern Europe and he preaches as a missionary.

They came to visit us and we said, take Melanie's dog. She's not coming back. She's in college. And the doggie's missing her. So you take the dog. We sold her bed. We got rid of an awful lot of furniture. Melanie, Mimi is mad. You got rid of her dog. Who got my dog? You got rid of my bed? How could you do that to me? April's kind of putting this back and forth.

I got a white knuckle grip on the steering wheel. And then the big question, if I want to go home, do I go to North Dakota? That was a fair question. And April looked at me and said, David, she wants to know where home is. Well, home was here. Then it was here. We moved in my ministry since 1968. We have moved 35 times. My wife says I've got the McKenzie foot. I don't know what that means. But my little Melanie taught me a great lesson. Everybody needs a home. Everybody needs a home.

It's so important. In my father's home, there are many little homes. There's lots of them. But I have an idea. There needs to be a few more. So I'm going to go to my father's home, and I'm going to build a really nice spot for you. Home. Things are going to get difficult in this country. Keep home. Keep home as a focal point for you. That's where Jesus is right now, preparing a place for us. We need to remember that at a funeral. I told Ron Quinn's brother at the casket as it was being lowered into the ground.

I said, Bruce, do you know your brother is alive? And poor Bruce stood there staring at me. He didn't know what to do with that. He knew exactly what I meant. I said, Bruce, Ron's alive right now, and he's very aware. And I said, I'll tell you what's concerning him in heaven. Are there any tears in heaven? It says he'll wipe away all our tears. But I said to Bruce, he's waiting for you. I grabbed a hold of the lapel in his jacket, and I gave a tug. And with my other hand, I put my finger almost up his nostril, and I said, he's waiting for you, and don't you disappoint him. Ron's home, and he wants you there, Bruce. Before I left him at the end of the service in that church, we had one more chat.

And I said, Bruce, I welcome the day when you call me and say you want to talk. He as much as said, stand by your phone. He didn't say it, but that's what came across. And when I talked to him, I'm going to tell him, in my father's house, there are many homes. How's your father doing? My father's preparing things for me, and I've made a reservation.

And I've told you many times, you'd be a fool to go out on the road like I did on our honeymoon night. Very first night, I didn't plan ahead. I just thought motels are everywhere. Well, it was Labor Day weekend, and there weren't motels anywhere. I hadn't made a reservation. Shame on me. But I've made this reservation.

But I know him. I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day. Do you know that song? Would you stand with me? And Linda, I guess I need you pretty bad. It's in that skeleton key. She's amazing. You watch this. She'll have that key in. You can do the seconds if you want, one, two, three, there it is. But I know him. I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day. Oh, I know him.

I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day. Is there a verse for that at the top? Is there a verse, Matt? I know not why God's wondrous grace to me he has made known, nor why unworthy Christ in love redeem me for his own. But I know, but I know whom I have believed and I'm persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against. Do I dare ask for one more verse? I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart, nor how believing in his word brought peace within my heart. But I know, but I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day. I'm going to close now. I'm going to close with this. Just leave that up there, please. Leave it up there. I'm persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed to.

Is he keeping something for you? Do you know him? Have you made that commitment to him? He's anxious to go into a partnership with you, a partnership where he says, I'm preparing a place for you, but you got to be dressed right to go to that place. And that dress is my provision through your commitment to me. I'll give you a robe of righteousness. Your clothes from the world are filthy. We're all there. We've all lived in the ditch. I told a man the other day, I would be afraid if somebody was going to put up on this screen. I said this, I'd be afraid if somebody put up on this screen pictures, videos of my life in the past. You don't want to know. I'd be so embarrassed.

I needed a robe of righteousness. I needed to be cleansed from my sin. If I wasn't serving God today, I might've been living common law. That's a sin. I would have been lost. My soul would have been still in darkness, but I made a commitment to him about all my things and all my ways, about my language, about my demeanor, about my, I don't want to be loving money. I want to love April and I want to love you and I want to serve God with all my heart. I've committed and I am counting on my commitment to him for him to fulfill his commitment to me. He and I have a love pact. He loved me first and now I love him. Every head bowed, every eye closed just for a moment. I'm about to close in prayer. Is there one person who wants to say, David, I've not committed to him about that day, that day where he's going to take me home?

Is there anybody feeling like that right now? Just lift up your hand. Don't say a word. Don't move. Just lift up your hand. And that says, David, pray for me today. I think my soul's in trouble. Just lift your hand. God bless you. Is there anyone else? It's okay. You can pull your hand down.

I just need to see it just for that moment. Anyone else says, David, you better pray for me. Yes, I'm not sure about my reservation. Thank you. Is there anyone else? Is there anyone else? Dear Jesus, I thank you for these people today who have been moved in their hearts. Lord, we know what the word is called. It's called conviction. It's persuaded that I'm not ready. It's a persuasion. I need Jesus more than ever before. And, Lord, if these people made some kind of a commitment to you in times past, they're anxious right now to renew that commitment. And, Lord, I celebrate that here and now.

I celebrate that with them. So, Lord Jesus, I pray with this person, these persons. I pray with them this prayer. Dear Jesus, pray it in your heart. Dear Jesus, in so many ways my life has been a failure. It's called sin, and I acknowledge. But, Lord Jesus, I also acknowledge I understand you died and paid the price, the penalty for my waywardness, my sin. And now you're offering me forgiveness. You're offering me the opportunity for my slate to be wiped clean. So, Jesus, I acknowledge you now, and I surrender all to you. I make that commitment. I want that reservation in heaven to be secure. Thank you for the promises of God.

All the promises are sealed by the Lord Jesus himself.

He is the amen to this prayer.

Everyone said amen.