

MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume XI

November 17, 2019

No. 46

Experience God

Russ Bowman

Twice in the last month, I've run across "religious advertising" that has featured the phrase that entitles this article. In one instance, a local religious organization was promoting some kind of holiday program and the banner in front of their facility invited the general public to "Come Experience God". The other circumstance is a bit more pronounced and permanent, as one of the prominent "community churches" in Beaumont has erected a high-tech sign outside of their building which features not only their name, but an electronic billboard as well. And between the two, they have also included the words "Experience God".

I recognize that I'm not the smartest guy in town. But I'm not completely uneducated and illiterate, so I'm having some difficulty with the aforementioned concept. Just what does it mean to "experience God"? I understand the concept of "experience". I've experienced the thrill of flying in a WWII fighter plane. I've experienced kidney stones and knee surgery. I've experienced the nervousness that comes from speaking before a large audience. I've experienced the loss of loved ones; anger over injustice; the awe of watching three daughters be born into the world; the love of a good wife. I've experienced a hole in one and a sub-par round of golf. I've experienced friendship; dating; parenthood; drought; hunger; elation; hair loss; bad coffee. I've experienced a lot of things. The concept defined means "a particular instance of personally encountering or undergoing something." We experience events or perhaps sensations, particular circumstances or activities. We don't experience people. That is not to say that we cannot have experiences with people, or even experience things along with people. But we don't experience people.

I've never heard someone use such language with regard to another animate object. I haven't "experienced" Tracy, though we've shared some experiences and I definitely have experience with her. I was almost thrown from an Arabian stallion named "Bando" one time, and while someone might try to argue that I had "experienced" Bando, it would be accurate only to say that I had experienced what Bando could do to me – his strength or even the influence of his demeanor. But I can't experience a horse, or a dog, or one of my kids. Or God.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz.....(256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm(256) 278-1977
Danny Holt(256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell.....(256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris.....(256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl.....(256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

It occurs to me that the advertising above is pandering to the unquenchable appetite of our generation for that which entertains, fascinates, or captivates us. We are becoming a people given to what is sensual or sensuous. And I don't mean what is merely sexual. I mean that we are given to whatever arouses our emotions, our senses, our attention. We want to be moved, amazed, enthralled, immersed in the sights, sounds, smells, feelings of those things going on around us. So much of our culture is aimed at the tantalization of the senses. We are bombarded by visual and auditory stimulation – we stare at computer screens and televisions; we are constantly tethered to ipods and cellular phones; we lose ourselves in virtual reality video games. We live to be entertained. We want the rush of experience, and we live for the next thrill. We are losing our ability to think, to meditate, to reflect, to contemplate. That which is not dramatic becomes mundane, boring, even unbearable. No stimulation? No thanks.

And so, here we are, advertising that which is completely and utterly impossible. God is not an event or a circumstance. He is a being – a person if you will, though divine in nature rather than human. Technically, He is three divine beings, but that is really another issue. My point is that He cannot be “experienced” any more than you or I can. We can have experience with Him. We can experience a relationship with Him. But He is not to be considered on an equal plane with Space Mountain at Disneyworld or a pheasant hunt in South Dakota. Jesus didn't die on the cross so that our senses might be tingled or that we might have some existential or transcendental experience. He is a divine Personality Who designed and created us and with whom we have lost our association due to our own propensity for selfishness and immorality. He is kind and gracious to the point that He has made great sacrifices so that we can once again enjoy fellowship with Him. And He has the power to provide to His people an eternal and incorruptible body so that we might experience everlasting life in association with Him in heaven. That is the experience which He offers.

In the meantime, what He asks of us in this relationship is pretty mundane compared to much of the world's enticements. Discipleship certainly has its satisfactions, but it does not appeal to the thrill of sensuous satiation. God doesn't promise that every day will be emotional nirvana. In fact, He promises that some of the experiences that grow out of my association with Him will be frankly unpleasant – persecution, sacrifice, suffering, self-denial are pretty much guaranteed events at some

point in the life of a godly man. Worship, even though it may prompt great emotions in us, is not designed as some dramatic catalyst to an adrenaline rush. It is the honest outpouring of honor and gratitude from forgiven men as we offer to God our appreciation – in accordance with His revealed desires. And in so doing, we teach each other and remind each other and encourage each other regarding this association with God that we have chosen. And, hopefully, He is satisfied and pleased with us.

I find it both reprehensible and sad that we have so digressed in our views of God. I wonder if He stands insulted. Or merely marvels at our pitiable sensuality.

~via *In Remembrance*; Edmond, Oklahoma.



Essentials In Prayer

Leland R. Ping

It is important for Christians to remember that prayer is a central component of who we are as servants of God. To fully appreciate its power and place in our lives, we must also be careful so as to not only look at prayer through a New Testament lens. That is, we can't only think of communicating to God in terms of what we learn in the New Testament but must take advantage of what is said about prayer in the longer, more detailed Old Testament. In the first chapter of Nehemiah, we read a passionate prayer of the great man himself as he spoke to God. In reading this prayer, we learn a number of essentials for effective prayer today.

First, prayer isn't intended to be a, “One-time and done” event. Note that in Nehemiah 1:4 that Nehemiah says that he mourned, wept, fasted, and prayed for many days. Nehemiah certainly had something to be sad about and the same is true today. With that being the case, we should not expect to simply pray to God once and then never appeal to Him again. Great men of prayer seek God often!

Second, prayer should include ardent praise of our wonderful Creator. In verse five of the same chapter, Nehemiah describes God as both “great and awesome.” And, this great man of God considers God as **The One** who is faithful to consistently keep His merciful promises. When we go to God in prayer, we ought to never forget

that we are speaking to **The God** of all creation. He is spectacular and it's important that we take the time to acknowledge that fact.

Third, there's no reason to pray to God unless one is ready to be fully transparent with Him. Nehemiah acknowledged both his sins and those of the people by confessing their sinfulness (Nehemiah 1:6-7). When we pray, we should be like Nehemiah and learn from his humility as we speak to the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator.

Finally, our prayers should acknowledge our knowledge of God, His will, and His commandments. Note the Nehemiah spoke of God's "commandments" and called Israel His "servants," clearly expressing his understanding of God's plans for His people. When we pray, we should not do so to "tell God" about His own plans — indeed, He is a very self-aware God who knows what He's about. Yet, when we see great men in the Bible speaking to Him and acknowledging His plans, it tells us that we should do the same.

Let us use this passage to help us pray more fervently to our wonderful God, knowing what a privilege it is to do so!

~via *Lake Elsinore church of Christ*, Lake Elsinore, California.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Margaret Vaughn	Vicki Stringer
Allison Usery	Weston Gregory
Declan Adams	Beverly Sutton
Helen Blankenship	James Adams
David Terry	Larry Mitchell
Minnie Carter	JoAnn Gilbert
Loretta Warner	Bobbie Adcock
Alvis McLemore	Doris Lovell
Yvonne Strickland	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker

Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Gene Carpenter
Brittany Bates Carter	Denny Smith
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Johnnie Leigeber, rm. 121
Brenda Wilson, rm. 73	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Mot Beasley, rm. 105	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
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Shut-In or Away From Home:

Elease Barksdale, Limestone Lodge
 Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge
 Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor
 Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
 Bettye Harrison, Traditions
 Irene Inman, at home
 Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison
 Stan Stanford, at home
 William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

David Terry received news that he has bone cancer. He is at home with hospice... *Margaret Vaughn* has been sick and unable to be at services... *Vicki Stringer* has been unable to be at services following her treatments last week... *Marty Adams* was able to be back at services Wednesday night... *Weston Gregory* has been sick this past week and unable to be out... *Declan Adams* has also been sick... *Helen Blankenship* continues to be monitored with a heart monitor... *James Adams* was able to be back at Bible study Wednesday night after being out with his back... *Larry Mitchell* was able to be at service last Sunday morning ... *Minne Carter* has been having trouble with her blood pressure. She is improving from her injuries sustained in a fall, but will continue to wear a brace four more weeks ... *Michael Vaughn* had gall-bladder surgery last week ... *Kim Rogers niece, Carrie Warner*, is continuing treatments for cervical cancer.

PICTURES: We are needing to finish the process of making and updating pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. If you have not had your picture

made yet or have not updated it, please do so this week or next Pictures will be made in room 20 in the east wing after services.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: As it was announced last Sunday evening, *Duane & Marcia Thomas* have expressed their desire to be a part of the work at Market Street. They have been visiting with us for a while and we are glad to have them working along with us. Let us all give Duane and Marica a warm welcome.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* will meet tomorrow night, November 18th, at 7:00p.m. We will be studying "*Change or Accept.*"

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* meets on Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium. They are studying "*Angels.*"

HOLIDAY PARTY: The Annual Holiday party and potluck is scheduled for **December 13th at 7:00p.m.** It will be at the *Deer Trail Clubhouse.* There are sheets with information located at the entrance of the building.. If you have any questions, you can see *Marilyn Bradley* or *Marcella Coblentz.*

SYMPATHY: We want to express our sympathy to *Margaret Carter and Paul Adcock* in the passing of their aunt and *Bobbie Adcock's sister-in-law, Oetta Wales Adcock,* this past Monday morning. Her funeral was Thursday at McConnell Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery. May the Lord bless all the family during this time.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:
Kenneth Adams, University of Alabama - Huntsville
Keenon Currier, Auburn University
Clayton Hamm, University of North Alabama
Griffin Holt, University of Alabama
Elizabeth Usery, Mississippi State University
Matthew Usery, University of North Alabama

OUTOFTOWN: *Ida Nell Griffin* is with Athens Bible School senior class as they travel to Washington, D.C. and New York... *The Ashes: Harold and Barb* have been in Gulf Shores.... *Christian Usery* is in Long Beach, California with his work.

WORK GROUPS: **Work Group Two** will be meeting after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Nov. 10th:*
 Sunday: Bible Classes 127
 Morning Worship 165
 Evening Worship 113

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, November 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer..... Harold Ash
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Joel Hamm
 Assisting Albert Haraway
 Serving Clayton Hamm ...Matthew Vaughn
 Charles Vaughn Harold Davis
 Closing Prayer Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Marty Adams
 Song Leader Bob Broadus
 Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
 Closing Prayer Tommy Coblentz

Other Assignments for the week of November 17th:

Ushers..... Nathaniel Adams/Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, November 20th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading Roger Hammonds
 Hebrews 4:11-16
 Prayer..... Bob Broadus
 Invitation Larry Tucker
 Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Sunday, November 24th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer..... Terry Andrews
 Preaching..... David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding..... Harvey Nixon
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Heath Dollar Sam Gregory
 Tim Griswold..... Matthew Usery
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Tucker
 Song Leader Larry Holt
 Prayer..... Joel Hamm
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Harvey Nixon
 Closing Prayer Bill Eden

Other Assignments for the week of November 24th:

Ushers..... Russ Wulfekuhl/Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System..... Landon Adams