

Morning Worship

September 2, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano —

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Scripture Reading Psalm 119:166-168

Don/People

Hymn # 621 *Lead on, O King Eternal*

Don/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People Chorus #499

Open our Eyes, Lord

Don/People

Missions Moment **Missouri Missions Offering** (Intro)

Hymn # 139

At the Cross

Don/People

Hymn # 576 *Take the Name of Jesus with You*

Don/People

Offering Prayer

John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Special Music

Kelsey Lane

Children's Worship

(Back from Summer Break)

Message

God's Abiding Presence

Allan Lane

Hymn # 275

I Surrender All

Don/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 139

At the Cross

Don/People

God's Abiding Presence

Colossians 1:11-29

As we have spoken about experiencing God at work in our lives, we have identified seven realities associated with knowing and doing God's will. These aren't original since Henry Blackaby based his entire study on *Experiencing God* on these seven realities.

1. *God is always at work around us.*

2. *God pursues a continuing love relationship with us that is real and personal.*

3. *God invites us to become involved with Him in his work.*

4. *God speaks by His Holy Spirit through His Word, through prayer, through circumstances, and through His church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.*

5. *God's invitation for us to join Him in His work will always lead us to a "crisis of belief" that requires faith and action.*

6. *We will have to make adjustments in our life in order to join God in what He is doing.*

7. *We come to know God by experience as we obey Him and He accomplishes His work through us.*

Today, we conclude this series by thinking together about reality number seven - obeying God. Once we recognize the call of God, we must then decide whether or not we believe God can enable us to do that which He is calling us to be a part. Having

affirmed our faith in the Lord, we then adjust our lives in order to be in a position to obey. Obedience is crucial, for without it, we will never do the will of God and experience His working in our lives.

Yes, we must obey the call of God if we are going to experience the working of God. In our text we see three things within the life of the Apostle Paul that point us to discovering God's will.

1. Experience .

The time comes when it is no longer good enough to know about something; you want to experience it directly. The moment comes when it just does not satisfy to have only an arm's length relationship to something or someone. The only thing that will satisfy is a first-hand, up close and personal, immediate encounter. Ellen and I are blessed to have some of our family with us today. We haven't seen them for a couple months, and as you may know, babies change almost every day. Well, thanks to modern technology, we get occasional pictures and have facetime visits with them, but it's just not the same as getting to look them in the eyes and hug them and love on them.

Now we saw them a couple months ago, but after a while those memories began to fade. After a while all those things no longer satisfy. After a while we want to go there, or for them to come here so we can see them personally. So they were able to come for this weekend, and guess what! It was far better to be with them than just to see them on the phone. It is always far better to experience something than just to have second-hand information.

That's always true. If you don't think so, then, try encouraging some young man to spend Saturday night staring at his girlfriend's picture instead of asking that lovely young lady out for a date. See if that satisfies him. Or have him ask her to stay home staring at his picture! If you don't think firsthand experience beats anything else, then I suggest that on Thanksgiving, instead of eating that turkey dinner, you just pick up the food section of the newspaper and read about turkey. Would that be good enough? I don't think so! Or I suggest that instead of singing a piece of music, just pick up the score and read it. Next Sunday, instead of Bro. Don leading us in singing, He can just say, "Now let's all read silently Hymn No. whatever." Would that work? No! Knowing about something is far, far from experiencing it. The day comes when we just do not get satisfaction from talking about something; we want to experience it.

We have been talking for a few weeks about experiencing God. We have talked and listened. But the danger is that we may still be substituting talking about God for knowing God. We may be doing theology but not doing prayer. We may dream of evangelistic strategies, but that's not sharing our faith personally. We may come to see videos about missions and study issues about ministry needs, but nothing beats actually going somewhere when we are needed. It's much too easy to let second-hand stuff get in the way of the real thing. It's much too easy to substitute mere theory for the experience of God's presence.

I tell you, that won't do for me anymore. That just won't do. I want to feel something. I want to sense something. I want to go beyond playing church. I want to know God. I want something authentic. It does happen, you know. How can it happen?

There is a clue in what Paul writes to the Colossians:

a. Paul said it comes from Suffering .

b. Paul said it leads to Sacrifice .

c. Paul said it produces Rejoicing .

Paul says he was rejoicing. That's experience. That's real. How did it happen? He says, first, it came from suffering and sacrifice. Then he says it came from serving according to God's commission. That's called obedience. Then he says he was doing this to complete what was lacking for the sake of the body of Christ, the church, completing what needed to be done for the church. That's fulfillment. Experience, obedience, and fulfillment.

Listen again to the seventh and final principle of the Experiencing God discipline: "You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you." "You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you."

In other words, knowing God is not just a feeling. It's not just a buzz. It's something you discover when you give yourself to God's work in His church. What is it that God wants to accomplish in His church through you and me?

I read about this church that got a new boiler heating system installed. Because it was computer controlled, and the information is sent over telephone lines, the contractor monitored it for a while. Somebody somewhere was watching a computer screen, and, if something was going wrong, they could call them and tell them they had a problem.

Well, one Sunday morning they had a baptismal service. The baptistery was filled out of the boiler. The pastor was just getting out of the water when the church phone rang. Well, the pastor was still in the back and not in the sanctuary, so he answered it. It was a guy at the monitoring service who said, in a panicky voice, "You'd better do something. You'd better do it right away. You've lost your hot water. The water temperature has dropped suddenly and I don't know what to tell you. Maybe you have a leak. Hurry! Hurry! Get down to your boiler room right away." The pastor just laughed. He said, "Do you know anything about baptisms? The reason the system went into alarm is that we just used all the hot water filling our baptismal pool." But the monitor was still panicky, "Well, but, it's gone. You need to do something. You have *sacrificed* your hot water." Sacrificed? The pastor couldn't help but think how interesting that he used the word, "sacrificed." He said, "It'll be all right. It'll recover. It's just the shock any system gets when we drain it of everything in order to do God's work. But it will recover." And, of course, it did.

Obedience to God's commands always means sacrifice. It just does. I don't think there is any way around that. But I will tell you that once you get over the initial shock of sacrifice, you do recover, and you find that it was all worthwhile. The trouble is that a lot of us go into panic at the first sign of hardship, and thus we cut off the experience. We short-circuit our experience of God because we get scared. We get scared of paying the price of sacrifice and obedience.

I wish I could tell you that experiencing God would be cheap. It isn't. God's grace is free; you cannot possibly buy it. But until we sacrifice something precious to us, our experience of God's presence will be faint and dim, only a hint of what it could be. Experiencing God requires obedient sacrifice. It may be a shock at first. And yet, when we sacrifice, God replenishes. We do recover.

That is why Paul even rejoices in his losses and his sufferings for the sake of the church. He knows that whatever he spends, in one way or another, it will be repaid. Whatever he gives, it will be replenished. But the way to experience God is to obey Him. "You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you."

2. Obedience .

a. Timely .

When should you obey God? When you receive His command. Just like the little girl said in Sunday School during their class's study of the Lord's Prayer. In discussing the request, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," the teacher asked, "How do you think God's will is done in heaven?" The little girl answered, "I think it is done right away."

Jesus said, "Walk while you have the Light [keep on living by it], so that darkness may not overtake and overcome you." - John 12:35 (Amplified)

Every moment you hesitate to follow the call of God, is a moment you risk wandering around in darkness. Every moment you hesitate to follow the call of God is a moment you risk wasting your life, rather than investing your life. Therefore, you need to commit yourself to living life, walking in whatever light God has given you to walk in today.

The headlights of your car do not shine all the way from your car to your eventual destination. They shine a certain distance, which, when you have traveled that distance, you find that they shine out further. It is the same way with walking in the light God gives. If you want to receive more light from the Lord tomorrow, you must walk in the light he gives you today.

b. Total .

True obedience is total obedience. That is why it is important to wait on the Lord to discern HOW He wants us to do what he is calling us to do. God's will must be done God's way.

To obey God, I must be willing to make the necessary adjustments, changes, or sacrifices required. But my motivation to do so comes from knowing that if I will give to God a full measure of obedience, I will receive a full measure of blessing.

DL Moody was the most prominent evangelist of his day, but when he first began to serve the Lord he could barely read and write. Yet, he went on to become one of the most powerful evangelists in the history of the church.

Although he had many limitations, he believed that he worked for a God who has no limitations. Early in his ministry he learned the powerful truth that shaped everything he did - he realized that God can use any Christian who is totally committed to Him.

In the early years of his ministry DL Moody, while on holiday in England, heard the British evangelist, Henry Varley say "The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him."

"Moody thought to himself; 'Henry said 'a man.' He did not say a great man, nor a learned man, nor a rich man, nor a wise man, nor an eloquent man, nor a smart man, but simply a man.' I am a man, and it lies with the man himself whether he will or will not make that entire and full consecration. I will try my uttermost to be that man."

When a Christian surrenders himself unreservedly to God, He is free to work unreservedly through him. Our great God can do extraordinary work through very ordinary people.

c. Transforming .

As illustrated by the blessings promised the people of Israel if they obeyed God, true obedience will release the power of God. Specifically, it is the power of God that transforms us and those around us.

3. Fulfillment .

a. It comes from Love .

Humorist Erma Bombeck, writing in the last months of her life, when she knew she did not have long to live, asked herself, "If I had my life to live over, what would I

change?" In her inimitable way, she put her finger on something important. She said that she would spend more time romping in the field with her children and less time washing out grass stains. That she would stop and admire the crayon squiggles on the wall instead of yelling about the extra housework they created. That she would attend more school plays and music-torturing recitals in which her kids performed, and less time standing around cocktail parties trying to impress people she didn't know with knowledge she didn't have. And, said she, she would tell her husband how much she loved him instead of urging him to pull in his paunch and comb his hair over his bald spot.

In a word, Erma Bombeck tells us, she would invest more time in love. Fulfillment comes from love. And love takes time. Love is the investment of time and energy, heart and hand.

b. It requires an Investment .

Your church will never be as important to you as it should until you put time and work, love, into it. God will never mean what God should mean for you until you put time and work, love, into God's purposes. Paul says that he did what he did for the sake of Christ's body, the church. I make no apologies whatsoever, then, for asking you to invest time in this church. God will not be real to you until you attempt to do God's work. Our task here is to open up an experience with God for every person within our reach. Our vision is to be redemptive for every person whose life we can intersect. That can only be done with every one of you at work. Your experience of God's grace and power is going to be measured, too, by how much time and love and energy you invest.

Some of us are just going to have to change some priorities. Like Erma Bombeck, we are going to have to look at what we are doing and find out that doing something for others in the name of Christ takes precedence over lots of other things. That's what Paul is speaking of when he says, "So that we may present everyone mature in Christ, for this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me."

Conclusion

The last time I checked, our world was in need of transformation. The last time I checked, I was in need of transformation. That is why we need to experience God at work in our lives. To experience God, we must...

Believe He is always at work; that He is pursuing a personal love relationship with us; that He invites us to join Him in the work He is doing; that He is calling us to new steps of obedience in our walk with Him so that we might join in His work; that He can enable us to do what he is calling us to do; that any adjustment required to obey God is worthwhile; and that as I obey Him, He will accomplish His work in and through me.

Perhaps like me you have reached a place in life where you don't have time to waste. It's time to toil and struggle with all the energy that we possess to teach Christ, to preach Christ, to share Christ, and, yes, to experience Christ. Nothing else will satisfy. No more second-hand Christ, but Christ first. No more stories about God, but God at hand. No more church mechanics, church administration, church politics, church busy-ness. Instead of just doing the work of the church, how about being the church, being the body of Christ while fulfilling God's purpose.

We come to know God by experience as we obey Him and He accomplishes His work through us. Find something to do. Tell us about it. Are you experiencing Him, first-hand, up front, in His church? We have much to do. We need you. You need us. Together we need Christ. And we will meet Him, if we obey Him and let Him accomplish, fulfill, His work through us. Experience, obedience, and fulfillment. "You

come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you."

How many times have we walked through life blindly without knowing the purpose for what we do? One of golf's immortal moments came when a Scotsman demonstrated this new game of golf to President Ulysses S. Grant. Carefully placing the ball on the tee, the Scotsman took a mighty swing. The club hit the turf and scattered dirt all over the President's beard and the surrounding vicinity, while the ball waited patiently on the tee.

Again the Scotsman swung and again he hit the ground. Our president waited patiently through six swings and then quietly stated: "There seems to be a fair amount of exercise in the game, but I fail to see the purpose of the ball."

President Grant made a statement that could be true about many lives. There seems to be a fair amount of exercise but fail to see the purpose. How many people have much activity in their lives yet little or no progress? For all the busy-ness in each of our lives, are you getting anywhere? Are you going anywhere? Is there a purpose for it all? Purpose gives meaning to our lives. It gives one the ability to say, "I know why I'm doing what I'm doing!" And the Question needs to be asked: Are you living or are you just existing? There is a difference; a tremendous difference. Living has been defined as "vigorous, alive and full of life." Existing is defined as "to have being." To just being there.

How many are just existing and not truly living life? So many wake up and follow a routine every day. They go about their business, but they have no real sense of purpose in their lives. Their happiness - their fulfillment of life depends largely on others or on circumstances. If they were completely honest, they would admit that inside they are empty they are not filled to the brim with life.

Today, will you obey God?

Be the Body of Christ!

Seek to Know Him More

Perhaps the biggest news of the week has been that US Senator John McCain died. We can go to any internet search engine and type in his name to discover the basic facts about his life. For example, he was born August 29, 1936 and died August 25, 2018, just 4 days from turning 82 years old. He was born in the Panama Canal Zone where his father, Navy Admiral John McCain, Jr., was stationed when it was still under American control. As a member of the Navy during the Vietnam War he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. McCain's father and grandfather were both four-star US Navy admirals. They were the first father and son to achieve this rank.

You know, we can research all kinds of details about Senator McCain's life, but I never met the man and I'm sure you never either. While he has been a public figure for at least four decades, none of us knew him nor do we even know someone who knew him. We know the facts, but we don't know the person.

Many people who come to church are in the exact same position. They could say that they know what the Bible says. They could say that they know who Jesus was or is. They may even say that they met Jesus once. But can they honestly say, "I know Jesus personally as the Son of God and currently have a friendship or relationship with Him."

If we were honest, we all could look back over our lives and see that there have been times when the rules and religious aspect of our faith was stronger than the relationship in it. That is, haven't we all stumbled and lost our focus at times? Haven't we worried more about what people would say rather than what God would think? Haven't we all been caught up with doing things for Him instead of spending time with Him? Have we not all lost our focus at some time or other and thought, "If I just do this, Jesus will love me more?"

The descent from relationship to rules is fairly common. Some shake out of it, but some put themselves into a box and never shake free of the slavery. From bondage of sin to bondage of rules is not a step-up. Yet because it's easier to gauge your faith by how well you follow a set of rules instead of how well you keep in step with where the Spirit wants to lead you, the natural tendency is to stick with rules. And sooner or later, our "faith" becomes not knowing God, but knowing the tricks of the trade. Instead of knowing a person, we focus more on knowing the laws and rules.

Over the past few weeks, during Sunday morning worship we have examined knowing God and being led by the Spirit. Based on the ideas from *Experiencing God*, written by Henry Blackaby, we've looked at knowing God better by letting Him speak to us and use us. I hope that these past few weeks have been profitable for us.

Ultimately we must stand on the truth of the Bible, what the Bible says about who God is. The better we know who God is and what He is like, the better we can walk with Him. Perhaps the most critical truth about God that will help us walk with Him is that God is love. 1 John 4:8 does not say that God loves. It says that He is love. Whatever love is, that's what God is. His very nature is love. He will NEVER act toward you in an unloving way. Everything He does to you and for you is out of love. When He is chastening and correcting you, it's because of His love for you (Hebrews 12:6, 1 John 3:16). This runs contrary to what the world thinks. We cannot earn God's love. He already loves His creation. Because God loves me, what He wants for me is the best. Period. The more we trust Him, the more we will see His will for our lives is good for us. Then we'll obey Him. Then we'll see His love and goodness. And we will trust Him all the more.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough, John Lewis, Joseph Coats

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Service.....

Wednesday, September 5

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 6

Informational Meeting on City Charter Amendment

East Hills Library.....7:00 pm

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 12

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Fri./Sat., September 14-15

Disaster Relief Training at

Green Valley Baptist Church

Up-Coming Events.....

September 3 — Labor Day

September 12 — Prayer Warriors 10 am

September 14-15 NW Disaster Relief Training

September 16 — Business Meeting and Dinner

September 16-23 Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions

September 23 — SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

September 26 — See You At the Pole

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We ***will not*** have Sunday night services tonight. Please join us next time we meet as we study God's Word. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church. Hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Disaster Relief Training

September 14-15, 2018

**Green Valley
Baptist Church**

For more information check the hall bulletin board or see Bro. Allan.

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner

We will have our regular business meeting and carry in meal immediately following the morning worship service September 16.

Reuben L. South Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions September 16-23

"Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand." Chronicles 29:148

Thank You

Your gift of Gideon Bibles was very appreciated. Sharron would be very pleased. Thank you for your kindness.

Al and Karen Shirley

For the Record

Attendance: August 26, 2018

Sunday School.....	29
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	32
Contacts Made.....	10
Morning Worship.....	42
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	6
Wednesday Night	7

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,176.70
Long Family –August...	\$ 105.00

Offering Received by Mail:

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
20...Tim Waters
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey Mayse

September Anniversaries

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests ...

Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Kenny Kirkpatrick
Mary Sharp—back surgery
Linda Huff—surgery recovery
Jim Winans—surgery recovery
June Fritchle—recovery
Mike Green—back to work issues
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Blake Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Arlette Duty—strength
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Randy and Gina Harr—new pastorate
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands

Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
