

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”, presented by Reverend Kristen Lowe on 06-25-2017 at Crossroads United Methodist Church, Waunakee, WI.

In our scripture today, the apostle Paul is writing to the Christian church in the city of Corinth. Corinth was a bustling center of trade and commerce, known for its art and philosophy—and less pleasantly, for its vice and immorality. His letter was a wake-up call to them and to us. He didn't want to just scold them for their failings, but to challenge his Corinthian brothers and sisters to refocus on Christ and actively cultivate holy lives as to please God and emulate Jesus Christ.

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Today, is our world foolish? Do we seek after things that don't satisfy us and turn our back on God's wisdom? May Jesus Christ ignite our hearts today.

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

 **tripadvisor** Rentals® **BLOG**



John and Cheryl are serious glampers.

- they want nature – the great outdoors.
- they love being away from it all.
- they love getting away from all the stress and busyness in life.
- they take at least 4 trips a year.
- they make sure their glamping destinations have all the amenities.
- John says he won't ever stay where there's no actual bathroom.

If you go to tripadvisor.com you'll find some fabulous possibilities for camping without the fuss. They say, "Less time spent pitching a tent means more time relaxing, barbecuing, swimming, singing kumbaya or gazing at the stars: all possible activities in these glamping rentals. No assembly required."

A yurt by the lake, a remodeled shepherd's hut, or even a treehouse furnished with running water, electricity and plumbing.

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”



Camping vs. Glamping

Author: Dee Montana

Dee loves everything about RVing. She especially appreciates creative interiors and unique travel location. When not traveling she is planning her next adventure with her husband and her favorite cat.

Dee Montana writes for RVshare. Her most recent article is entitled, “Are You a Camper or a Glamper? These 3 differences will help you decide.”

1. How much nature is too much?

Camping enthusiasts prefer to trek out into the wild where they can pitch a simple tent and sleep under the stars.

Glampers think a little nature goes a long way. While they may seek “a good outdoors experience,” a true glamper wants to sleep on a comfy mattress.

2 . Fresh air or technology?

Campers grab their GPS and go. They like to bike, fish, hike and hunt

Glampers spend their time reading, painting, writing, photographing, listening to ebooks, and watching movies.

3. Out house or bubble bath?

Campers love a challenge. A toilet could be behind a tree, a makeshift bucket, or a pit toilet deep in the forest.

Glampers prefer a good flush.

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

If someone is seeking a wilderness experience... a true oneness with nature, glamping is going to leave them lacking. Those who long for the wilderness are going to find themselves disappointed

There are many reasons people crave that experience. There are things they need:

1. Recharge batteries.
2. Rediscover what's truly important.
3. Eliminate all the busyness to become centered so that they can face life's every day challenges.



“Are you a Disciple or Consumer? These 3 differences will help you decide.”

Holy Spirit or Spirituality

Consumer: says, “I find my own way of connecting with God. I don’t need church to tell me how to do that.” They don’t discipline themselves in spiritual practices to grow deeper with Christ.

Disciple: knows that Jesus created the church to be a fellowship of believers who would worship together, deepen themselves in him, encourage one another and spread the good news. They practice regular spiritual disciplines as they continue to grow deeper in their discipleship.

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

Give or Take

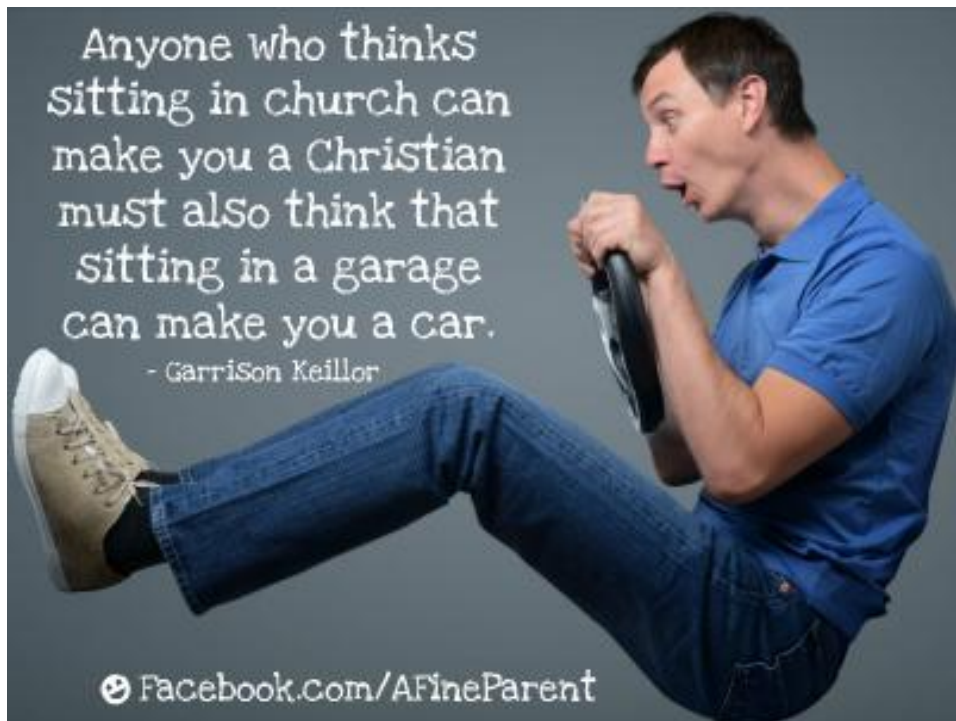
Consumer: may come to church hoping to hear some good music, they count on the pastor to care for them when they need it and enjoy the social groups that share similar interests. When something changes that they don't like, they complain. After all, church is designed for them.

Disciple: offers themselves in devotion to God during worship, knowing that worship is for God. They act selflessly and offer God the first and best of their time, their financial resources, their gratitude.

Stay or Go

Consumer: is happy to have the church stay just as it is. They enjoy their happy little comfort zone. They don't want growth – that would change things. They want kids and young families but don't want to move out of their comfy seats to invite them.

Disciple: knows the great commission and lives it – stepping out of their comfort zone.



Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

Why do we want to put ourselves through being a disciple? What is it we need?

1. Because we are hungry for God.
2. If we want to have abundant life, we need to connect with that which is life giving. (Only one thing.)



If a person needs nothing, he is dead.

I am alive, therefore, I get hungry and thirsty and need rest.

There is a parallel to this in the Christian life. If your spiritual life is alive, you will be challenged to grow, and you will feel a need to be fed.

A cadaver doesn't need food and drink and clothing. Neither does a spiritually dead person know he needs to be nurtured.

Psalm 145:16

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

Psalm 145:19

He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.

Jeremiah 31:14

“I will fill the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people will be satisfied with my goodness,” declares the LORD.

Psalm 34:9

O fear the LORD, you his saints; for to those who fear Him there is no want.

Proverbs 10:3

The LORD will not allow the righteous to hunger, but He will reject the craving of the wicked.



Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

1 Corinthians 1:3-7

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 **for in every way you have been enriched by him in all knowledge of every word—** 6 **just as the testimony [c] Christ has been strengthened among you—** 7 **so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift** as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:8-18,20

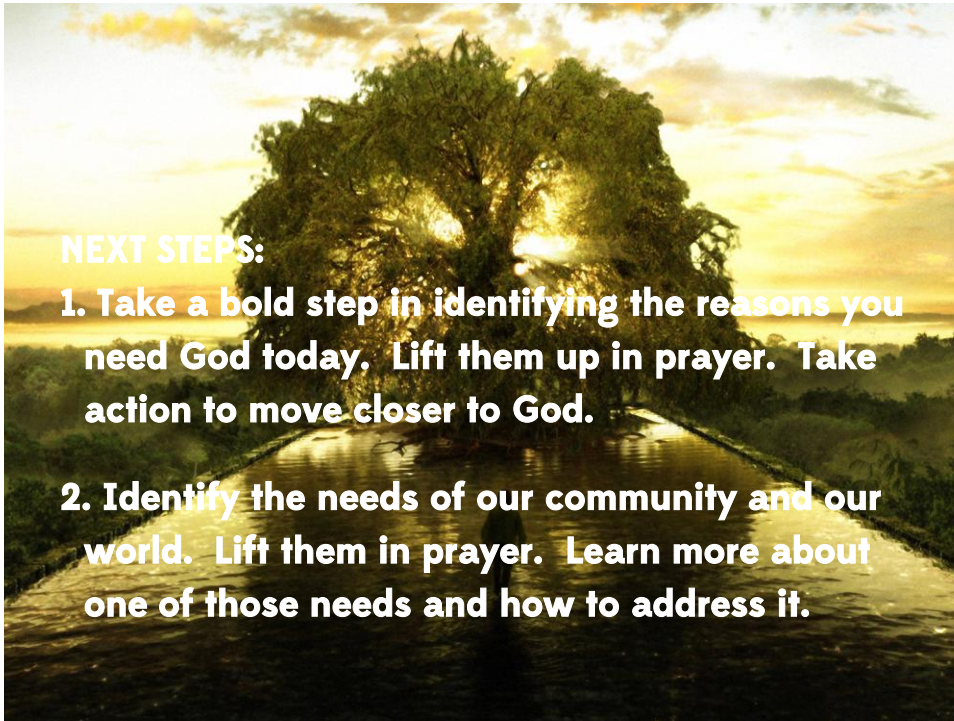
8 **He will also strengthen you to the end** so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 **God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

18 **For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

20 **Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

Message: “A Wilderness Experience IV”, Week Four of “A Wilderness Experience Series”

Choosing to be a disciple is a choice to fill that hunger for authenticity and life that we crave.



Next steps:

1. Take a bold step in identifying the reasons you need God today. Lift them up in prayer. Take action to move closer to God.
2. Identify the needs of our community and our world. Lift them in prayer. Learn more about one of those needs and how to address it.