

**Sermon Notes of
Guest Speaker Ronald Morgan's Sermon on September 8, 2019:**

**"Dare to Imagine!
(Galatians 5:22-23)"**

[In today's sermon, guest speaker Ronald Morgan shows us that life is like a virtual reality ride but with God's constant involvement.]

Notes

Introduction:

- When you are given a lot of time to prepare a sermon, it doesn't help because you go through a lot of sermon changes day after day.
- You never finish out the message because you just keep on tweaking and tweaking.
- And then your title changes over and over again, as well.
- So, today's sermon title is "Dare to Imagine!"

- Now, when we imagine, we become involved because to imagine is an interactive process.
- We are here at church to be reminded of: who we are, where we are going and to be re-charged.
- And because we are connected beings, we are also here to remind each other of who we are and to re-energize each other and to re-charge each other.

- "Let me give you the Gospel according to Ron", which will help us to better understand the gospel message.
- Now, we're going to have use our imagination to stay in Ron's Gospel.

- The word "imagination" only appears a couple of times in the Bible: Gen. 8:21 and Luke 1:51 – both times with negative connotations.
- Wikipedia says: "Imagination is the ability to produce and simulate novel objects, peoples and ideas in the mind without any immediate input of the senses."
- So when we use our imagination, it's a gift of God.

The Gospel of Ron:

- So, imagine yourself in a wide open space at night with stars everywhere in the sky.
- Now, there is nothing else around except for all the people that are with you.
- There is on huge banner above you and the group of people, and it says, "Mankind."
- It's there to identify your group.

- Then, all of a sudden, a bright light appears in the heavens, and it gets closer and closer.
- And you're thinking, "Space Ship, UFO?"
- Now, the bright light is directly over you and it begins to hover.

- All of a sudden, a booming voice comes out of that light and says, “Hello! I’m issuing you an invitation.”
- And you’re thinking, “An invitation to what?”
- The voice then says, “Come, and I will show you.”
- Then, all of a sudden a giant arch appears with these words on it, “Welcome to life!”
- As everyone walks to the arch, you and the group ask the voice in the light, “Why me? Why us?”
- And the light replies, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16 – NKJV).**
- You then think, “You know what? I’m familiar with that Scripture. But now I see the emphasis of “the world” in it. Let’s see what this is all about.”
- The voice then says, I’m going to leave you, while you take this ride, with my assistant, Melvin.
- Then, as you and the others step inside the great arch, there is this magnificent looking tram and when you go inside it, a voice comes over the intercom,

“Hello. My name is Melvin. I will be your guide. I will be your assistant, today. Please have a seat. And in your front seat pocket is a brochure. And I’ll be asking you to refer to that brochure from time to time. And in the meantime, sit back and relax.

This is going to be an interactive ride involving both virtual reality and movement. And, this ride is also going to bring in both space and time. It’s going to be a ride that you’ve never experienced before. Again, sit back and relax. And if you have any questions, please ask me, Melvin.”

- Now, the tram starts to move out slowly, but quickly builds up speed.
- You then put on your virtual reality goggles, which shows you – that whatever you look at and see is interactive. And when you move your head, you see something different. And, everyone’s experience is a little different.
- As the tram moves, you suddenly feel transported back to your childhood days.
- You begin to see some of your childhood memories right before your eyes, which for you are pretty good.
- Since this is a virtual reality ride, not everyone’s experience is the same.
- Others are seeing the bad times they grew up with.
- Some are seeing the school in Florida, where the gunman killed 17 students.
- Since we’re all connected together, the ride is getting a little rougher and bumpier.
- Now you are being transported back to your teenage years.
- And you’re beginning to see all the conflicts that come with being a teenager.
- Some of the people are seeing good times while others are seeing being molested at home as a teenager.
- As we said, this ride is different for everybody.

- In a virtual reality ride, you begin to understand that things are beginning to repeat. You experience both good times and bad times – so your ride goes up and down.
- And then you begin to realize that the more things change, the more they stay the same.
- Here's a demonstration of this. Solomon once said, "There's nothing new under the sun." It's true for today as it was in Solomon's time.
- But sometimes, we think things have changed – like for example things seem a little more traumatic these days than they used to.
- But that's not true. Wild and traumatic things used to happen in the old days, too.
- Imagine yourself lying in bed and all of sudden you hear all this noise outside – there's yelling and screaming and horns blowing.
- You get out of bed and move to the window to see what's going on and all of a sudden all the walls fall down and you're back in the days of Jericho.
- There's an army outside ready to come into the city and wipe out every man, woman and child. Those were pretty wild times.
- Now, on the tram, you are riding through some present day experiences such as the political debates. The Republicans and Democrats are going at it tooth and nail.
- You also see and through virtual reality experience the homeless camps in the various cities with its all its filth.
- Now at the beginning of this ride, one of Melvin's instructions were, "I want you to pay particular attention to a few things and concentrate on love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
- "This will help you get through the ride. Please concentrate on them and exhibit them in living out your life."
- And now you say, "Hey Melvin. Can you explain why I'm now feeling a little bit relaxed on this ride? I also see that I need to work on myself."
- And Melvin answered, "There's a reason for that. Take out your brochure and turn to Romans 8. The hopelessness that you are feeling for this world will change once you understand God's plan."

Romans 8:28 (NKJV), And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- Then Melvin continued, "Even though Jesus came for the world, He is making it personal to you when he uses the words like, 'For whom he foreknew.'"

30) Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- Melvin continued: "Even though Jesus died for the world, He is talking to each one of us personally.
- Then, thinking about how you are going to exhibit all these Godly characteristics of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc., you ask him, "How long do I have to get it together?"
- And Melvin answered, "Not long. He then quoted **Genesis 5:25-27**.

Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. 26) After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. 27) “So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

- Melvin: “You don’t have 969 years.”
- You are thinking that we are down to three score and ten. And some of us are living beyond that time.
- Once you have been told that you don’t have much time, the ride starts to slow down. And you can feel it.
- And then the tram comes to a stop.
- And Melvin says, “Before you depart, I hope that you paid attention to all the things that I told you.”
- “I hope you could see the need for love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc. and that is the experience that you are supposed to get.”
- Then Melvin goes silent as all the lights go out in the tram. And there’s absolute quiet.
- And you say, “Whoa? What happened? Did I die?”
- Everything is in limbo and pitch black with not a sound to be heard.
- And then all of a sudden, a bright light fills that tram. It’s the same bright light that you encountered at the beginning of this imaginary trip and speaks to you and says,

“Behold, you exit this ride which is finished. But before you exit, please take out your brochure because I want to go through one final instruction. I want to tell you what it’s all about. Melvin has told you, but I want to tell you myself. Please take out your brochure and turn to Galatians 5:22.

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV), But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- What is God’s most precious gift to us on this planet? It’s people.
- So, when God puts a person in your presence, that’s special.
- Because of all the things we go through on this trip of life that we’re on, God gives us His Spirit, so we’re able to get through it.
- And what’s the fruit of the Spirit that enables us to get through life? Galatians 5:22 tells us.
- After Galatians 5 is quoted, the tram doors open and you step outside.
- And the bright light tells us that this tram ride is over.
- And you say, “Tram ride? I thought this was the ride. This was awesome.”
- And the bright light says, “No, that was the tram ride. That was your orientation ride. Now the real ride begins. Welcome to the Kingdom!”
- As Ron told us in the beginning, “You have to use your imagination because the facts are over my head.”

- Ron: "Now, you are going to have to use your imagination to figure out what comes next."

Ron's closing statement:

I am not sure of what you will be doing for all eternity, so use your imagination, because the facts are above my pay grade. I'm not sure if you will be there as a worker or as a guest. I am not sure if you will be able to tell the difference between the two, but our being there is assured. Since you are there, I'm not sure what you will be doing, but I would not be surprised if love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control are absolutely necessary for your maximum kingdom experience.

Christ has already put his life on your success! Now go without shame, fear, guilt or doubt.

Closing prayer