



## **GENESIS** *Grace from the Beginning*

**23/24 September 2017**  
Vol. 39, No. 39

# The God Who Values Life

*Genesis 9:1-17*

**English Services**  
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
Benediction

**Filipino Service**  
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda  
Tawag sa Pagsamba  
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit  
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Patotoo  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor Sam Rendal*  
Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



# The God Who Values Life

Today's Message (23/24 September 2017) /  
*Genesis 9:1-17*

BECAUSE GOD  
IS THE SOURCE,  
CREATOR, AND  
AUTHOR OF LIFE,  
ALL HUMAN/  
NATURAL LIFE  
IS VALUABLE TO  
OUR COVENANT-  
MAKING AND  
PROMISE-KEEPING  
GOD.

Our passage is about how God established a new covenant with all Creation based on the sanctity of life, and sealed that covenant with the sign of the rainbow. God's covenant with Noah was foundational for His grace later seen at the Cross. In the Flood, God displayed His judgment of sin. In the rainbow, He showed that man's deserved punishment for sin would not be immediately fulfilled.

How can God stand mankind's continued sin? The answer lies in His character: though God is holy and just, His grace shows itself as longsuffering. God is always more interested in salvation than in damnation, in giving life rather than death (*John 3:17; 2 Peter 3:9*). Note how God's value of life is displayed throughout this passage:

## 1. GOD SHOWS HE VALUES LIFE BY RESTORING IT (VV. 1-4)

- a. God blessed Noah and his sons by ordering them to "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."
- b. God blessed mankind with authority over creation, including the use of nature for food.

In the aftermath of world destruction and judgment, we see the redemptive hand of God as He re-establishes order on earth. God is a God of second chances. Always.

## 2. GOD SHOWS HE VALUES LIFE BY PUTTING A PRICE TO IT (VV. 5-7)

- a. The value of a human life is determined by the price you pay when you unlawfully take

### Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Response Hymn

Benediction



# The God Who Values Life

Today's Message (23/24 September 2017) /  
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it—both animals and men must forfeit their own.

The price that God has put on your life is its most basic protection. When human life is devalued, we are all in danger of losing ours.

- b. As God establishes the right to live, the most basic of human rights, and authorizes guardianship of that right to human beings, He also established the foundation for human government (*Romans 13:1-7*).

Some of us may have been victims of heinous crimes. God is perfectly just and will execute justice in His own way and time. We are not to take the law into our own hands.

Many people do not recognize that the anger they show toward others is a form of murder (*Matthew 5:21-24*). It is easy to talk about capital punishment as a theory and regard serial murder as something equal to evil itself. But we should ask ourselves, “Have I given or taken life today in the way I have treated my brother?”

### 3. GOD SHOWS HE VALUES LIFE BY PRESERVING IT (VV. 8-17)

God's covenant was more of an unconditional promise, with the following features:

- The Terms: Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.
- The Sign: The rainbow is the sign of God's covenant.

Even after the flood, people continued to reject God. God will never change His mind about sin—He hates it and will judge it. But in the covenant with Noah, God has vowed to hold back the flood of His wrath to make room for His grace in the cross of Christ. Through Noah, God promised to withhold his global wrath on the road to ultimate victory in Christ.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Because God is the source, creator, and author of life, all human/natural life is valuable to our covenant-making and promise-keeping God.

As you walk with God, may you personally encounter a redemptive God who values every life, and keeps every promise ■

## LIVING AS AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST

When we read through the Bible, one of the key things we learn about who we are is that all human beings are made in God's image (*Genesis 1:27*). This is one of the reasons the Ten Commandments forbid God's people from making an image of God, because God from the beginning intended that we as human beings represent Him to this world.

However, when humanity fell into sin, we became failed representatives of God. Instead of exhibiting God's righteousness, justice, and love, we became selfish, oppressive, and morally lost. Instead of treating others fairly, we cheat in business. Instead of loving the other we think highly of ourselves. Instead of caring for creation we abuse it for our own benefits. We all, in the end, failed to be images of the God who loves.

That is why it is important for us to look to Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (*John 14:6*), because He is the Image of the invisible God (*Colossians 1:15*). Following Jesus, our new Adam (*Romans 15:12-18*), enables us now to live as ambassadors of His Kingdom, where there is righteousness, justice, peace, mercy, and love. As Christians we are now representatives of God, and

participants in His Mission. As the Lausanne Covenant states,

*When people receive Christ they are born again into his kingdom and must seek not only to exhibit but also to spread its righteousness in the midst of an unrighteous world. The salvation we claim should be transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities. Faith without works is dead.*

We as followers of Jesus are now to live as Jesus lived, and preach what Jesus preached. This is what it means to be truly human—to be like Christ. Like Christ we are to love God through our intimacy with our Lord. Like Christ we are to love our neighbor by caring for the poor and oppressed. Just as Jesus preached in the temple:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (*Luke 4:18-19 NIV*) ■

# Ablaze Devotional

**Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. - Exodus 9:13 (NIV)**

God sent Moses to carry the message of deliverance for the Israelites in Egypt. He commanded Moses to confront Pharaoh a number of times. "Let My people go, so that they may worship Me."

In this story, we see two powers at play. On one side is Pharaoh, whose power is expressed through slavery and hard labor. On the other side is Yahweh, whose desire is to liberate people from bondage so that they can freely worship.

The victory over sin and death that Christ won for us is the result of God confronting injustice. We have been set free so we can proclaim God's justice and mercy to the world. Christ's redemption does not just end with the promise of heaven. He invites us to ask for God's kingdom and will to be present here on earth.

We believe in God's sovereignty, even as we also make an appeal for His will to be done. As we trust in His wisdom, we also ask for strength as we confront the powers that oppose His will.

As you read the news today, look for the Pharaoh that rules the land—around us, among us, and within us. Ask God for wisdom in how we as a church can confront his influence. As part of the GCF family, let us be more active and proactive in prayer by gathering this coming Saturday (September 30) for our Concert of Prayer. Let us reflect in the saving power of God in Christ Jesus that unites us with Him and with one another ■

**GCF PRAYER  
GATHERINGS  
AT THE CHAPEL:**  
**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*  
**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



### PARENTS AS DISCIPLE-MAKERS

*Impacting One's Children for Eternity*  
September 15, 22 & 29, 7:00 p.m.  
at GCF, 4th floor Assembly Area  
Call or text **0917 532 7768** to reserve a slot



### 2017 COUPLES' RETREAT

*Marital Conflict: Why Do We Hurt the One We Love?*  
November 4-5, Sat. & Sun., at CCT Tagaytay  
Php 1,000 for first 40 couples, Php 3,500 thereafter  
Registration is until October 15  
Contact **0917 532 7713** to register/for more info



### SENIORS' LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP

*Topic: Depression and Dementia*  
*with guest speaker Dra. Ida Simbuyan*  
October 7 (Tues.) at GCF, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Call or text **0918 942 7350** for more information



### RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD

*Workshop on 2 Timothy for Preachers*  
*and Bible Teachers*, November 16-18 at GCF  
Reg.: Php 1,000; Php 500 early bird ('til Sept. 30)  
Tickets are available at the lobby every Sunday  
Contact **0917 532 1921** for more information

## Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of September 17, 2017 -

General Fund	4,379,375.55
Missions Fund	241,220.00
Designated	176,350.00
<i>Total</i>	<b>4,796,945.55</b>

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His blessings by Jocelyn Uy, Ramona Diaz, Sweet'Pea Valerie Joy Aganon, the Basilad family, the Bordador family and the Messiah College.*

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



## Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

*He said to him, feed my lambs  
He said to him, Tend my sheep  
He said to him, Feed my sheep. – John 21:15-17*

Having been invited to Greenhills Christian Fellowship in 2005 was a turning point in Abe Felix's life. When he was plugged into the Young Adults Christian In Everyday Situations (YACIES) Growth Group he felt the warm welcome of a Christian family that he's been searching for. Like a sheep, he was confident that the Shepherd will guide him into maturity.



Abe's first mentor helped him know Christ more and how to make Him known to others. His mentor and YACIES have imparted upon him to teach people with compassion, care and competence.

God taught Abe to glorify His name by loving others through Growth Groups. The love and care that he experienced was key in strengthening his commitment to Jesus. He carried these lessons with him as he served in Connect Call Center Ministry. As he matured in his service, Abe was able to disciple others, lead them to different trainings that GCF offers, and walk alongside them through every challenge ■

*You may also bless others by sharing your own shepherding or discipleship journey in loving God and in loving others. You may e-mail your story to [lifejourney@gcf.org.ph](mailto:lifejourney@gcf.org.ph).*

This week's bulletin cover features a rainbow over Bryce Canyon in Utah, USA ([pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)). Prayer Point: Pray that the Mormons in Utah would come to a correct and saving knowledge of Jesus, that they will come to Him in faith as their God, Lord and Savior.

# Join a GROWTH GROUP

## HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

## ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

*for Couples aged 30 up*  
Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

## GREEN MEADOWS GG

*for Couples aged 40 up*  
Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.  
at Green Meadows Subdivision

## HEBRON GG

*for Single Men and Women aged 30 up*  
Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM03)

## YACIES TUESDAY GG

*for Single Men and Women aged 30 up*  
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

## SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

*for Boys aged 11 to 18*  
Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multi-purpose Gym (6th flr.)

## Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123  
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.*



## Greenhills Christian Fellowship Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605  
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357  
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
E-mail: [email@gcf.org.ph](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://www.gcf.org.ph)

# How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

*Today is **23/24 September 2017**, and I attended the **8 a.m.**, **10:30 a.m.**, **3:00 p.m.**, **5:30 p.m.** or **6:00 p.m. (Sat)** (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."  
*(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).*

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).  
**Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

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PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.