



**30 September/
1 October 2017**
Vol. 39, No. 40

The One We May Abandon or Deny

John 18:12-27

English Services

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

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Scripture Reading
Anthem
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Celebration of the
Lord's Supper
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Natatanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Emer Manaloto
Pagdiriwang ng Banal
na Hapunan
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

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



The One We May Abandon or Deny

Today's Message (30 September/
1 October 2017) / *John 18:12-27*

A CHILD OF GOD
MAY GET FAR
FROM GOD, BUT
GOD IS NEVER FAR
FROM HIM. HE IS
ALWAYS THERE
AND HE IS ALWAYS
THERE FOR
THE CHRISTIAN
WHO SINCERELY
REPENTS.

Peter was a very human and complex person. He was brave one moment and ready to fight to death for his Lord. Yet next moment, his courage collapses when questioned by housemaids of the high priest.

How like us Peter was. Many Christians will face martyrdom bravely. Yet the same people may hesitate to witness for the Lord when threatened only by ridicule or indifference.

Peter had boasted three times that he would remain true to Christ (*John 13:37*). In the Garden, he had gone to sleep three times (*Mark 14:32-41*) when he should have been praying. Then he denied the Lord three times in our passage. Note how it all happens in one night:

1. THE FIRST DENIAL OF PETER (VV. 12-17)

- a. The Context (vv. 12-14): The unlawful arrest of Jesus

A servant girl asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" The original language expects a *negative* answer. Peter denied Christ by denying that he belonged to the band of disciples.

- b. The Cause of Peter's Denial (vv. 15-17): Peter followed from afar (*Matthew 26:58*). I like Peter because, although all had abandoned Jesus, he continued to follow Jesus. But at the same time, I learn from Peter that if I follow Jesus from a distance, I'm going to get into trouble.

2. THE SECOND DENIAL OF PETER (VV. 18-25)

- a. The Context: The unofficial interrogation of Annas, High Priest *emeritus*, the power behind the throne.

Another servant girl (according to Matthew 26:71) asked the same question, again expecting a negative reply. The literal translation of John 18:25 says "they asked him" and suggests that others in the circle around the fire followed up the question and hurled it at Peter.

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
Anthem
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Celebration of
the Lord's Supper
Benediction



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Today's Message (30 September/
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- b. The Cause of Peter's Denial: When you feel cold, where do you go to get warm? Be careful whenever you seek warmth at the enemy's fires; you're in dangerous territory. If you go to the fires of the world when you're confused, hurting, or lonely, you'll surely get burned. Ask Peter.

3. THE THIRD DENIAL OF PETER (VV. 26-27)

- a. The Context: Earlier, Peter had recklessly attacked the arresting team who came for Jesus, cutting off Malchus' ear. Jesus miraculously healed this man. But this episode of impetuosity would return to haunt him.

The third question was from Malchus' relative. This time the original language expects an *affirmative* answer: "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove? Yes, I did!" Peter began to call down curses on himself to emphasize his statement. He put himself under an oath to convince his accusers he was telling the truth (*Matthew 26:74*).

- b. The Cause of Peter's Denial: If you get too close to people hostile to your faith, you set yourself up to be either attacked by them, or to become like them. Watch those you associate very closely with!

Watch Peter gradually moving into the place of temptation and sin, and how his actions parallel the description in Psalm 1:1. First,

1. Peter *walked* "in the counsel of the wicked" when he went into the high priest's courtyard. Peter should have followed the counsel of Jesus and gotten out of there in a hurry. Then,
2. Peter *stood* with the sinners by the fire warming (*John 18:16, 18*). Before long,
3. He *sat* with the enemy (*Luke 22:55*). Then he got skewered with questions he could not evade except through lying.

It was at that third denial that the cock began to crow. Luke tells us that Jesus turned and looked at Peter (*Luke 22:61*), and this look of love broke Peter's heart.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Why is it that Simon Peter, who did a deed as dastardly as Judas, could make his way back to the Lord? Because he was a child of God, and it broke his heart to know what he had done. A child of God may get far from God, but God is never far from him. He is always there for the Christian who sincerely repents.

"Brethren," Paul later writes, "if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently" (*Galatians 6:1*). Paul didn't say, "remind," "rebuke," or "reveal." He said, "restore." We should always be looking for opportunities to see men and women continue on, to be restored, to not be held back because of failures. Aren't you glad our God is the God of the second chance—and the tenth chance, and the 491st chance and more? ■

THANK YOU, PEOPLE OF GOD

I would just like to thank you all from my heart for the wonderful birthday surprise last Sunday. It was very kind of you all to celebrate with me, and it reminded me again of how faithful the Lord has been through the years. You see, after more than half a century, there are two things I have realized: the constant faithfulness of God, and my utter unworthiness of the same. Thank you for showing even my wife and children, that God never abandons those He calls, imperfect as they are. The ministry of being your pastor has been one wonderful journey, and that is because God used you all to make it so.

THE JOY OF HAVING OUR CHILDREN WORSHIP WITH US

It was great to have the children over for our regular Adult Worship. Every batch that joined us was uniquely different! But the one common thing among these three batches that joined us (8 a.m., 10:30 am, 5:30 p.m. services) was how well behaved the children were. I was much more rowdy when I was that age, and like I jokingly told one of our members,

perhaps I am a pastor now to make atonement for the times I stretched the patience of my Sunday school and DVBS teachers and the children's pastor then. We thank Angel Santos, the Sunday school teachers, and the parents for the great children's ministry we have.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHURCH PLANTS



Pastor Love Tira
Head Pastor, GCF Baguio

We rejoice with GCF Baguio today as they install Pastor Love Tira officially as their Head Pastor. Pastors Erik Dizon and Sam Rendal are there today to install Pastor Love on our behalf, as the Mother Church. Keep praying

with them as they continue to grow both spiritually and in number, and make a lasting impact for the Lord in the Summer Capital.

We also rejoice in advance with GCF-QC, which will celebrate two things next Sunday, October 8—their second church anniversary, and the inauguration of their new church building. For a brand new church plant, that is quite a blessing indeed. Praise God for His goodness and generosity to our brethren there ■

Ablaze Devotional

Take your everyday, ordinary life...and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him...Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. - Romans 12:1,2 (The Message)

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.

Today, we remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Today, we also proclaim that His blood cleanses us from sin.

But communion is more than the partaking of the bread and wine. It is more than just confessing that Christ's sacrifice is final. Communion means remembering Jesus as the one who confronted our sin. It means remembering Him as the one who freed us from the down-dragging demands of the world. It is both professing that He is our Liberator and confessing that we need Him as King, admitting that we cannot rule our own lives. Communion demands so much more than remembrance. It calls us to partake of His life, to be like Him. Communion demands us to follow Jesus by becoming living sacrifices.

As we remember His sacrifice on the cross, let us remember that His sacrifice is reconciliation—between God and mankind, mankind to itself, and mankind to all creation. As we proclaim His cleansing blood, we also proclaim that His lifeblood now becomes our life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are being transformed into His likeness, moved to delight more in His will.

Today we come to the Lord's table. As partakers of the bread and wine, we ask the Spirit to search our hearts and convict us of any offense. We partake of Christ's sacrifice to become living sacrifices ■

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements

Welcome, NEW MEMBERS!



Zenaida Navarro
Janice Faner
John Lennon Uriarte
Ella Dormiendo
Aaron Sumatra
Catherine Basilad

Janet Lacanilao
Perla Sy-Siong
Auracorinna Zapanta
Benjamin Pabiona
Ernesto Gatchalian
Lilia Gatchalian



EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

Church-wide fire and earthquake evacuation drills
October 8 (Sun.) 12:00 nn. (after 10:30 a.m. service)
Please check the guidelines (insert) to help you when you are here in GCF in case of emergency.



SENIORS' LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP

Topic: Depression and Dementia
with guest speaker Dra. Ida Sibayan
October 7 (Sat.) at GCF, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Call or text **0917 532 1921** 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 Oct. 15)
Tickets are available at the lobby every Sunday
Contact **0917 532 1921** for more information

Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of September 24, 2017 -

General Fund	5,472,102.16
Missions Fund	729,357.25
Designated	235,850.00
Total	6,437,309.41

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His blessings by an anonymous donor, Ms. SweetPea 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

Gai Buce firmly believes that genuine love for God's Word is essential in loving Him and loving others. In 1993, Gai first attended GCF. Here, her thirst to grow deeper in the knowledge of God and His Word began to be satisfied. Faithful handling of God's Word lead her to the experiential knowledge that it is only by God's grace that she can obey His command to love Him with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength. This grace entails a growing desire for her to unconditionally love others for His pleasure.



Immediate recipients of this love in the church family are her Growth Groups. Currently, she leads Psalm 1 and JEWELS GGs. The Lord has blessed her by surrounding her with Growth Groupmates who trust and obey God and His Word. These people form part of God's provisions for her to find mutual encouragement in pressing on.

By His grace, the Lord has called Gai to bring God's love to the lost. Currently, she serves in a mission organization involved in Bible translation, whereby people-communities with no access to vernacular Bibles are being reached out to know Christ as their Savior and Lord.

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.

This week's bulletin cover features the skyline of Jerusalem, viewed from the Mount of Olives (pixabay.com). Prayer Point: Pray that Christians in Jerusalem will shine Christ's light among its citizens (which include Jews and Muslims), just as Christ Himself was light when He ministered and died there 2,000 years ago.

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 • Website: 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 **30 September/1 October, 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).

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.