



GENESIS
Grace from the Beginning

7/8 October 2017
Vol. 39, No. 41

Our God Remains Faithful Even When We Fail

Genesis 9:18-29

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

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Baptism (10:30 a.m.)
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
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
Natatanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Erik Dizon
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

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



Our God Remains Faithful Even When We Fail

Today's Message (7/8 October 2017) /
Genesis 9:18-28

WHILE BOTH NOAH AND HAM DID WRONG, NOTHING IN THIS STORY IMPLIES THAT GOD'S GRACE AND SALVATION IS DENIED TO PEOPLE BASED ON RACE OR COLOR, NOR ON THE FAILURES OR MISTAKES OF THEIR ANCESTORS.

God never hides the failures of our Bible heroes. Remember Peter? Noah is another. Noah started well—120 years of doing and preaching righteousness, then preserving mankind and the animal kingdom through the ark. But he gets drunk, and humiliates himself. While one of his sons mistreats him, the other two show respect to their drunken dad by not adding to his shame.

Yet the bright spot in all of this is the faithfulness of God. He made a promise to Noah, to preserve him and his family (*Genesis 6:18*) and to perpetuate mankind on earth despite knowing our inclination to evil (*Genesis 8:21-9:11*). He will keep this promise, that's why you shouldn't tremble in fear that a flood will annihilate us again when lightning flashes and floods rise. God remains faithful even when we fail. He honors His word when we can't keep ours. See how this is shown in the movements of our story:

1. NOAH'S DRUNKENNESS AND NAKEDNESS (VV. 18-21)

- The curse of sin continues even for God's covenant people.
- The Bible is not about the flawed people of God, but the perfect God of His people.

We can only do the difficult task of parenting by the grace of God. Let us continually ask God to enable us to set good examples to our children, despite knowing our potential for mistakes.

And while this story was not written as a rant against alcohol intoxication, this is obviously one of its implications.

2. THE CONTRASTING RESPONSES OF NOAH'S CHILDREN (VV. 22-23)

- a. Ham disrespected his father. What exactly did Ham do/not do? There are several theories,

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



Our God Remains Faithful Even When We Fail

Today's Message (7/8 October 2017) /
Genesis 9:18-28

but they all have in common a jeering, undermining, disrespectful attitude by Ham towards his father.

b. Shem and Japheth treated their father with discretion.

Children are the first witnesses of the imperfections of their parents. But note that the Bible **never** excuses children from mistreating their parents. However you feel about it, there are consequences of honoring or NOT honoring your parents. Remember that this principle was God's idea, encapsulated in the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20:12*) and reaffirmed in the New Testament (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

3. THE PROPHETIC PRONOUNCEMENTS (VV. 24-29)

This is one of the strangest passages in the Bible, difficult to comprehend. It gives so few details and no explanations, so we just have to remember Deuteronomy 29:29, which says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever."

a. A Curse on Canaan: Most Bible scholars agree that this was a prophecy about the Canaanites rather than a curse *per se* on one of the four children of Ham.

The Canaanites faded out as a distinct race in the Old Testament era, so the prophecy applies to no one today. This event cannot and must never be used to justify racism and slavery, like it was used in the Middle Ages until the 1900's.

b. A Blessing for Shem and Japheth

While both Noah and Ham did wrong, nothing in this story implies that God's grace and salvation is denied to people based on race or color, nor on the failures or mistakes of their ancestors. God's saving grace is offered freely to all, and one day people from every nation, tribe, people and language will stand before Christ, singing "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (*Revelation 7:9-10*).

FINAL THOUGHTS

Our God remains faithful even when we fail (*2 Timothy 2:13*). God may not always spare us the consequences, but neither does He break His word to us. A humiliated Noah could never erase his shame, but you will see him in heaven one day.

Aren't you glad that the security of our salvation is not because of our worthiness, but because of the magnitude of God's grace? The question is, have you already taken hold of His offer of forgiveness and reconciliation through Jesus Christ? (*2 Corinthians 5:18-19*) ■

RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD

Training on 2 Timothy for Christian Leaders

There is a growing need to further train and equip Christian leaders in terms of effectively communicating God's Word to biblically lead God's people towards spiritual growth. We, at Greenhills Christian Fellowship, are committed to raise the level of theological/doctrinal soundness among church leaders, beginning with our center and our church affiliates.

But we also desire to extend the training to around 1,000 preachers, small group leaders/assistant leaders, and Sunday School teachers from various evangelical churches in the Philippines. We, therefore, cordially invite all our Christian leaders to attend a three-day workshop on 2 Timothy called **Rightly Handling the Word**. It will be held on November 16-18, 2017 (Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon) at GCF Auditorium B.

This training will be conducted by Leadership Resources International

(LRI), whose mission is to equip and encourage Christian leaders to teach God's Word with God's heart. Workshop fee is PhP 1,000.00 inclusive of workbook *Dig and Discover Principles*, and snacks. Early-bird rate is PhP 500.00, which is extended until October 15. The first 200 registrants will receive a gift item from GCF. Payments can be made through Chinabank Savings Account No. 1112-02006218. You may e-mail photo of deposit slip to 2timworkshop@gcf.org.ph to confirm registration. You may also visit the booth at the GCF lobby every Sunday to register. So buy your tickets now and let us learn together how to rightly handle the Word! As Apostle Paul states, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, ESV). For more details, please call or text Marj Jo at 0917 532 1921. See you there! ■

GCF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Lloyd P. Estrada, GCF Corporate Secretary

We thank God for all the members He has been blessing GCF with. Posted today (on the bulletin board in front of the ground floor elevator) is an updated list of GCF members—inclusive of those who were recently baptized, are transferees from another church, and those who affirmed their church membership.

In case your name was inadvertently excluded from the list or if you have information regarding some members (e.g., now residing abroad or have moved

to another church), please contact either Pastor Emerson Manaloto (0920 906 2623) or Ministry Assistant Zark Binag (0917 531 8267).

If you have not affirmed your membership yet and would like to do so, just go to the Ministry Information Booth on Sundays where you can be assisted. We need all the help we could get in keeping our Membership Roll up-to-date so that we could better pursue the Mission of God together ■

Ablaze Devotional

Because of our God's merciful compassion, the Dawn from on high will visit us to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79 (HCSB)

A pastor once said, "The Bible is a book that reads us even as we read it." After all, the Word of God is not merely writing but a living person—Jesus Christ. He is the light of the world that shines and reflects the very Presence of God. God has shown us His love and justice through the Living Word. As the Word reveals who God is, it also reveals who we are—our guilt, our shame, our offenses and our rebellion. But because of His great love, we are not left condemning ourselves. His light opens the way for freedom, the way to live fully.

This is the redemptive work of Christ. As He is the beginning of creation, He is the same beginning of our redemption. As He was the sustainer and provider for all creation, He is the same for all the redeemed. He reconciled us to the Father that we might fulfill and continue to be His image bearers. The confession of our faith is both a looking back to what He has done, and a looking forward to what He is doing and for His leading.

As we continue in our study of Scripture, individually and corporately, may the person and redemptive work of Jesus Christ made alive in our service. We lift and cover in prayer those who teach Scripture to us, that they find beauty and delight in the ministry God gifted them with. We praise God for our Growth Groups that serve as evidences of God providing and sustaining His people ■

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



EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

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



WELCOMING INTERNATIONALS

A workshop in partnership with the OMF Philippines Home Council
November 11 (Sat.), 9 a.m. to 12:00 nn. here at GCF
Contact **0932 371 3457** for more information



S.U.P.A. MOMS FELLOWSHIP

Single. Unique. Powerful. Admirable.
A ministry for single moms
October 28 (Sat.) 9 a.m. - 12 nn. at the Fellowship Hall
Contact **0917 532 1921** for more information



ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Please pray for the upcoming election of Elders and Deacons. Details of qualifications, nomination guidelines and interview process will be available on October 15, 2017.

Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of October 1, 2017 -

General Fund	1,698,118.85
Missions Fund	389,900.00
Designated	115,900.00
Total	2,203,918.85

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His blessings, faithfulness and answered prayers by an anonymous donor, Ms. Jocelyn Valerie Aganon, the Almirez family, the Basilad family, the Valera 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

Growing up in a Christian home, JP Pimentel never really knew the gravity of how much God loved him, and how He sacrificed His son for his sins. He looked fine on the outside, but inside he felt a deep emptiness and yearned for love. Not knowing what love felt like, JP tried chasing it but only found himself with the wrong people—going out and drinking whenever and wherever they could. He was lost. They had no idea what his struggles were, but God knew.



JP was invited to attend Youth L.I.V.E. later in his college life. He went week after week, spending more hours after the service to fellowship with more people. Soon, he found himself wanting to serve in the ministry, and is now one of the youth leaders. This came as he threw away a past of struggles and his false concept of love. Looking back, he saw how much God loved him to lead him to the point of surrender.

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.

ON THE COVER: A shot from space of the Sinai Peninsula (left), the region of Palestine (center, Dead Sea also shown), and the Arab Peninsula (right) (Wikimedia). Palestine (known in ancient times as Canaan) is the site of one of the most contentious political struggles today—the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Let us pray for its just and peaceful resolution, and for Christians in the region to rise above the politics of the conflict to be faithful witnesses of Christ to Israelis and Palestinians alike.

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 7/8 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.

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.

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