



## The Trial of Mankind Before God

*John 18:28-40*

**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.



**4/5 November 2017**  
Vol. 39, No. 45



# The Trial of Mankind Before God

Today's Message (4/5 November 2017) /  
*John 18:28-40*

AS BELIEVERS,  
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THE GOSPEL,  
BECAUSE WE  
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TO MOVE THE  
UNREPENTANT.

The trial of Jesus before Pilate? Most commentators, even most Bibles with headings, describe this section of John this way. But in a spiritual sense, the tables are actually turned. For the three characters of this story, they are on trial before God incarnate when they showed the kind of heart they had in the circumstances they were in.

Sadly, what we see here is a picture of three kinds of people without God, who will find themselves forever without God:

## 1. THE TRIAL OF THE ENEMIES OF JESUS: PEOPLE DETERMINED TO BE AGAINST GOD (VV. 28-32)

- The story continues with Jesus being led before the Gentiles, because the Jews were powerless to execute Him by crucifixion. They wished to ensure that Jesus was not viewed as a martyr for God's cause, but as an impostor who died under the curse of God (*Deuteronomy 21:23*). How little they knew! Jesus took God's curse on Himself willingly for all mankind (*Galatians 3:13*).
- By their own admission, the Jews had pre-judged Jesus in a mockery of a trial. And by their own admission, the Jews had unwittingly fulfilled Jesus' prophecies by making Him die through crucifixion, at the hands of Gentiles like us (*John 12:32, Matthew 20:18-19*). By their own admission, the enemies of God had sealed their own fate by their own unrepentance.
- The only unpardonable sin today is unrepentant unbelief. As believers, we do not give up living out and sharing the gospel, because we never know when it is God's time to move the unrepentant. But for those decided against Jesus, let this serve as a warning: as the commercial ditty goes "we seal our fate with the choices we make."

### 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 Emer Manaloto*

Celebration of

the Lord's Supper

Benediction



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## 2. THE TRIAL OF PILATE BEFORE JESUS: PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AGAINST GOD, BUT FOR THEMSELVES (VV. 33-38)

- As Pilate stood before the living embodiment of Truth, he had opportunity after opportunity to realize Who really stood before him, and to come to faith in that Person. But political, legal, and personal considerations stood in the way.
- This would be the first of two chances Pilate had to release Jesus. He failed at both. Not all the water in the world could cleanse his hands or conscience, because he knowingly let an innocent man be condemned, for self-serving reasons.
- There are people who refuse to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior because of what it will cost them. How many will be in hell because they feared people and sought to please them! Does Pilate represent who you are?

## 3. THE TRIAL OF THE CROWD BEFORE JESUS: PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AGAINST GOD, BUT FOR ANYONE ELSE BUT GOD (VV. 38-40)

- When the crowd was given a choice, they chose the one who was popular, who represented their selfish hopes of political, earthly liberation. In doing so, they failed to realize they needed to be saved from themselves and the eternal consequences of choosing self over God.
- It's a principle we see in the Bible over and over again: the majority is NOT always right; numbers don't always indicate the will or favor of God. Matthew 7:13-14 says, "For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Yet how often do we let our preferences be dictated by the standard of popularity? That best-selling book, that super popular motivational speaker, that hyped-up attractional service of a popular church may have the figures going for them, but does it indicate the will and favor of God? Let your preferences be driven by the standards of the Word of God, never by the standards of men.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

I pray you will not find a picture of yourself here. If you do, now is the day of salvation. No one comes to Jesus, pleading for forgiveness and salvation, who is ever turned away.

But we all know and love certain people who are represented here. Take the same message then, that saved you, driven by the urgency of the brevity of life and the reality of the judgment of God, and "snatch them from the fire"! May God grant you success in this endeavor ■

Having been asked, let me answer why GCF is one of the few megachurches still doing praise and worship with lights on. This excerpt from an article\* by Ronni Kurtz help explain why:

## WHY WE SING WITH THE LIGHTS ON by Ronni Kurtz

I'm a pastor at a church comprised of Millennials. Our church is a prime candidate for loud, attractive music sung in a dimly lit room with an impressive worship team. Yet we sing in a completely lit room; no lasers, no candles, no dimmed lights, or anything of the sort. So why do we sing with the lights on?

### 1. Fellow members are evidence of grace

The brothers and sisters who are next to you singing on Sunday morning, like you, are miracles of God's saving grace. It would be a shame if you couldn't witness them praise the author and sustainer of their faith for the sake of mood lighting.

Whatever gain there might be in lowering the lights during worship, it's hard to imagine the advantages of a dim room could outweigh the wonder found when you observe blood-bought-saints around you praise their King.

### 2. Christianity and the corporate reality

One of the arguments for a dimly lit room during service is to eliminate distractions so that the attendee can focus on what they sing to Jesus. Yet I fear that in our attempt to eliminate distractions we've also eliminated the corporate reality of worship.

Christianity is a corporate faith where we all march together toward the Promised Land. It is in this corporate identity that we are given the charge to, "see to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God" (*Hebrews 12:15*). Those fellow members you might be tempted to count as distractions are the very ones who will make sure that you don't die on the banks of the Promised Land.

### 3. Confidence in another person's Jesus

There have been many times...due to something in my life—whether it be sin, doubt, fear, or something else—I didn't feel I was in a place where I could truly worship without being fake.

On most of these Sundays, what pulled me out of this rut was singing with the saints at my local church. A friend of mine once said...Sometimes I need to borrow someone else's faith." That's what happens to my cold soul on these hard Sunday mornings. While I might not feel enough confidence in Jesus to sing that morning, my brother does, and I can trust him.

### Conclusion

Friends, consider keeping the lights on this Sunday...a glare on the screen, a potential distraction from another member, or some imperfection that may be noticed cost little compared to the tremendous gift of witnessing redeemed brothers and sisters sing to their Savior ■

\*Read the full article at <https://ftc.co/blog/posts/why-we-sing-with-the-lights-on>.



## THE GCF LIFE JOURNEY APP

Be empowered to live a radically different life by engaging with the Bible. Through our GCF Life Journey app, you can Receive, Reflect and Respond to God's Word daily through your mobile device. Download now!



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# Ablaze Devotional

**For 'In him we live and  
move and have our being'**

- Acts 17:28a (NSRV)

It is easier to see creation as a display of God's power. But God is more than someone who creates, more than a god who seems to be out there, far removed and detached from His creation. The God revealed in the Bible is so much more than that of an all-powerful, distant God. In Scripture we see the God who is near, a God whose name means presence. We see a God who is all-powerful in His love.

Ultimately, in Jesus, we see God with flesh and blood. In Jesus, we see once again, God walking in the evening breeze, seeking humanity, "Where are you?" We see God with feet that walked the earth, and hands that touched the dirt of broken humanity.

These hands and feet encountered the powers that held hostage God's beloved. As Christ served, the power of sin was revealed at work in human hearts. These hands and feet, which encountered humanity, were pierced and nailed on the cross. The hostaged humanity became His murderers.

But God is love. In His death, He forgave, for His love is stronger than the grave. The love that reached out to humanity has conquered death, and has given hope to all humanity—a hope that that in God there is forgiveness, life, and love.

As we partake and participate in the communion, let us ask God to make us see it both as a celebration and an invitation. We celebrate Christ's finished work on the cross, remembering our guilt and shame is now forgiven. And we receive His invitation to us: to be His hands and His feet, seeking the lost, giving rest to the restless, and walking alongside the broken ■

## 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



### Welcome, NEW MEMBERS!

Roxanne David  
Christian David  
Vincent Bryan Lim  
Lowell Realubit  
Sean Thomas Halili

Julio Ricardo Valera  
Marilyn Gotchie Coste  
Mazhiel Mercader  
Althea Norah Cirineo

### WELCOMING INTERNATIONALS

*A workshop in partnership with the  
OMF Philippines Home Council*

November 11 (Sat.), 9 a.m. to 12 nn. at GCF

You may sign-up for this event at the Information booth, or contact **0932 371 3457** for more info

### JAPAN PRAYER DAY

*Designated day to pray for evangelization of Japan*

Nov. 11 (Sat.), 1 to 3 p.m. at the Sunken Lobby

Contact **0932 371 3457** for more information

### ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

*Nomination Period: On-going, until Nov. 5 (Sun.)*

*Election Days: December 9 and 10 (Sat. and Sun.)*

Nomination forms are available at the Ministry Information Booth. For more information, please refer to the inserted flyer.

## Weekly Stewardship REPORT

The Stewardship Report for the Week of October 29, 2017 will be published next week.

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and faithfulness by Swee'Pea Valerie Joy Aganon, the Basilad 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

Erlinda Dienzo's life has been renewed with a sense of purpose again when she joined the Senior Achievers Growth Group after the death of her husband. This Growth Group has been her haven. She looks forward to studying the Word, having fellowship in song, and the sharing of testimonies and prayer. Every Wednesday, each one is blessed to hear God's grace during times of difficulty in their lives.



The Growth Group bonds during trips they take and share intimate moments during times of grieving. They also took it upon themselves to support those in need and extend help to institutions who need love and care. Erlinda thanks God and prays for opportunities for them to continue reaching out to others that they may feel His love well.

She believes that their strength will be renewed as they continue on the task that the Lord has purposed for their lives. They can run and not get weary, walk and not grow faint.

*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).*

**ON THE COVER:** Ruins of the aqueduct in the city of Caesarea built by Herod the Great, king of Judea (37-4 BC) under the Roman Empire (Wikimedia). Romans came to rule Palestine after 73 years of Hasmonean national independence in 37 BC. From then on, the Romans created cities and improved existing ones with infrastructure built through high taxes. The Jews openly resented Roman rule but were no match to its military might, which was manifested through governors such as Pontius Pilate, who was the Judean prefect during Jesus' ministry.

# 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

## NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

*for Single Men aged 21-30*

Tentatively scheduled on Sundays,  
3-5 p.m. at GCF

## 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 4/5 November 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.

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# 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.

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