



5/6 May 2018
Vol. 40, No. 17

“Blessed are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed”

John 20:19-29

English Services

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

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

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
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.*



“Blessed are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed”

Today's Message (3/4 February 2018) /
John 19:25-30

JESUS GRACIOUSLY AND PATIENTLY MEETS US AT OUR POINT OF DOUBT BY CHALLENGING US TO BELIEVE. IT IS LESS ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS US TO “START”, BUT MORE ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS US TO STOP.

What life-changing realities do you believe in right now? We may take them for granted, but these beliefs actually run our lives, without us realizing.

The most life-changing reality any professing Christian can believe in is this: Jesus is alive and real, and He is present within us and around us. But while acknowledging that, this doesn't seem to impact many Christians as much as it should. How many today actually believe the reality of Christ enough to impact their day-to-day walk?

As Jesus appeared to His disciples to prove His resurrection and affirm their commission, Thomas had to be lovingly corrected for thinking that “to see is to believe”. Just like the apostle Thomas, we all have room to grow in our faith:

1. RESURRECTION SUNDAY: JESUS APPEARED THE FIRST TIME TO HIS DISCIPLES AS A GROUP.

The presence of Jesus turns a fear-driven gathering to a gathering of joyful worship.

- a. **He blessed the fearful disciples with His peace:** “[My] Peace be with you!”
 - God knows our struggle with fear and assures us by His presence (*John 14:27*).
- b. **He affirmed their commission and gave them the Holy Spirit:** “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you...Receive the Holy Spirit.”
 - All believers are called to serve God, but only through the power of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:8; John 15:5*).

2. THE SUNDAY AFTER RESURRECTION: JESUS APPEARED A SECOND TIME TO HIS DISCIPLES AS A GROUP.

Not all “Christian” gatherings will have the glory of God showing up, only those based around His reality: why do you think they were still intact a week later? Why do you think Jesus showed up again?

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

There will be no Traditional Service on May 12, 2018. Please be guided accordingly.



“Blessed are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed”

Today’s Message (3/4 February 2018) /
John 19:25-30

Be careful where you go and worship. Church-hopping is more destructive than you know. Ask God for the courage to be accountable and plant yourself firmly into the life of a local church as a member, not just an attender.

a. Thomas’ Declaration: “Unless I see...I will not believe it.”

- Had Thomas “left” earlier than the other apostles? Was he more discouraged than the rest, that’s why he stopped meeting with them?
- Sometimes the context of our doubt is not a lack of knowledge but a broken heart. That is why doubt is not always cured by more knowledge, but by a surrendered dependence on God.

b. Jesus’ Challenge: “Stop doubting and believe.”

- Jesus graciously and patiently meets us at our point of doubt by challenging us to believe. It is less about what He wants us to “start”, but more about what He wants us to *stop*. Faith begins when we surrender our doubts.
- It dawns upon Thomas who Jesus really is—that Jesus Christ is God Himself: “My Lord and my God!”

c. Jesus’ Lesson: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

- There are two kingdoms: the visible and the invisible. God rules over both. We live in the visible kingdom where all things must be seen to be believed in.
- Conversion changes all of that. When you are given a new heart, you start believing the reality of the invisible kingdom that it is so true and so powerful we are willing to live by its rules, die by its rules, and stake our eternity on its rules. And one of the iron-clad rules of that invisible kingdom, the Eternal kingdom, is this: If we insist on seeing before we believe, we will miss the glory of God. But if we are willing to believe before we see, that’s the time our eyes are opened. In God’s kingdom, to believe is to see.

FINAL THOUGHTS

How well do you believe the reality of Christ? We may say “I do believe He exists!”, but how much does that fact really affect us?

It will be a long time yet for “our faith to become sight”, we have to wait for death or the Rapture, but can we now, with all our hearts be able to say—that the reality of Jesus is the most important and life-changing reality we believe in? ■

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO BUY TICKETS FOR DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE

This is the very last week to purchase tickets to the Loving God Discipleship Conference by Edmund and Ann Chan. Save yourself the expenses of a trip to Singapore this September, and buy your ticket, as well as your family's and friends' tickets so you can all sit in Auditorium B, not the overflow areas.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON EXPOSITORY PREACHING

Asian Theological Seminary (ATS) asked me to speak alongside other preachers in a Biblical Preaching Seminar last month at CCF Main and assigned me the topic "Expository Preaching". I realized after sharing this to a thousand pastors and church leaders that I have yet to share what follows to GCF. Strangely enough, this is what got the most positive reactions out of everything I said:

1. Teaching the flock how to study the Bible for themselves by your pulpit example is probably one of the most underrated blessings of expository preaching.
2. The blessing of no. 1 includes the blessing of giving the flock Biblical discernment, a crying need in these post-modern times.
3. Expository preaching facilitates long term application and recall because the Source of the message (and outline!) lives forever (the Bible).

4. Expository preaching makes your flock more Theo-centric and Biblio-centric, rather than pastor-centric. As a preacher, that is one of the greatest obligations you have to your flock. And the best gift.
5. Finally, if you wish to grow a church quickly, this is probably not one of the quickest or easiest ways, but it will be worth it.

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."

I used to say, in reference to pastors, that sometimes, even the ones who do the comforting need comfort themselves. That was naive. After 12 years in the pastorate, seven of them as Senior Pastor, I have realized that the ones who do the comforting are often the most deeply hurt themselves, often by the least expected people. As A.W. Tozer said, "God cannot use a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." That is the point of the passage above. God lets you go through deep waters so you can help those drowning in them when you survive your own pain. Keep that in mind the next time you feel overwhelmed ■

Ablaze Devotional

*A voice of one crying out:
Prepare the way of the Lord
in the wilderness; make a
straight highway for our God
in the desert. — Isaiah 40:3
(HCSB)*

The way of the Lord is ushered in by a messenger crying out in the most unexpected place—the wilderness. Why speak in the wilderness? There's nothing there. God's presence is supposed to be in the temple, where worship and God's work happens, not in the wilderness. Why would He prepare a way in such a place?

People seem to have the same notion of God's space. We believe that God is manifested only in 'holy spaces' such as a church building or a temple. With that notion we think that worship and God's work only happens in places we deem holy. But the gospel story introduces us that that is not God's way.

God has always been in the business of speaking creation forth out of the void and chaos of the world. In the gospel, we see Jesus as the Word of God, becoming flesh and dwelling with humanity. As God's word in human skin, Christ is speaking forth a new kind of light out of the chaos and darkness of humanity.

In the gospel story's first scene, we see John the Baptist introducing Christ as "the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sin of the world". The lamb signified temple sacrifice, where a person kills it, imputing that person's sin on the lamb just so they would be able to be in the presence of the holy God. What does it mean, then, for John's introduction of Jesus as the lamb?

It tells us that God now dwells, not just in the temple, but lives among His creation. Being both the manifestation of God's presence and the lamb of God, Jesus creates holy spaces for every person He heals, liberates, and disciples.

As followers of Jesus, let us follow Him in the wilderness, healing, liberating, and making disciples ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH COACH NORMAN BLACK

For kids 7-16 years old

May 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Only 50 slots available | Reg. fee: PhP 1,500.00

Contact 0908 888 1431 to register/for more info



THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD

SUPAMoms Fellowship with Dr. Ali Ng Gui

May 26 (Sat), 9 a.m. to 12 noon, venue TBD

Contact 0919 564 9004 or 0927 239 8525

register/for more info



SEMINAR ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Getting Acquainted with the Holy Spirit" by

Dr. Harold Sala of Guidelines

May 26 (Sat), 9-11:30 a.m., venue TBD

Contact 0917 532 7672 to pre-register/for more

info | Pre-registration is required



SHIPWRECKED: RESCUED BY JESUS

GCF Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) 2018

May 28 to June 2 (Mon.-Sat.), 8 a.m. to 12 noon

here at GCF | **For kids ages 3-12**

Registration is online: [https://vbspro.events/p/
events/dvbsshipwrecked2018](https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbsshipwrecked2018)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

April 2018

	April Budget	Received, Apr. 1-30
General	7,659,315	8,850,532
Missions	927,000	1,414,736

	Jan. to Apr. Budget	Received, Jan-Apr.
General	36,611,426	30,096,536
Missions	3,759,967	4,033,644

Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with
praise and thanksgiving to our God
for His love and protection by Bingle
Gutierrez, LC, the Basilad family and
by an anonymous donor.*

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



This May 2018,
know what it means
to love God
with your
total self.

Who are Rev. Edmund and Ann Chan?

The husband and wife team of Edmund and Ann founded and currently lead the Global Alliance of Intentional Disciple-Making Churches (IDMC), which is based in Singapore. This alliance champions best practices in intentional disciple-making.

Unlock the door to abundant living promised by Christ.

This coming May 11 and 12, join us in learning the wonderful journey towards the foundation of discipleship—love for God.

As part of our year-long 40th anniversary celebration, we invited Rev. Edmund and Ann Chan to be speakers in **Loving God: A Discipleship Conference.**

We believe that foundational to our discipleship journey, and to the full life Jesus promised, is our own love for God, and Edmund and Ann will talk about loving God with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength. They have commendably served their

local church in Singapore, and has blessed the global church, including GCF in the past years, with their experience and wisdom, and will do so again in this upcoming conference.

Conference Dates:

May 11, Friday (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.) to
May 12, Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Ticket Prices:

800.00 pesos (live, in-person)
400.00 pesos (live, video feed only)
*Lunch is **not** included.*

Only limited seats are available, and we encourage GCFers to avail of the Auditorium B seats (live, in-person). Please get your tickets as soon as possible—first come, first served! Don't miss this rare opportunity!



A Discipleship Conference

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 5/6 May 2018, 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.