



Journey With One

8/9 December 2018

Vol. 40, No. 48

The Qualifications of an Elder

1 Timothy 3:1-7

English Services

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Anthem

Baptism (*English services*)

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Pastoral Prayer

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Worship through Giving

Response Song

Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda

Tawag sa Pagsamba

Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan

Pagkilala sa mga Bisita

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Panalangin Pastoral

Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos

Elder Marlon Roldan

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Tugon na Awit

Bendisyon

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



The Qualifications of an Elder

Today's Message (8/9 December 2018) /
1 Timothy 3:1-7

THERE IS NO
ROOM FOR
LAZINESS IN
THE MINISTRY,
OF DOING JUST
THE MINIMUM
TO GET BY.
PEOPLE MAY
NOT KNOW,
BUT GOD DOES.

This passage addresses one of the most disturbing trends in many churches today: the lowering of God's standards for what kind of men He wants as shepherds of His flock. We must clearly state that there should be no difference in qualifications between the elder and pastor because the Bible makes no distinction between the elder and pastor. They are one and the same as far as God and the Bible are concerned.

Here is God's standard for any elder's character and is thus the primary consideration in preparing for eldership: "Blameless". Literally, the elder will be "above reproach." It should be consistently characteristic of his life. "Blameless" is the overarching quality of the elder.

The remainder of the list is a detailed examination of each component of that characteristic, explaining what it means to be above reproach:

1. HIS M_____ CHARACTER IS E_____.
 - a. His relationship with women: "a one-woman man"
 - b. His relationship with others: "temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome...must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited"
 - c. His relationship with the things of this world: "not given to drunkenness...not a lover of money"
2. HIS M_____ IS E_____ : "ABLE TO TEACH."
 - "Able to teach" is explained by Titus 1:9 in terms of *content*: "He must hold firmly to the

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Hymn
Benediction



The Qualifications of an Elder

Today's Message (8/9 December 2018) /
1 Timothy 3:1-7

trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

- “Able to teach” is explained by 2 Timothy 4:2-5 in terms of *actions and attitude*: “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”
- “Able to teach” means not just skillfulness, but *faithful exercise* of that skill. There is no room for laziness in the ministry, of doing just the minimum to get by. People may not know, but God does.

N.B.: We do not look for a man, put him among the elders and then hope and pray he develops into an elder. We get someone who is already doing the task, who is already “eldering,” and attach to him the title “elder.” Thereafter, he joins the elders and pastors in the ministry. Not doing it this way has led to many unqualified men serving in the Council or Board or Pastorate, with disastrous results.

3. HIS M_____ OF LIFE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH IS E_____.

- a. He leads his own family well: “He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?” This is further explained by Titus 1:6: “...a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.”
- b. He has a good reputation outside the church and among the unsaved (v. 7).

FINAL THOUGHTS

As we vote for our elders today, please be reminded that we are voting for the future of our church. Make these very same criteria the reason for your praying constantly for your elders and pastors. Pray that we who are already here constantly uphold God’s standard. Pray that those about to come in as elders and pastors already and perpetually meet these standards. These are the Lord’s, not ours ■

HOPE BURNING BRIGHT: A CHRISTMAS WORSHIP MUSICALE

A blessed holiday season, GCF family!

This year's special Christmas services are an **evangelistic worship musicale** called **Hope Burning Bright**. It is our prayer that as a community, we will respond to the presence of God through music and singing. I hope that we are eager to sing and make music for our Audience of One, even to the tune of familiar Christmas Carols and perhaps now also familiar melodies in celebration of the season.

Even as we continue to light the Advent candles to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we also pray for more to hear, listen, and respond to His story. The musicale on December 15 and 16 is *evangelistic*, and we strongly encourage you, fellow GCFers to bring family, relatives, friends, officemates, neighbors, and other loved ones who have yet to know the true meaning of the Christmas

story. Throughout the year, we have been learning what it means to reach out to our *oikos*, and we hope we will consider this as another opportunity to do exactly that, as GCFers celebrating the Lord's faithfulness on our 40th year. This milestone year has been a wonderful gift from God, and may the urgency of the Gospel burn in our hearts as we continue to be the church—the bride of Christ.

May this project truly adore Him, Christ the Lord!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES

As announced on this section last week, we will be having Christmas and New Year's Eve services on December 24 and 31, both at 5:00 p.m. These fall on Monday, so we are also reminding everyone that we will still have regular services on the preceding weekends (December 22/23 and 29/30) ■

HOPE
*burning
bright*

A Christmas Worship Musicale

December 15
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

December 16
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
(two services only)

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



ALL THE SINGLE LADIES, PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

A little something awaits you on December 16, 2018 (Sun) when you drop by the *SHE* booth at the lobby!



HOPE BURNING BRIGHT

A Christmas Worship Musicale
December 15 (Sat), 5:00 p.m.
December 16 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
(two services only) | Auditorium B
Come with your family and friends!



HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULES

Christmas Eve Service (Dec. 24, Mon), 5 p.m.
New Year's Eve Service (Dec. 31, Mon), 5 p.m.
Please note that we will still have regular worship services on the preceding weekends.



PRAISE FACTORY AUDITIONS

January 19, 2019 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at A201 (Old Choir Room)
Open to kids ages 6-11, especially boys
Please prepare one audition song.



2018 CHURCH LEADERS ELECTION

Elections for elders and deacons who will start serving in 2019 are being held this weekend (December 8 and 9).

- All GCF Regular Members before 30 November 2018 who are eighteen (18) years old and above may vote.
- A ballot is inserted on your bulletin. Please properly fill it out. You may drop it on ballot boxes located near the Auditorium entrances.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and continuous blessings by Ramona Almiraz, the Santos boys, the Valera family and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)
Adults without GGs are invited!
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Best Together in Christ

Group for Couples
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Rm. B508

Spark Growth Group

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Seniors' Room

Life in Technicolor

support group for cancer patients and survivors
Every 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Overcomers

support group for those under any kind of addiction
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / December 2018

	December Budget	Received, Dec. 1 to 5	January to Dec. Budget	Received, Jan. 1 to Dec. 5
General Fund	7,213,495	2,021,019	102,654,224	85,746,058
Missions Fund	927,000	358,350	11,124,000	9,606,310

ABLAZE

“The Lord has blessed you because you believed that [God] will keep His promise.”

— Luke 1:45 (CEV)

Advent is not just about celebrating the first coming of Jesus Christ. As it is about the coming of God in the life and person of Jesus Christ, it is also about how God’s kingdom has now come alive in our hearts. As much as it celebrates the past, it does the same for the present moment while looking forward when the kingdom comes into full reality when Christ returns.

The encounter of Mary and Elizabeth shows us the beauty of a community that affirms the work of God.

We see how both lives reflect full confidence in the promises God gave them. Both in dire circumstances, Elizabeth in the barrenness of old age, and Mary in the looming shame of conceiving outside marriage. Both experienced a miracle that brought hope, peace, and joy, not just for themselves, but for all nations. Despite their situation, the faithfulness of Yahweh met them where they are.

The rescue, relief, and release for a hopeless and desperate people has

now come to its fulfillment. Yahweh now made His dwelling among His people. Peace has now come alive for the Prince of Peace has moved in to the neighborhood, bringing the peace that binds all humanity in self-emptying and self-giving love.

As the faith of Elizabeth’s and Mary’s witness point us to the wonderful name of Jesus, so, too, are we called to believe in God’s faithfulness. May our souls leap for joy, for the Lord has come and moved in with us. God’s peace on earth overthrows the powers of sin and oppression, as it shines light to those who are in darkness.

As God continues to speak His promises to our lives, let us be a voice of peace to others—of relief, comfort, and affirmation. Just as God has blessed us, may we be a blessing

*May our souls leap for joy,
for the Lord has come and
moved in with us.*

to those around us, affirming and journeying with people who still await God’s redemptive work in their lives. Like Mary, let us become voices of joy and peace to the world because we believe that God still continues to keep His promise ■

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.

ON THE COVER: A herd of sheep waiting for their shepherd to open the gate of a pen in Ninh Thuận province in Vietnam (*pixabay.com*). Shepherding and pastoring as a metaphor for religious leadership is somehow unique to the Christian tradition. It is heavily based on the view that God is the shepherd of His people, and His Son Jesus is the Great Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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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 8/9 December 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.