



14/15 September 2019
Vol. 41, No. 37

The Favor and Judgment of God

Psalm 21

English Services

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Missions Testimony

Community Prayer

Scripture Reading

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

Patotoo

Panalangin ng Komunidad

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos

Pastor BJ Sebastian

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Tugon na Awit

Bendisyon

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

The Favor and Judgment of God

Today's Message (14/15 September 2019) / *Psalm 21*

“AS A FATHER
SHOWS
COMPASSION
TO HIS
CHILDREN,
SO THE LORD
SHOWS
COMPASSION
TO THOSE
WHO FEAR
HIM.”

Psalm 21 is thanksgiving for the answered prayers of Psalm 20. The people have triumphed because their king has. David, along with the people, rejoiced in the triumphs granted by God over their enemies.

This psalm represents God's lovingkindness to those He calls His own. It also makes for a rich study of the character of God who takes the side of His children and counts their enemies His. While serving as an encouragement to battle-hardened souls in a spiritually hostile world, it is also a stern warning for those who take God lightly or choose to maintain unbiblical views about who God is.

1. THE M_____ OF GOD'S BLESSINGS: GOD DELIGHTS IN BLESSING HIS CHILDREN (vv. 1-6)

- In the same way that David is representative of believers today, the blessings enumerated are also representative of God's favor to His children today. The blessings may come singly, or in combination, at this time, or another; but they all eventually become the experience of God's children.
- Like other royal psalms, Psalm 21 is prophetic of a king greater than David, a perfect King, and only for Him could “most blessed forever” literally apply—the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. THE M_____ FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS: GOD'S LOVE—“THROUGH THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE MOST HIGH HE SHALL NOT BE MOVED” (v. 7)

- God didn't love David because he kept trusting God. Rather, David trusted in God because God kept loving him over and over. That's the concept behind the “steadfast love” of God. (Hebrew *hesed*).

God always loved us first, before we ever started trusting and believing in Him!

Traditional Service

(Sept. 14, Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Worship Through Fellowship

Missions Testimony

Worship Through Giving

Community Prayer

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Response Hymn

Benediction

The Favor and Judgment of God

Today's Message (14/15 September 2019) / *Psalm 21*

- When we realize how deeply loved we are, when it really sinks in, it is a transformative experience. It changes you into a grateful, appreciative, cheerful person whose heart is never completely overwhelmed by trials and sorrows. As Proverbs 15:15 reminds us, “All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.”

3. THE M_____ OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS: GOD IS DETERMINED TO JUDGE HIS ENEMIES (vv. 8-12)

- Both poetic expressions and literal descriptions are used to describe the judgments of God. Suffice it to say that “find out...wrath...fire...destroy descendants” are just a few of the realities awaiting those who choose to reject a relationship with God—which is offered today through Jesus Christ. Such people are counted as those who “hate God.”
- Hebrews 10:30-31 makes it crystal clear: “For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Some people have a very misguided, lopsided view of God—a God who is all love and no judgment, a God who is all compassion, with no standards of holiness. Such a God may be convenient for them. But that is not the God of the Bible. And the worst surprise comes when they find out too late, that the true God will not live up to their expectations.

4. THE M_____ OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS: GOD'S POWER—“WE WILL SING AND PRAISE YOUR POWER” (vv. 13)

- For David, it all goes back to the character of God. What God does is because of who God is. How and why He does things is again because of who He is. So God can do whatever He wants to those who hate Him, because of His limitless strength and power. For those who hate God, this is a terrifying thought. But for those who belong to God it is an assurance of a powerful Helper for their souls.

FINAL THOUGHTS

God really does value some people more—His children. As Psalm 103:13 reveals, “As a father shows compassion to His children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.” And God heard David’s prayer not just because he was king, but because he was a “man after God’s own heart.”

Let this encourage you today, that you can also become a woman or man after God’s own heart. In that case, may nothing but the favor of God rest upon you all your life ■

WHERE TO? LOCAL VS. GLOBAL MISSIONS

I have heard some people say in church that because of the great imbalance today in missions, we have to prioritize unreached people groups. And research shows that indeed: "Roughly thirty times as many missionaries go to reached people groups to work with Christians, as go to unreached people groups. Far less go to the frontier people groups, where there are as yet no believers" (R. W. Lewis, *Clarifying the Remaining Frontier Mission Task*).

But there is another group of people who argue that because of the rapidly changing socioeconomic circumstances we are witnessing in the majority world, the church's priority ought to be the church's own backyard. Here is an example of this change: according to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), we had 33,561 student permits handed out to foreigners coming from more than 65 countries all over the world (CHED, Statistics of Foreign Students in the Philippines, 2018).

So how do we resolve this as a church? Going back to Jesus' call to his followers to be witnesses (*Acts 1:8*) and to make disciples of all nations (*Matthew 28:18-20*), we are to simply remind ourselves that the priority of ministry in God's mission is not about choosing one over the other. Baranggay San Antonio, Pasig is just as important as the Magindanaw people group. The church therefore must have a burden and a love for the world because of our love for God and our love for our neighbor (*Matthew 22:36-40*). As Carlson and Clark said: "Is it necessary to take the gospel to the nations? Yes! Is it important to try

to break into areas where the gospel has never been proclaimed? Yes! Must Christians own the responsibility to go and to send? Yes! Is it ever appropriate to think of the ethnec in terms of geographic or ethnolinguistic categories? Absolutely! In fact, the apostles themselves could consider nations (Spain) or people groups (Scythians) in their efforts to take the gospel to all the world. So should we" (Darren Carlson and Elliot Clark, "The 3 Words That Changed Mission Strategy – and Why We Might Be Wrong," The Gospel Coalition).

It is my prayer then that as we grow in our love for God and as we discover more and more of what God is doing in our cities, hometowns, as well as what is happening in the world today, we would be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit in doing what we can do as scattered church to be his witnesses at school, work, and our families following the principles of oikos:

1. *Pray*: Pray and get to know our supported missionaries by obtaining a copy of our 2019 Missions Primer at the ministry information booth
2. *Relate*: Join and support our Chmissions later 12PM with the Lepcha family at the Fellowship Hall
3. *Invite*: Open your home, share a meal and encourage a struggling neighbor/officemate
4. *Share and Disciple*: Challenge your GG to talk about the good news and then walk-alongside their friends and family members ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



FAMILY CONFERENCE

All official and regular members included in the church roster are invited to attend
 September 29 (Sun), after the 10:30 a.m. service. Agenda: To approve the proposed amendment/addition to the GCF Statement of Faith on "Marriage, Sexes and Sexuality"



PASTORS' APPRECIATION MONTH

This coming October
 Growth Groups are encouraged to host pastors and their families to appreciate them. For more details and to sign-up, please visit the ministry information booth.



F3 MEN'S CONFERENCE

Topics: Finances, Family, Fitness
 Enjoy relaxing and fun time with fellow men on October 18-20 (Fri-Sun) at MMRC
 Fee: P2,500. For more details, please visit the info booth or contact 0917 532 1921.



SEEING I TO I? EXPERIENCING GRACE IN MARRIAGE

GCF Couples' Retreat 2019
 November 9-10 (Sat-Sun) at CCT Tagaytay
 Fee: P2,500/couple, includes accommodation and materials. Registration deadline is on November 3 (Sun). For more details, please visit the info booth or contact 0917 532 7713.

CHURCH LEADERS ELECTION 2019

Nomination Period: **October 5-27**

Pre-qualification Period: **November 2-16**

Publication of List of Candidates: **November 30-December 8**

Election Day: **December 14-15**

Nomination forms are available at the info booth every Sunday or with Ms. Grace Mosquera at the 3rd floor office.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His mercy and grace by an anonymous donor, 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

Mixed group led by Pastor Emer Manaloto, reopens September 15
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B124 (GG Center)

Burning Hearts Chronicles GG

Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 Rm. B123

Jars of Clay GG

Group for women
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B512

Best Together in Christ

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

Sowers 2

Mixed group
 Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.
 Rm. B514

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 779 1549.

Growth Group Leaders Training 1

September 1, 8, 15, and 22 (Suns)
 12:00-3:00 p.m. at A303

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / September 2019

SEPTEMBER	Projected	Rcvd., Sep. 1-12	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Sep. 12
General Funds	6,866,516	3,704,467	General Funds	70,958,454	67,764,334
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	420,533	Mission Support Fund	15,600,951	10,552,166
Others (Designated, etc.)	695,754	121,494	Others (Designated, etc.)	9,269,188	10,428,673
TOTAL	8,879,968	4,246,494	TOTAL	95,828,593	88,745,173

He works beyond understanding

BY JOEL LEPCHA

Our God is a faithful God. His works are amazing and beyond our understanding. And this is what we want to declare today with our story.

As a couple, my wife Koko and I started our missionary journey in January 2014, after we got married here in GCF. We went back to India after the wedding and started serving in a Bible School. It was a time of adjustment for us. Koko was trying to cope with the new culture and I with the new responsibilities.

We struggled with our new life, which we believed was supposed to be fun and fulfilling. Small petty things made us argue almost every other day. There were days when I would rush out of the house. Other times, I would find Koko crying in the corner. During this time I also had some serious, random anxiety attacks, and I didn't know what to do.

But our God is faithful. In our quiet times with Him, He reminded us that He is in control of our lives, our family. We waited on Him. We waited for opportunities. We waited for a new beginning. Then He gave us Nathan. This was a moment of joy

for us and after a few months Koko came back to Manila. God saw our struggles and gave us joy through Nathan. But now we had another challenge. I was in a foreign country, living in my in-law's house without any work and it was unbearable. I was not able to provide for my baby and again, like before, I didn't know what to do.

But God was faithful still. He led me to pray and hold onto Him. He brought me to GCF and my Growth Group who became our second family. Every Sunday, being here was and is encouraging.

He provided me with ministry opportunities in various organizations and on January this year He

brought me to Care Channels International. And I felt this is why God had kept me here in Manila, after I had prayed and tried many times to go back to India. In His time and faithfulness He brought me exactly where I was to serve.

Our God is indeed a faithful and promise keeping God. Like us, He will bring you to where your calling is in His time. To Him be all the glory ■



PRAYER at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

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

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

ON THE COVER: *O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults!*—Psalm 21:1. Illustrated in the photo is David being celebrated by the people for his victories in battle (The triumphant David by Matteo Rosselli, public domain painting by from Wikimedia).



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 14/15 September 2019, 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.