



The Blessings of Suffering

Psalm 22

English Services

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

Prelude
 Call to Worship
 Worship through Praise
 Worship through Fellowship
 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 Dags Miguel
 Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
 Tugon na Awit
 Bendisyon

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



21/22 September 2019

Vol. 41, No. 38

The Blessings of Suffering

Today's Message (21/22 September 2019) / *Psalm 22*

MAY WE NOT BE
SO FOCUSED ON
OUR SUFFERING
THAT WE
FORGET THE
ONE WHO
SUFFERED FIRST
FOR US AND
GAINED FOR US
A SALVATION WE
COULD NEVER
WORK FOR.

Suffering is one of the painful realities of a believer's life. While it is true that all people, believers or not, are destined to suffer in a fallen and broken world, there is something unique in the believer's suffering: the expectation of divine help. If you suffer for righteousness' sake, God will eventually deliver and vindicate you for the glory of His Name.

Psalm 22 is often called "The Fifth Gospel" because of 15 Messianic quotations or allusions to it that were fulfilled by Christ on the cross. That is where the One who never sinned would become sin for us, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 *Corinthians 5:21*). His suffering is illustrative of ours, and yet must also be considered uniquely in the way that it won for us something we could never earn.

1. THE PAIN OF UNDESERVED SUFFERING (vv. 1-21)

- a. In the midst of painful circumstances, it is acceptable to cry out and lament before God. God would rather hear your pained cry than see your back; listen to you weep than watch you walk away. He doesn't lose anything if we make that mistake. We do.
- b. In the midst of difficult circumstances, the hope of the believer is the unchanging character of God (*Isaiah 54:10*).

Traditional Service

(Sept. 21, Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Worship Through Fellowship

Worship Through Giving

Testimony

Community Prayer

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Response Hymn

Benediction

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Today's Message (21/22 September 2019) / *Psalm 22*

2. THE GLORY OF GOD'S DELIVERANCE (vv. 22-31)

- a. Those vindicated by God will proclaim his glory to future generations.
- b. Future hope in God gives us the strength to endure present suffering.

When God finally delivers and vindicates believers suffering for righteousness, this results to glorifying His Name to all people and to future generations.

As a believer, how do you survive undeserved suffering? Do just like David did:

1. Rely on the unchanging character of God.
2. Recall the faithfulness of God.
3. Request God's help in prayer.
4. Recover in the midst of God's people.
5. Rejoice with God's people when God ultimately vindicates and delivers you.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The life of a believer is not one of continuous exaltation but repeated vindication. God doesn't spare us because He is somehow preparing us for the life after this. And in a way that perhaps God alone can best explain, suffering is inevitable preparation for our eternal destiny.

In all of this, do not forget how all of this became true for Christ, and how it gained our salvation for us. May we not be so focused on our suffering that we forget the One who suffered first for us and gained for us a salvation we could never work for. Because He suffered, the Just for the unjust, His kingdom will know no end, His glory will know no bounds. Do you know Him? The better question is: Does Jesus know you? ■

The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Parkin Young

This month, my family is expecting our firstborn to arrive. We will be naming him Tobias Immanuel because through him, we have experienced the goodness of God. Through the whole pregnancy, I thought about a lot of things, but one thing stood out and that was I wanted to make our family a loving, accepting, and caring place for my son. Even if the world would not make him feel those feelings, I want him to come home to us where he can be himself and feel accepted and loved.

Last August 25-27, we had our Sabbath Young Adults' retreat, where 80 people spent the weekend practicing reconnecting to God through spiritual disciplines, as well as learning the nature of our callings through Kuya Aleks Tan. We also got to spend time one night just fellowshiping with one another and being a community. That was one of the highlights during the retreat, when our young adults just got to relax and have fun together. This is one thing that we in this ministry want to focus on moving forward. We want to make GCF a community where young adults feel that they belong here, that they are loved and accepted. I believe that is what the church should be in this confusing and hurtful world of ours today.

I learned that for the young adults of today, rest is a very precious thing. Working all week and experiencing stress and juggling life in general, burn out is easy to come by. That is why for

our retreats and other things that we planned, we put a premium on resting. One of those things that we planned is a hangout on Fridays for young adults who are working. We hold it here in for those who just want to take a break from the things that stress them out and let the presence, love, and rest of God be felt through community. The next hangout will be on September 27 and if you want to take a break, come on down here at GCF and play board games, eat food, have fellowship with fellow young adults, and just have a good time with our budding community here at GCF. Please send an RSVP through **0917 625 0244** so we can count you in.



Being a soon-to-be-dad, family is one thing I want to focus on because it is one of the main things in my life. So, come and join us in the YA community so that we can be a family here in church. Have a blessed weekend!

Update: Pastor Parkin's son, Tobias Immanuel, was born last Wednesday, September 18 ■

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.

FLOWER MINISTRY. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to sponsor our weekly pulpit flower arrangement.

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. 1-16	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Sep. 16
General Funds	6,866,516	5,496,260	General Funds	70,958,454	69,556,127
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	779,116	Mission Support Fund	15,600,951	10,910,749
Others (Designated, etc.)	695,754	144,109	Others (Designated, etc.)	9,269,188	10,454,167
TOTAL	8,879,968	6,419,485	TOTAL	95,828,593	90,921,044

A blessing to be of service to God

BY DAVID ONG

When we started our business in 1989, and up to 1996, our trajectory has been a steady climb. That is, until July of 1997. We were one of the companies hit by the Asian Financial Crisis.

In that year, the core of our company was engaged in a severe test of patience, grit, and perseverance that I have never experienced before in my life. It took us 10 years to recover substantially from that. We were shocked, but we came out of it a lot wiser and stronger. People ask me how we made it. I have only one answer: God's faithfulness, tender mercies, and grace.

I am reminded of the truth that "God never promised us an easy life, but He promised us to be in the middle of the storm." All this time, my wife and I were busy taking care of our five children and our business, that we were in the truest sense "Christians for convenience," wearing the hat of a Christian if the situation called for it, most of the time living but not being truly "alive."

We started attending GCF in 2010, and since then, it has been our home church. Being with GCF has greatly enriched our spiritual lives and filled up a lot of empty voids. Early last year, we felt a need to share the good news with other people, and we realized, why not start in our

own company, our *oikos*, since we have a substantial number of employees?

Early 2018, we started a weekly Bible study in our company by showing videos of past Sunday sermons. Our employees were receptive to the idea and before we knew it, 30 to 40 people were attending.

Our current Bible study uses material that teaches workplace ethics and how to become effective God-centered employees. What's more, we even have our Bible studies shown on Facebook Live to our nationwide branches.

Our employees always look forward to our Bible studies. More importantly, we noticed significant changes in them. They are becoming tolerant of each other, as well as cheerful and courteous, to say the least. We are a family-led corporation, and my wife and I, and our children, also attend the weekly Bible study. I can proudly say that it is truly a gain on our part.

If you have the opportunity to share the gospel with your employees by holding a Bible study in your company, I urge you to do so, because it is a privilege and a blessing to be of service to the Lord Almighty. For those who are interested to host a Bible study in their workplace, please let us know by filling out the tear-off form in this bulletin ■

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: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*—Psalm 22:1. In this unique illustration of the passion, it is the onlookers to Jesus' crucifixion and their reactions to his predicament which are depicted. Note the feet of Jesus at the center bottom of the painting (*What Our Lord Saw From the Cross* (1890) by James Tissot, *public domain painting from Wikimedia*).



Greenhills Christian Fellowship Know Christ and Make Him Known

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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 **21/22 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.