



20/20 Vision: Pressing On for the Prize

Philippians 3:12-21

English Services

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

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Baptism
Community Prayer
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Elder Ed Trono
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
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.



28/29 December 2019

Vol. 41, No. 52

20/20 Vision: Pressing On for the Prize

Today's Message (28/29 December 2019) / *Philippians 3:12-21*

LET OUR
RESOLUTIONS,
WHERE WE
WILL DEVOTE
OURSELVES, BE
MOTIVATED BY
GOD'S ETERNAL
VISION FOR OUR
LIVES.

2019 is about to end. We can look back with much thanksgiving for what God has allowed us to accomplish. We can look back with an honest acceptance that there are things left undone. Whichever way 2019 turned out, we should look forward in earnest to the coming New Year. **We can prepare for 2020 with a clear vision of what God wants to accomplish in our lives.**

Paul had 20/20 vision of what God wants. He clearly stated in Romans 8:29 that **God is transforming believers to become like Jesus**. This is also what Paul desired. He earnestly wants to know and to gain Christ. He desires to know the power of the resurrection, to participate in Christ suffering, and be like Jesus in his death (*Philippians 2:8-11*). Paul's vision extended beyond his earthly existence. His Christ-centered heavenly vision in eternity dictated where he will devote his life on earth.

Paul tells us to imitate him. As genuine believers, **we need to have a Christ-centered vision**. As God's children, **our vision is God's vision for our eternity**. Our vision is not earth-bound. It is heaven-bound.

Our heavenly vision drives our earthly devotions. What can we learn from Paul's attitudes and aims, which can guide us on which resolutions we will devote our effort, time and resources to in 2020? What perspectives and priorities do we need to refresh or renew so that our heavenly vision drives our earthly devotions next year?

1. PRESS ON PERSISTENTLY (vv. 12-14)

We need to **continue pressing on towards the heavenly prize** for which God has called us. Paul did not consider himself as having attained it. Neither should we: no matter our spiritual highs in 2019 and,

Traditional Service

December 28 (Sat.), 6 p.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Community Prayer

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Elder Ed Trono

Response Hymn

Benediction

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more specially, since we are very aware of our failures last year. **We will only be made perfect when we get to heaven.**

We only get the prize when we finish the race.

2. PROGRESS IN MATURITY (vv. 15-17)

Let us progress toward greater spiritual maturity and **live up to what we have already attained**. In Christ, we are already justified. We already have the Holy Spirit. Let us live accordingly. Review 2019 and see what spiritual truths you gained last year. Apply these truths in our lives and seek to know more of God in 2020. Let us trust God will give us a greater understanding of his word.

Find exemplary believers whose **lives you can follow as your models**. Paul said follow his and others' examples. He is not being egocentric. As he said, he has not arrived. He admits he is not yet perfect. Don't look for sinless perfection in finding your models. Identify people whose lives are inclined towards magnifying and obeying Christ. Aim to be a godly example yourself.

Life application of biblical principles emulating best practices bring spiritual progress.

3. PREPARE FOR ETERNITY (vv. 18-21)

Be warned of being earthbound. Our minds should not be set on earthly things lest we end up being enemies of the cross of Christ. Earthly endeavors with no eternal significance are destined for destruction. Sinful sensual and material pleasures will not satisfy and will bring shame.

Prepare for eternity so that we can **eagerly await Christ's return**. Believers are citizens of heaven. The earth is not our home. We are aliens here. Christians long for Christ's return. We want to be in our heavenly home. We **long for our** deteriorating bodies to be replaced by our **eternal and glorious bodies**. Let us live today worthy of our best lives yet to be in eternity.

The more eager we are for our best life in eternity, the more we prepare here on earth.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Let us set our New Year's resolutions. Whatever we aim for in 2020, let us make sure we refresh and renew our priorities and perspectives. **Let our clear heavenly vision drive our earthly devotion this year**. Let our resolutions, where we will devote ourselves, be motivated by God's eternal vision for our lives. **For the glory of God, let us desire even more to know Christ and be more like him in 2020 ■**

EACH DAY IS A GIFT

In 2019, I woke up each morning thanking God for the gift of life and for another 24 hours of an exciting journey with Him. I paused each day to reflect on the 24 hours ahead of me celebrating the fact of His presence. Whatever was ahead, whatever transpired, whatever opportunities came, or whatever challenges and difficulties that arose, I knew that the all-powerful, all knowing and omnipresent God was with me. God Almighty is my dear Father who is good, righteous, just, generous, and perfectly loving. He is trustworthy and a companion who is a cut above the rest. In His holy, just, and righteous presence, I can relax because of His infinite grace, courtesy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Definitely, each day was marked by glad anticipation, assurance, joy, and peace because of God's presence in my life.

Oh how I wish each day as I described it above was true. The fact is the past three quarters of 2019 was not necessarily so. But God in His love allowed me to discover the possibility of a daily journey that is akin to what I painted above. In October of this year, I began to try it. As I woke up each morning, I conversed with God. In that morning prayer, I allowed my mind to linger on the fact that indeed it is a day he has gifted me with.

You know what? During those particular days, God and I did things together. We often conversed (just to

clarify, I did not hear God audibly) but we did communicate, connect and experience closeness. The Lord was true to His promise to be a very present help in times of trouble (*Psalms 46:1*). Also, anytime I needed it, He provided guidance as I sought wisdom and acknowledged His presence, instead of simply relying on my own self or resources (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

My circumstances did not change much; the challenges and the daily grind pretty much remained the same. But thus far, I have seen better days marked with joy, anticipation and peace knowing God is with me. Interestingly, we're now in the season that reminds us of the name Immanuel. Truly God is with us. He is with me. He is with you. He is present whether we are attentive to it or not.

Would you want to transform your daily routine into an awesome, wonderful sojourn? Celebrate what you already have in Jesus. He has come to grant life that is full and meaningful. Such quality of life also is eternal. Don't miss out on enjoying each day of your life journey as a gift from God.

Incidentally, if you want to know more about the Good News of Jesus or perhaps desire the experience that I am talking about, waste no time. Speak to any of us today. We'd be glad to share with you what we know, have and experience in this life of following Jesus! ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Sunflowers Growth Group

Group for women
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Rm. B506

Burning Hearts Chronicles Growth Group

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

Jars of Clay Growth Group

Group for women
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 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.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY SERVICES

New Year's Eve service:
December 31 (Tuesday), 5:00 p.m.
Note: There will be no New Year's Day regular service on January 1, only a midweek prayer service at the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT GCF

We are looking for **one (1) building engineer** to join our full-time staff here at Greenhills Christian Fellowship. For other application information and complete job description, please email gcfhr@gcf.org.ph.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by Rubelyn Enriquez. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / December 2019

NOVEMBER	Projected	Rcvd., Dec. 1-26	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Dec. 26
General Funds	10,459,217	7,745,184	General Funds	95,007,238	95,376,117
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	1,523,488	Mission Support Fund	15,812,370	14,983,371
Others (Designated, etc.)	661,864	1,048,231	Others (Designated, etc.)	16,873,885	14,983,297
TOTAL	12,438,779	10,316,903	TOTAL	127,693,493	125,342,786

More than enough to give

BY CYNTHIA MEDRANA

This October, God gave me an opportunity to join OC again for their trip in Sablayan, Mindoro. At first, I felt mixed emotions of excitement and confusion. Excitement, because I always wanted to tell people about God and how He works in the life of those who love Him. Confusion, because I had four other engagements happening that weekend. During my quiet times, God impressed upon my heart and made clear what He wanted me to do—to join the outreach in Sablayan.

On our first day, there was a five-year-old boy who was barefoot and without clothes. While I was finding clothes for him in the gift packs we prepared, I whispered, “Father, help me find an outfit for the boy immediately. I cannot remember which of these 350 gift packs has the clothes for boys.” In random order, I grabbed the third pack, and behold, it was a t-shirt with a Spider Man design. As my hands reached for the fifth pack, I found a pair of blue jeans. The outfit matched the boy’s new red and blue slippers.

On the second day, it rained hard. Five young girls got wet all over. I prayed again for God to help us find clothes. In just a few minutes, the Lord gave us a blouses, leggings, and cute shorts for them.

Ang galing. Iba talaga si God! He is a personal God, full of surprises and has a

sense of humor. He answers even our short and simple prayers. Prayer is the first and foremost important thing. Without prayer, nothing can be accomplished properly according to His will.

Later that afternoon, we were told a big dump truck with more Mangyans from a distant place is arriving. This was not expected. My reaction was, “Will our supply be enough for those coming?” But then I thought, “It’s a good problem, as more Mangyans will be able to hear about Christ.” I placed my hands on our supplies and prayed, “Father, thank you for giving us more people whom we could minister to. Please multiply these so everyone will go full of hope.”

God is indeed great! Just like the story of the feeding of the 5,000, we had more than enough to give. Even as others kept coming back to ask for more, God kept multiplying.

Indeed, we cannot do anything apart from God. But He also has a great design for the family of believers—that is to work together. We can do more if we work together ■

Do you want to give directly to GCF's missions efforts?

Just use this envelope with black label to designate your giving for this ministry.



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: “But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.”—Philippians 3:13
(photo by user *Gho Rhy Yan* at *unsplash.com*).



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

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 for the first time 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.

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: **28/29 December 2019**

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

Consent to use your information:

By affixing your signature below, you give permission to Greenhills Christian Fellowship to store and use the information you provided above for the sole purpose of contacting you and updating you about any inquiry you have made.

Your signature

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.