



**29 February/  
1 March 2020**  
Vol. 42, No. 9

## Greater Than All the Angels

*Hebrews 1:5-14*

### **English Services**

*(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:00 p.m.)*

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
Confessing Prayer  
The Lord's Supper  
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  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor BJ Sebastian*  
Panalangin ng Pagsisisi  
Banal na Hapunan  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Tugon na Awit  
Bendisyon

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

# Greater Than All the Angels

Today's Message (29 February/1 March 2020) / Hebrews 1:1-4

IN JESUS  
WE HAVE  
THE WHOLE  
TRUTH—AND  
IN JESUS  
THE BEST  
POSSIBILITY  
OF BEING  
MADE  
WHOLE.

The church today is in the midst of an authority crisis. In the wake of the moral demise of religious leaders, and the unapologetic rejection of moral and cultural norms in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to whom should we listen to find out what to believe and how to order our lives?

Some answer the question by turning to the occult. Others look to science as the savior of humanity. Still others look to religious leaders who interpret God and reality for them. Our passage uses a chain of Old Testament quotations to focus on the preeminent authority of Jesus. These verses speak volumes to an age grappling with issues of authority—to whom should we listen? Whom can we trust? Who has the right answers to our life questions?

We begin with a biblically-based discussion of angels, from which to speak about the supremacy of the Son of God:

## WHAT ARE ANGELS

Much of contemporary angelology has strong New Age overtones. Yet, as 1 JOHN 4:1 warns, we are not to believe every spirit, but should test the spirits to see whether they are from God. Paul reminds us that Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light (2 CORINTHIANS 11:14). Our passage is rich in revelations about the angels:

1. They lead the worship of heaven, especially the worship of Jesus.
2. They are spirit-beings endowed with God's power ("a flame of fire"). In this sense they are counted "companions" of Jesus.
3. They are servants (ministers), not authorities, in heaven.
4. They are ministering (serving) spirits.

# Greater Than All the Angels

Today's Message (1/2 February 2020) / Hebrews 1:1-4

- a. They are sent out (directed by God).
- b. They serve believers.
- c. They serve all other functions as God dictates and desires [e.g. protecting the helpless (MATTHEW 18:10), proclaiming God's messages (REVELATION 14:6-12), and executing God's judgment (ACTS 12:1-23, REVELATION 20:1-3)].

The bottom line is, by their activity of worship, they point to the Lord Jesus Christ (VV. 6-7), and rather than scouring the planet looking for every human encounter, they are sent out specifically "to serve...those who are to inherit salvation" (V. 14). That's you, Christian.

## WHY IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST GREATER THAN ALL THE ANGELS?

1. God calls Him his "Son".
2. God requires all the angels to worship Him.
3. God gave Him the throne and kingdom of heaven.
4. God exalted Him by anointing Him above all other spirit-beings.
5. God glorifies His role as the Creator of the entire universe.
6. God highlights His eternal glory.
7. God establishes Him in the position of power and glory.
8. God destroys His enemies for Him.

No angel ever had, and will ever have, even just one of these. Not ever.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

We cannot honor Jesus too highly. In every way Jesus is superior—and so the revelation He brings, and the salvation He offers is superior to any other source—angel or human. There is no need to look elsewhere. In Jesus we have the whole truth—and in Jesus the best possibility of being made whole.

Understanding how Jesus is better than the angels helps us to understand how He is better than any of the "competitors" to Him in our lives. In this sense, the purpose of Hebrews is like the purpose of the Transfiguration. Both of them cry out and say, "*This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!*" (MARK 9:7) ■

## Traditional Service February 29 (Sat.), 6 p.m.

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Preparatory Hymn  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
Pastor Larry Pabiona  
Confessing Prayer  
The Lord's Supper  
Benediction

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

"Glad to see some changes in our worship services. They are welcome but [I] am curious..." So goes the gist of one question.

Let me take this opportunity to explain why we do what we do. These things have made the way we worship totally different from the way we've done it before. But before the details, please allow me to state a general principle: we don't do them just to be "different". Nor are we doing them for any other reason, except to keep our worship centered on God—His worship, not our needs. It is in worshiping God that His Spirit works in our hearts and lives to meet our needs, and often, not just our spiritual needs.

- **Confessing prayer.** This is a practice we do just before Communion. We learned from Psalms 6 and 32 the necessity of personal confession. It is not that we intentionally break God's heart every minute. Nor does it mean that we must live all our lives groveling before the Lord without joy. As we have taught, confession is just the manifestation of a heart that recognizes the utter holiness of God, and our continual existence with a fallen nature, in a fallen world. And so confessing sin restores our joy, rather than robs us of it. At least once a month, just before we take Communion, we are made to examine the totality of our lives not just some of our sins, and to realign ourselves to the will of God. And because of this reminder called "Confessing Prayer," humility before God hopefully becomes a way of life, not just a way to forgiveness. The most joyful people

in their hearts are those most aligned to the loving will of God.

- **Community prayer.** We do this in all our worship services except Communion Sunday/Saturday. This is a time to pray not only for the country or the church, but a time especially for you as the flock, to be ministered to by our church leaders. It is a time we acknowledge the sovereignty of God in all things. What may not be clear, is that this is as much a time of blessing our church leaders as it is a time of blessing you. You see, pastor and elders, together with the deacons are to be men and women praying for the flock. But how can we pray for a flock we barely know? So when you tell us your prayer requests, which are kept and will always be held with the strictest confidence, you give us a chance to not just serve you, but to know our flock, and plan, and prepare and pray with wisdom for you. I hope you keep giving us this chance to pray for with you. And thank you from our hearts, for your continuing trust.
- **The final song of worship.** A good friend, Dr. Melba Maggay gave me this idea, when she said that words by themselves are powerful but when combined with music, their effect is exponentially magnified. Based on the same principle, sermons by themselves are powerful, but when allied with the right song, they become unforgettable. I hope this makes you sing our final song of worship with passion. When you do, we honor God, and find Him blessing us, too, in the process ■

# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements

Starting **March 1, 2020**, our **Sunday Vesper Service** will be held at **5:00 p.m.** instead of 5:30 p.m.



## SCHOOL STRESS: MANIFESTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

March seminar of #ParentsTalk, a year-long midweek series on parenting  
Speaker: Dr. Maria Naval Rivas  
March 4 (Wed), 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Open to everyone.



## GOOD AND PERFECT GIFTS

Perspectives on Singlehood and Marriage as Blessings from God  
Speakers: Rhods Uy, Alvin Ceasar Olanday, and Aleks & Daphne Tan. Open to everyone.  
March 14 (Sat), 1:30-4:00 p.m. here at GCF.  
Contact **0917 532 7693** to pre-register.



## CHISMISSIONS

Conversations about and from the mission field  
Guest: Gentle Hands Orphanages  
March 15 (Sun), 12:00-2:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. For more details, please contact **0932 371 3457**.



## BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE 1

For dating, engaged, and married couples  
March 21, 28, & April 4 (Sats), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. To register, please visit the ministry information booth.  
Contact **0917 532 7713** for more details.

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by an anonymous donor; Bingle Bravo Gutierrez and Crosslight Medical Clinic. Please call 8632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.*

## DISCIPLE-MAKING EVENTS

- Growth Group Express (GGEx)**  
Mixed group  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B124 (GG Center)
  - 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
- For those interested in joining any of the groups above, please text or call us at **0917 779 1549**, or fill-out the tear-off form and give to the ushers or drop in one of the offering bags/boxes.*

## YOUTH **LiVE** SERVICE

Every Saturday, for high school and college students  
5:00 p.m. at Auditorium A  
Y-groups meet after the service

## YOUTH **LiVE** PRAYER HUDDLE

Every Friday  
7:00 p.m. at the Youth Center

## GG Leaders' Training 1

March 1, 8, 15, 22 (Sun)  
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Youth Center

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT / February 2020

FEBRUARY	Projected	Rcvd., Feb. 1-27	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Feb. 27
General Funds	7,833,313	7,513,535	General Funds	16,907,087	15,464,794
Mission Support Fund	1,056,726	814,987	Mission Support Fund	2,177,807	1,523,405
Others (Designated, etc.)	863,005	948,433	Others (Designated, etc.)	1,704,259	3,536,360
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,753,044</b>	<b>9,276,956</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,789,153</b>	<b>20,524,559</b>

Correction on last week's stewardship report: 9,753,044 is the total projected figure for the month of February, not 11,036,109, as was published last week, February 23, 2020.

*Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."*

—Mark 3:20-21, ESV

With the gospel's familiarity comes the tendency to miss its core message to our present reality. Although the gospel story happened more than two millennia ago, we need to understand that the forces Jesus came in contact with back then are the same forces we encounter today—government, religious institutions, nationalism, and social and economic crises. In the midst of these forces influencing—if not controlling—the affairs of humanity, the Son of Man came and showed what it is to be truly human.

Since Jesus began his public ministry, his gospel message drew in crowds seeking healing, recognition, and hope. These crowds were the people most victimized by the empire, the religious elite, and even by the household. Because these crowds were mostly at the bottom of the society, it was not surprising for Jesus' family to think that he was out of his mind attending to their needs.

The life and person of Jesus show us how God involves Himself in the life

of His people. Just as He is the God who heard the cries of Israel enslaved in Egypt, He is still the God who hears the cries of the oppressed. It's always an easy choice to believe and agree with the teachings of Jesus, but it's also another thing to participate in His work. Jesus' gospel is about taking hold and living out the promise of eternal life in our present time and space—“The time is now, the reign of God is here; change your mind about God and walk in His Good News.”

We are called into Christlikeness, and what is more Christ-like than facing and embracing our humanity in light of the experiences of those weaker than us? Perhaps we, too, are being asked to reflect on our own willingness to empty ourselves, to fully give what God has blessed us with to those whose lives are far different from ours.

Jesus' kin in the narrative of Mark represents how families maintain the status quo of domestic affairs. Just as the empire and the religious institution dictate who's in and out, families tend to determine who's worthy of care or not. But the life of Jesus has once again shown us another way, God's way. It is never insane to do good whenever we are given the opportunity to do so. He opens His home to the crowds because His family is called from the whole of humanity, not only from those who are privileged or capable ■

## 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: **29 February/1 March 2020**

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

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

## 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.

### 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:** "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain."—Hebrews 1:10-11 (photo by Dominik Schroder 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