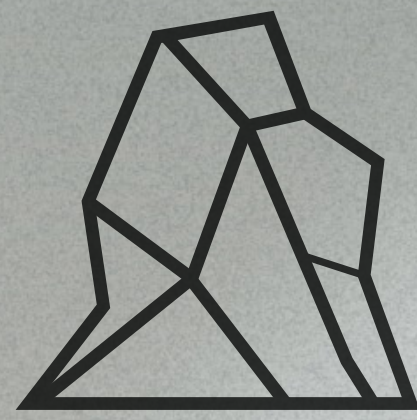




EPHESIANS SERIES
**BUILT ON
BIBLICAL
BEDROCK**
THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

The Calling and Content of Our Ministry

Ephesians 3:1-13



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THE CHURCH THAT PLEASES GOD

TODAY'S MESSAGE | NOVEMBER 28, 2021

The Calling and Content of Our Ministry

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

Is the call to serve God only for spiritual giants like the apostle Paul? Or is there room in the ministry for people like us? Is there pressure for us to come up with the content of our ministry? Or has God made things quite plain for us in that aspect?

The answers to these questions are in Ephesians 3:1-13. And because in this passage, Paul's discourse about his call to ministry and the content of his ministry are considerably intertwined, we will divide the passage by themes rather than by verse:

1. The Servant of the Gospel: The Call of Paul to Ministry

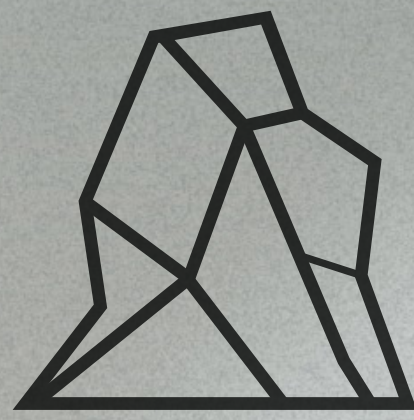
Paul was about to pray in verse 1 but interrupted himself as he reflected on the call of God upon his life. Notice these things about his calling to serve God which remain so true for you and me today:

- **The opportunity to serve God is entrusted to us by God:** *"the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me"* (v. 2)
- **The ability to serve God is gifted to us by God:** *"I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of His power"* (v. 7)
- **The worthiness to serve God comes from the call of God, not from ourselves:** *"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given"* (v. 8)

2. The Significance of the Gospel: The Content of Paul's Ministry

- The term "mystery" here means a previously unrevealed truth that is now brought to light. And it's not that the Gentiles could become part of God's kingdom (the Old Testament contains that promise and every Jew knew that Gentiles could become proselytes), but it is *how* this would happen that is new – *"in Christ Jesus through the Gospel"* (v. 6).
- Why would God do this? So that through the church, the eternal purpose of God would be witnessed by angels, holy and unholy (vv. 10-11).
- The church is not an afterthought of God. Treasure your being part of God's church! And our access to God through prayer was always the plan of God (v. 12). Treasure your access to God through prayer!





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FINAL THOUGHTS

The calling to serve God isn't just for Paul. It's for all of us who have been saved by grace through faith. And that itself is the content of our ministry – it is about the One who saved us by grace through faith, how He did it (the message of the Cross), and what we have become by His grace.

May God bless your call to ministry as you fulfill it, and may God bless your faithfulness to the content of your ministry, the Gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If someone tells you “I want to serve God but there are no opportunities for me inside this church”, how would you correct this person's way of thinking? How does Paul's own call to ministry give us insight into God's call to ministry for every believer?
2. Some Christians have made mistakes so grievous and public that they think God will never let them serve Him again even after full repentance. How can you encourage a Christian who looks at himself/herself this way?
3. There is a growing trend today to dismiss the local church as unnecessary, irrelevant, or hypocritical. Many people think, “I will just worship God on my own, hopping around the unlimited choices of online churches.” What negative consequences do you think may result from this attitude? As long as it is not risky and it is physically possible for a believer, why is it ideal to attend worship on-site? (Hebrews 11:25)
4. Read Ephesians 5:25-30 together, then pray and worship Christ together for the high regard He has for the church, His Bride. If need be, confess any negative attitudes you may have developed about the church for any reason, remembering that human shortcomings can never thwart the ultimate purpose and favor of Christ toward His Bride, the church.

Download the study guide: bit.ly/EphesiansStudyGuides



The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Mikee Sosmeña
GCF YouthLIVE Pastor



Blessed Sunday, church family!

I can hardly believe that we're entering the last month of the year. God has truly been taking care of our community, especially the youth! You see, before the pandemic, our Youth Ministry had often followed the usual seasons and waves of student life, intertwining the calendar months with academic schedules. The "Ber" months would often be a period of extended rest, while at the peak of summer, our Youth Camps would be characterized by an influx of new family members being welcomed into the YouthLIVE family.

However, the past two years have thrown all of that out of sync, as students have seemingly been scrambling for a taste of sabbath in the thick of their studies, while some have been rather restless and bored during their downtimes stuck at home.

That is why it has been a major blessing in our community that we've welcomed dozens of new family members through our online platforms! Whether it was through our recent DMG-2 Launch, invitations in our Saturday LIVEStreams, messages on our social media channels like our Discord server, or simply by word of mouth – the Lord has opened the virtual doors of our church to the young who are searching for a place to belong. Towards the latter half of 2021, on the last Saturdays of each month, we have been hosting fellowship events called "We Are New", in which we have a time of fellowship over games and devotionals with our youth family who have recently joined. We also challenge them there to further their connectedness with the community by joining a Y-Group and by attending more of our gatherings throughout the week.

It has been a blessed time of loving the dear brothers and sisters our Heavenly Father has entrusted to us. As the Lord added to the early church daily those who were being saved in Acts 2, we too are experiencing His ministry of growth to this day. Let us be a church that readily and joyfully welcomes those whom God has loved and placed in our midst. After all, as Paul said in Ephesians 2, we are now no longer strangers and aliens, but because of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, we are all part of one family. Welcome your fellow living stones, church!

Grace and peace to you, GCF family!

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

BDO

BDO Corporate Center
Savings Account: **000661590216**

METROBANK

Ortigas Sapphire
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CHINA BANK

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Savings Account: **1112-02006218**

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Peso Savings Account: **9823 0217 01**

UNIONBANK

UB Plaza
Checking Account: **0005-9001-0426**

ROBINSONS BANK

Main Office
Savings Account: **1000-3010-0017-355**

PAYPAL

Please visit **gcf.org.ph/give**

Scan QR code below:

GCASH



PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

GCF BAYANIHAN FOOD STALLS

The GCF Mercy Ministry continues to accept donations, here's how:

For In-Kind Donations: drop off at the GCF Lobby from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For Cash Donations: give via the GCF bank accounts (gcf.org.ph/give).

Email your deposit slip to finance@gcf.org.ph with the subject "*For Bayanihan Food Stall*". For questions, contact the Mercy Ministry at 0917 532 7672 or mercy@gcf.org.ph

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts.

Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.

CHURCH UPDATES

WORSHIP THE LORD WITH US ON-SITE!

10:00 AM Worship Service | **3:00 PM Worship Service (Starting December 5)**
Present your vaccination card as you enter the building.

2021 GCF CHURCH ELECTIONS (LAST DAY TO VOTE)

Vote for elders and deacons on-site or online until today, **November 28**.
Visit election.gcf.org.ph for more information. Contact **Grace Mosquera**
at election@gcf.org.ph for inquiries.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Available during the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. service only

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Tuesdays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | via Zoom

KidsLIFE ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Saturdays | Little Ones - 10:00 a.m | Growing Kids - 10:15 a.m.
Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

LIVEstream (YouthLIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

FAMILY GGEX (GROWTH GROUP EXPRESS)

Every Sunday Morning | 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn
GGEx Leader: Pastor Emerson Manaloto | Zoom: bit.ly/FamilyGGEx
Passcode: familyGGEx | For Inquiries, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

TELECONSULTATION SERVICE

For appointments or questions, contact:
gcfocstef@gmail.com (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 nn) | gcfocluan@gmail.com (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

ANNUAL GCF FAMILY CONFERENCE (OPEN TO ALL GCF MEMBERS)

December 12 (Sunday) | 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
Zoom Meeting details will be sent to GCF members via email
For inquiries, email churchadmin@gcf.org.ph

THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE - CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2021

December 19 (Sunday) | Live on-site and online on GCF YouTube and Facebook

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your prayer requests at:
Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | E-mail: pray@gcf.org.ph

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

We are so glad you're here today! We want to personally welcome you via Zoom after the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Worship Services.

Zoom Room: bit.ly/WelcometoGCF | Welcome Form: bit.ly/GCFWelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

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

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

☎ (02) 8632 1357 📠 8632 1354 to 56 🌐 gcf.org.ph ✉ email@gcf.org.ph