

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 12, 2023
BULLETIN ISSUE #46



SERMON OUTLINE

THE LORD WORTHY OF OUR TRUST

REV. LITO VILLORIA | PSALM 125

This psalm is part of the Song of Ascents. It is considered a communal psalm. It exhorts God's people that in times of evil dominion, they can put their confidence in the Lord who is worthy of trust. They can trust the Lord for who He is, what He can do and where He is.

The psalmist asserts that God provides stability and security to those who trust in Him. They are compared to Mount Zion where Jerusalem sits. Mount Zion was used here to portray an image of

someone standing on a strong foundation. Jerusalem, being surrounded by mountains, is a metaphor for security. The Lord who is powerful and eternal is worthy of trust (125:1-2).

The psalmist assures that God provides a way out for His people in times of difficulty. When evil seems to prevail, God's people can trust the Lord will keep them stable and secure. They can have confidence because God will not allow them to be tested beyond what they can endure. The "scepter of wickedness" represents prevailing evil and wickedness. The Lord protects and preserves His people in the midst of evil domination (125:3).

The psalmist appeals for God to bless those who strive to be right with Him. The ones who trust in God will be convicted to do good for they will have confidence in His abiding presence. On the contrary,

those who go their own way will be led astray by evil and suffer the consequences of their disobedience. The Lord provides blessings and peace to those who put their trust in Him (125:4-5).

As we live in the end times, do not be surprised when you see that evil and wickedness seems to prevail. When we focus on the wickedness happening around us, it will distort our mind, deceive our hearts, discourage our spirits, and derail our walk with Christ. In this sermon, we will be reminded not to fear in the face of evil but instead put our confidence and find peace in the person, power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ who is worthy of trust.

LET'S GEAR UP FOR DECEMBER!

REV. DON GUICO

2024 is just around the corner! And for sure, many of us are busy with buying gifts, planning for Noche Buena, booking plane tickets and hotels to holiday destinations, and other preparations for the Christmas season. But here in GCF South Metro, we are not slowing down on our events for 2023!

Here are the events to watch out for this December:

1. Twelve Baskets of Christmas (December 3)

Every year, we are given the opportunity to give a special offering to the Lord during one of our Worship Services in December, we call this the 12 Baskets of Christmas. This is to honor our Lord Jesus as we commemorate His birth and give thanks for all that He has done for us, especially this past year. For this year, it will be held on December 3. As we anticipate the event, let us begin to pray for the amount of our special offering, specifically asking God how can we honor Him through our giving.

There will be 12 baskets arranged at the foot of the stage, representing each month of the year. Each basket will bear the name of a month and we will be dropping our special offering inside the basket that corresponds to our birth month. So, if you are born in January, you will drop your special offering inside the January basket. If you are born during the love month, February is the basket for you, so on and so forth.

Offering envelopes will be made available at the entrance of the Worship Hall, as well as pledge forms for those who might forget to bring their offering on the day itself. Bank transfer may also be done if you cannot join us on-site. But we highly encourage everyone to be in GCF South Metro for the corporate worship as we will have another celebratory event at noon.

2. Church Christmas Fellowship (December 3)

At noon of December 3, we will have our first Church Christmas Fellowship after years of restrictions on big gatherings due to Covid-19. The outcome of the Family Potblast that culminated Family Month last September only validated both our readiness and clamor for such church-wide fellowships.

We will be gathering as Growth Group Clusters, so each cluster will have a designated area in the Worship Hall. Each GG will bring food and beverages to share for the group, plus a little extra to share with others. Rooms on the second floor will be assigned for us to park our food and beverage items, so please ensure that you carefully label them. Further instructions will be given in the weeks ahead and through our GG Mentors. Those who are not yet part of a GG are definitely most welcome to join. Do sign up your family (for those who do not have a GG) or Growth Group (if you are the GG leader) at the Christmas Booth outside after the Worship Service for headcount.

PARSON TO PERSON

3. Annual Business Meeting and Affirmation of Leaders (December 10)

All bonafide members of GCF South Metro are invited to attend the Annual Business Meeting on December 10 right after the second service. The 2023 ministry highlights and 2024 Ministry Programs and Budget will be presented to the members in attendance for affirmation by the congregation.

We will also hold our affirmation of the new leaders during the program. Do pray for God's guidance and discernment upon the Nomination Committee as they ascertain God's calling for the candidates through prayer and interviews. The official list of 2024 candidates for elders and deacons will then be presented in the coming weeks for prayer and consideration.

4. Christmas Services (December 24)

As Christmas Eve will fall on a Sunday this year, we will have special music in our Worship Services on December 24. Our schedule of services will remain the same - 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 4:00 PM. And as a special treat, we will be serving bibingka and hot chocolate at the lobby after the services.

For the parents, please take note that we will not have Sunday School on December 24 and January 31. We encourage you to have your children with you in the Worship Hall and worship as families.

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