

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 27, 2024
BULLETIN ISSUE #43



SERMON OUTLINE

ENCOURAGED TO PRESS ON

ACTS 18:9-11 | REV. NICOLO PADILLA

Our text today refers to Paul's time in the city of Corinth. As his usual approach, Paul initially sought to minister to fellow Jews by proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah. When the Jews opposed and reviled him, Paul made a bold statement that he is now innocent of their blood and that from this point forward, he will go to the Gentiles.

Although not explicitly mentioned, the context of our passage implies that this was a discouraging time for the Apostle Paul. It is without doubt that Paul loved his fellow Jews. Sadly, they were the very ones who caused him trouble and pain.

Along with the opposition and rejection from the Jews, a brief glance of the previous chapters will remind us that

prior to arriving at Corinth, Paul had already experienced much suffering and trouble. One can only imagine the exhaustion of Paul, both physically and emotionally, as he was faced with the unwelcoming Jews at Corinth. This reality gives color to what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:3, "And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling..."

It was in this context that the Lord graciously encouraged Paul to press on. In Acts 18:9, the Lord tells Paul not to be "afraid". In the Greek, the original word means to withdraw or to flee because of fear. To say it simply, the Lord commanded Paul not to flee from Corinth despite the opposition but to continue proclaiming the Gospel. And with the command to stay put,

in Acts 18:10, the Lord gave Paul three assurances:

1. The assurance of His presence
2. The assurance of His protection
3. The assurance of His purpose

Due to the Lord's timely encouragement, at the end of this portion in Acts 18:11, we find Paul pressing on as he continued to minister at Corinth for a year and a half. As we go through our text today, may we also be encouraged by the truth that the Lord is with us, that He will protect us, and that He will accomplish His purpose regardless of opposition. May we all be encouraged to press on till the end! ✨

THE LORD IS AT WORK

T. CAROL FELIPE

The past three days have been very eventful because the Lord took center stage in proclaiming His Word and reiterating and affirming His mission—to make disciples.

Day One: Friday, October 25.

Pastors Lito, Don, and I, together with Elder Arvin and Jensen Macaspac, traveled to Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, to witness the first IDMC Conference under the auspices of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches. Despite the heavy rains, more than two thousand people attended, eager to learn how they could actively participate in the intentional discipling movement. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation, as attendees shared stories of transformation and hope, emphasizing their commitment to spreading the Gospel. It was awe inspiring to see such a diverse group, united in purpose and eager to deepen their understanding of discipleship.

As we gathered, the messages conveyed the urgency of the Great Commission and how each person has a role in God's plan. This conference was not just an event, it was a movement ignited, a catalyst for change that would ripple through the churches represented.

Day Two: Saturday, October 26.

Yesterday, we celebrated the Lord's work in our midst and glorified God for the things He has accomplished through our co-ministers. More than two hundred co-ministers came to rejoice and share God's story in their

lives and ministries. We thank God for His faithfulness in growing His church, bringing new people into the fellowship and allowing the church to grow in love and holiness.

Throughout the day, testimonies poured forth, each one a testament to God's goodness and grace. Some shared about new believers who had recently come to faith, while others spoke of revitalized ministries that had previously struggled. As ministers to one another, may we always reflect the love, joy, and faith that the Lord gives us as we carry on the work He has tasked us to do. Praise God! The Lord is at work to make His glory known!

Our gathering served as a reminder that we are not alone in our ministries, we have a network of support and encouragement from one another.

Day Three: Sunday, October 27.

Today, we also celebrate God's work as we close our Missions Month. During our fellowship, we will showcase the work of the Lord through our GG clusters as we engage in evangelism, outreach, and missions around us and beyond. Some of our missionaries will be present to share the joy of serving Christ wherever we are. We praise God for the truth that we are all missionaries called to do missions wherever God has planted us—sharing Jesus' hope and love.

As we prepare for this closing celebration, my heart is filled with gratitude for the progress we have

made as a community. Each cluster has taken unique approaches to outreach, adapting to the specific needs of their neighborhoods. It's incredible to witness how creativity and compassion intersect in our ministries.

It is with extreme joy and gratitude that we have Pastor Nicolo Padilla and his growing family with us. We thank God for the opportunity to sit and learn from his preaching ministry as he encourages us to "Press On" for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ! We are inspired by your dedication and service!

Additionally, we have the chance to assist those among us who need a little help due to the work outages caused by the devastating typhoon. When the Lord allows us to sense a need, it is my prayer that we respond accordingly as the Holy Spirit leads. If you would like to know how else you can share, drop us a line or send an email to email@gcfsouthmetro.org. We will provide assistance to the brethren in areas ravaged by the massive flooding in Bicol as well as people from nearby communities who have likewise been severely affected by Typhoon Kristine.

The Lord is at work. He is accomplishing His great work in our midst and invites us to partake in this mission. Each moment offers us divine opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ. May we always have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts open to serve as the Lord leads us! ✨

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