

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
BULLETIN ISSUE #08



SERMON OUTLINE

BE A LIGHT FOR CHRIST

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18 | REV. DON GUICO

"¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure"

In this passage, Paul encouraged believers to be a light for Christ, to live out their faith in a way that reflects His humility and obedience. It focuses on obedience, sanctification, and joy amidst challenges.

They were exhorted to work out their salvation in verses 12-13. This is about sanctification, not earning salvation through good works nor adding to the salvation that Jesus offers. It is about living

in a way that aligns with God's will and pleases Him, despite the challenges they were facing. It is a call to grow in holiness and godliness toward spiritual maturity. Paul assured them that it is God who gives the strength and ability to do so, but they are to actively cooperate with God as He transforms them.

In verses 14-16, Paul challenged them to work on their witness to the world - they are to do all things without grumbling or disputing, being blameless and pure in all circumstances, shining like lights in a dark world. How we live - our attitudes, behaviors and actions - should reflect the light of Christ and draw others to Him. Being grounded and holding firmly to the word of

God will shape and guide our lives, enabling us to stand firm in our faith. And we will have reason to rejoice in the day of Christ's return, knowing we had been faithful.

And finally, in verses 17-18, Paul speaks of his own sacrifice. Comparing his life to a "drink offering", he encouraged the Philippians to be glad and rejoice even in the midst of suffering because their efforts and sacrifice are for God's glory.

Following Christ will involve hardship, but it is worth it. And joy can still be found through the work of Christ in us, knowing that we have pleased Him who gave His all for us. ✨

KEEPING THE UNITY TO SEE THE BEAUTY

PARSON TO PERSON

REV. PARKIN YOUNG

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

From February 17-19, my family and I attended the GCF Kapwa Church Leaders Retreat, which brought together GCF satellite pastors, elders, their spouses, and children. We gathered at MMRC in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, where we heard from Dr. Fritz Melodi from PBTS in Baguio over four sessions. He spoke about Life in Community, highlighting its various aspects and their impact on the church. It was a time of rest and reflection as the kids also enjoyed time with their friends who they had not seen for a long time.

One key takeaway for me was the importance of unity, not just within individual churches but among churches worldwide. While the retreat only included GCF churches, we saw and heard how even within our family of churches, unity can be difficult to maintain. The differences in culture and demographics across our congregations create challenges, yet this retreat reinforced the need to intentionally pursue unity—something I hope to apply in our church planting efforts at GCFSM Alfonso. Three things stood out to me about pursuing unity in our churches:

1. Unity is to be pursued to see the beauty in diversity. Unity is not naturally present in our churches; it must be sought after. We all come from different backgrounds and life experiences, yet in those differences, we can recognize the beauty of God's work in bringing us together. In Alfonso, people come from diverse walks of life, but what unites us is our faith in Jesus. Our differences should not divide us, because unity does not mean uniformity.

2. Unity is to be practiced to see the beauty in community. Differences often lead to disagreements, but that should not discourage us, as they are normal. Instead of avoiding challenges, we must work through them. By persevering together, we discover how each person's unique life experiences contribute to the richness of our community. Through these interactions, we learn from and lean on one another, strengthening our shared faith and mission.

3. Unity is to be promoted to see the beauty of Christianity. Unity within the church serves as a powerful testimony to others. Paul's call for unity reminds us that true harmony is found in Christ. As sinners, we were once separated from God, but through Jesus' sacrifice, we have been reconciled. In the church, we see people from different backgrounds, all in need of Jesus. That unity, founded in His

sacrifice, is a reflection of the beauty of Christianity itself.

These lessons continue to shape my perspective as we move forward with our church planting efforts in GCFSM Alfonso. As Pastor Vince and I lead this ministry, we ask for your prayers—for wisdom, discernment, and strength. It truly is something that we need. We also extend an invitation to you and anyone you might know who reside in the Alfonso area to come and join us if they are looking for a spiritual community near them.

Currently, we hold weekly Bible studies on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, as well as Saturday mornings. Our Sunday services take place every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, but we are preparing to transition to weekly services after Holy Week. Our Sunday worship gatherings are from 9:00-10:30 AM at White Dome Cafe, Washington Ave, Royale Tagaytay Estates, Alfonso, Cavite.

Please pray with us as we continue this journey, because GCF South Metro is also our family and partner as we continue striving for unity and faithfulness in the work God has entrusted to us as we continue to show and share the love of Jesus around us.

Blessed Sunday to all! ✨

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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