

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JULY 20, 2025  
BULLETIN ISSUE #29



## SERMON OUTLINE

## GOD'S WORK AND MAN'S COMPROMISE

JUDGES 8:1-35 | ELDER RAYMUND SANCHEZ

Judges 8 begins with Gideon at the height of his success—defusing tensions, leading the army and pursuing victory until the end. But alongside God's mighty work came signs of dangerous compromise. When man's heart is not guarded after every victory, it can give way to pride.

After Gideon's triumph over the Midianites, the men of Ephraim complained about being left out. Gideon diffused the tension by praising their capture of the enemy leaders. As he pursued the fleeing kings, he asked for help from Succoth and Penuel. Both towns refused, fearing retaliation from Midian. Gideon responded with threats—revealing signs of growing vengeance (Judges 8:1-9).

After capturing Zebah and Zalmunna, Gideon returned to punish Succoth and Penuel—flogging the elders and killing

the men. He then confronted the kings about the men they killed at Tabor. When they replied that the men looked like him, Gideon revealed they were his brothers. He then executed the kings and took their royal ornaments—marking his shift from humble deliverer to one driven by personal revenge and glory (Judges 8:10-21).

The people asked Gideon to rule over them. Though he declined verbally, his actions told another story. He fashioned an ephod from the gold he collected, which became a spiritual snare to Israel. The very man who led them to victory now led them into idolatry (Judges 8:22-28).

After Gideon's death, Israel quickly returned to Baal worship. They forgot the Lord and showed no kindness to Gideon's family. The compromise that began with

pride and vengeance ended in idolatry and unfaithfulness. When the heart is unguarded, even great victories can lead to spiritual defeat (Judges 8:29-35).

This chapter warns that God's work can be followed by man's compromise. When the human heart is not guarded after every victory, it may lead to pride, and when pride creeps in, it will lead to dangerous compromises.

**Sermon Focus:** God's work is powerful, but man's compromise is subtle. Pride, vengeance and idolatry can creep in even after great victories. We must guard our hearts in times of success. Let us finish well—by remembering God, giving Him the glory and resisting the quiet pull of compromise. ✨

## WORSHIP INSIGHTS: OUR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST AFFECTS OUR PERSONAL WORSHIP

REV. REVIN VASALLO

Church, we gather each week to sing, pray and listen to God's Word as an expression of worship. However, worship is not confined to our Sunday gatherings. God desires personal worship, which is a life that glorifies Him daily in every area.

We are all worshippers by design, therefore, we cannot help but worship. So, the question is not whether we worship or not, but who or what we worship. And, the challenge is that the world presents many things that demand our attention, affection and allegiance. But as followers of Christ, we should always keep in mind that Christ is superior to all.

However, even though we know that Christ is above all, we still struggle with worldly influences. There are times when we doubt, hesitate and compromise. This tension between knowing the truth and struggling to live it out is called a crisis of faith.

A crisis of faith doesn't mean we've rejected Jesus. It means we're wrestling, feeling unsure, weak, or torn between Christ's authority and the world's influence. And when that happens, it reveals that our confidence in Christ is wavering, and as a result, our personal worship is compromised.

Remember, **the lack of confidence in Christ undermines our personal worship.**

In Hebrews 3:1-6, we read about Jewish believers facing the same

struggle. They were already Christians, but they were tempted to abandon their faith. Pressured by Jewish tradition and Roman persecution, they faced a major crisis of faith.

To encourage them, the author of Hebrews reminds them: "Consider Jesus." He tells them that Christ is greater than Moses, the most respected figure in Judaism. If Jesus is greater than Moses, then He is greater than the Law, the system, and all the pressures they face.

Church, that truth still stands today: **Christ is superior to all!**

We may not face the same pressures, but we do face strong influences like our peers, bosses, culture, social media, fears and even comfort. These can cause our confidence in Christ to waver. But when that happens, we must remind ourselves again: **Christ is superior to all!**

Let me ask: are there areas in your life where you feel this tension between Christ's will and the world's ways? Do your choices reflect your confidence in Christ? Our confidence is not tested when we sing on Sundays. It's tested in our everyday decisions.

When our confidence in Christ is weak, it reflects in our worship of Him. We can't sing about surrender if we hold back. We can't declare trust while we live in fear. That's why we must strengthen our confidence in Christ.

## PARSON TO PERSON

How?

First, **contemplate Christ constantly.** Hebrews 3:1 says, "Consider Jesus", which means to contemplate about Him. Think about who He is and what He has done. Take time daily to reflect on His character and promises not just during devotions, but throughout your day.

Second, **obey Christ confidently.** In moments of decision, let your confidence in Christ lead you. Choose His will, even when it's hard, because real worship is seen in the daily choice to follow Him.

As we build our confidence in Christ by constantly contemplating and obeying Him, our greatest encouragement is this unshakable truth: **Christ is faithful.** In our passage, the word "faithful" is emphasized four times. Even when we are weak, wavering, or uncertain, Christ remains faithful to His people. He provides, forgives, sustains and strengthens.

So Church, in times of pressure, persecution, and problems, remember this: **Christ is superior to all.** Let that truth strengthen your confidence in Him. As our confidence in Christ grows, so does the depth of our worship. And when our personal worship is genuine, our corporate worship becomes powerful.

Let's not wait for Sundays. Let us worship Christ daily, and confidently—because **Christ is superior to all!** ✨

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