

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JANUARY 11, 2026  
BULLETIN ISSUE #02



## SERMON OUTLINE

## A LIFE GIVEN OVER TO CHRIST

GALATIANS 2:20-21 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

As we begin this Year of Preparation, Scripture calls us to pause before we plan, build, or move forward. Preparation does not begin with strategy; it begins with surrender. Last week's message reminded us of God's sovereignty. Next week, we will be reminded of God's mission. Today stands between those two realities. Galatians 2:20-21 confronts us with the heart of the Christian life: a life no longer defined by self, but shaped by Christ and His cross.

Paul's declaration, "I have been crucified with Christ," speaks of union with Christ, not imitation (Galatians 2:20). This points to a completed act with continuing effect. Paul's former identity—rooted in law, achievement, and religious confidence—was decisively put to death. Christian identity begins not with what believers do for God, but with what God has already done in Christ.

Union with Christ in His death leads to participation in His life. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" moves from death to indwelling life (Galatians 2:20). The Christian life is not self-improvement with Christ's help; it is Christ living through the believer. This guards the church from self-reliance and self-centered faith, especially in seasons of growth and preparation.

Paul then grounded obedience in love. Christian obedience did not come from fear, obligation, or ambition. It came from love—Christ's love shown at the cross. Paul made this personal when he said, "who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Christ's sacrifice was not abstract; it was personal and costly. When obedience flowed from love, its direction was clear. We did not serve to earn love; we served because we were loved. We did not obey to gain acceptance;

we obeyed because acceptance had already been given.

Paul concluded with a warning: to seek righteousness through performance was to nullify grace and empty the cross of its purpose (Galatians 2:21). Grace alone defined standing before God.

The purpose of this message is alignment with the cross of Christ. Before God rebuilds, restores, and recommissions His people, He calls them to live from what Christ has already accomplished. A prepared church is first a crucified people—defined by grace, led by Christ, sustained by faith, and motivated by love. As we move toward what God will entrust in the years ahead, we choose alignment not with self-effort, but with a life fully given over to Christ. ✠

## FOLLOWING JESUS: PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

REV. LITO VILLORIA

As we gather this second Sunday of January, we continue to orient our hearts toward the direction God has set before us for 2026—our **Year of Preparation for Vision 2037**. Preparation, as Scripture reminds us, is not first about structures, schedules, or strategies. It is about spiritual alignment. Before we build, expand, or multiply further, we must be clear about who we are following and how we are walking with Him. A church may be busy and yet drift spiritually if its center is not firmly anchored in Christ.

Last Sunday, we were reminded that the God we serve cannot be contained by human effort and that He looks with favor on hearts that are humble and surrendered. That truth calls us to reflect carefully on the kind of people we are becoming as God prepares us for the years ahead. Preparation begins not with activity, but with dependence on the Lord. Before God advances His work through us, He first shapes His people within us.

This journey of preparation continues next Sunday, **January 18**, as we celebrate our **29th Church Anniversary**. This will be a meaningful time to thank God for His faithfulness and goodness to our church through the years. On that Sunday, we will reflect on God's enduring work among us through a special anniversary message titled "**Rebuilt, Restored,**

**Recommissioned for the Nations"** from **Acts 15:16-18**. This passage reminds us that God is faithful to rebuild His people, restore His work, and recommission His church for His global mission. As we celebrate what God has done, we are also reminded that He is still at work, leading us forward with purpose for the years ahead.

Following our anniversary celebration, we will enter a **Week of Prayer and Fasting from January 19 to 23**. This is an intentional season for us as a church family to seek God together, quiet our hearts before Him, and realign our lives with His purposes. Prayer and fasting slow us down in a world that constantly pushes us to move faster. They remind us that our confidence for the future does not rest in our plans or resources, but in the God who hears, guides, and sustains His people. As we prepare for the years ahead, we do so first on our knees, asking the Lord to search our hearts, renew our devotion, and clarify His direction for us as individuals and as a church.

This focused time of seeking God will culminate in our **Annual Leadership Summit on January 24**, gathering our Growth Group leaders and ministry teams. This summit provides a space to align our hearts, direction, and commitments as we move into the new year together. Leadership alignment is a vital part of preparation, ensuring that

we move forward with shared conviction, unity, and faith.

It is in this context that we will begin our **2026 year-long sermon series on the Gospel of Luke**, titled **Following Jesus**, starting **January 25**. This series is intentionally aligned with Vision 2037. Vision 2037 has never been primarily about a facility or a timeline. It has always been about forming a people who follow Jesus faithfully and help others do the same—across generations, across communities, and across nations.

The Gospel of Luke presents Jesus as the Savior for all people—the Son of Man who calls every follower to deny self, take up the cross daily, and follow Him. As we journey through Luke together, we will encounter a Savior who prays, depends on the Holy Spirit, shows compassion for the marginalized, and intentionally forms disciples who will carry God's mission forward. Luke reminds us that discipleship is not rushed or shallow, but a steady, obedient walk with Christ that bears fruit over time.

As we step into 2026, may this be a year marked not by haste, but by depth—not by noise, but by obedience. May we prepare well by walking closely with Christ, trusting that as we follow Jesus faithfully, God will accomplish His purposes through us in His perfect time. Let us move forward together, **Following Jesus**. ✠

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