

ALPHA & OMEGA: RESCUE AND RESPONSE

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

God invites us to know Him personally and intimately. Among His many attributes, love stands out as the one that He most wants us to understand. While some may perceive a different portrayal of God in the Old Testament (OT) compared to the New Testament (NT), it's important to recognize that there is only one God. He is the unchanging "Alpha and Omega," a truth echoed from the OT to the NT, from Isaiah 44:6 and Malachi 3:6 to Revelation 22:13. The Bible consistently affirms the one eternal God worthy of all our worship!

RESCUE: THE PROMISE AND THE PROBLEM

The second most significant rescue in history is the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. What can we learn about God from this rescue? How did He guide the Israelites in responding to His deliverance?

The promise of rescue was made to Abraham, long before Moses (Genesis 15:5, 12-14). Even though the Israelites faced many challenges, God never left them. His promises are everlasting (Exodus 1:13-14, 2:23-25). He remembers His promises and has a perfect timing for their fulfillment. But the problem is that we forget and turn away when His timing does not align with our expectations. In times when we need to wait, God is fortifying our character and faith.

In the Old Testament, God's grace is evident; He chose Israel because He loved them (Deuteronomy 7:7-8). The Ten Plagues, which led to Israel's rescue, were judgments against the Egyptian deities (Exodus 12:12). However, the Israelites also fell into idolatry (Ezekiel 20:6-8). As God's people, we too can have idols — wealth, fame, success, political ideologies, theological biases, and more. Hence, like the Israelites, we also need rescue. God provided the Israelites with precise instructions for their deliverance (Exodus 12:1-3, 5-7, 11-13). They had to follow these directives in faith, and any family that did not comply risked losing their firstborn to the final plague.

God's grace was evident in providing an escape route. He fulfilled His promise to Abraham that his descendants will not leave empty-handed (Exodus 12:35-37, 40-41).

In the New Testament, Jesus' death on the cross was divinely orchestrated and the Scriptures show us that

Jesus is the Passover Lamb sacrificed to rescue us from our sins (Matthew 26:1-2):

PASSOVER LAMB	JESUS CHRIST
Chosen on 10th day	Jesus entered Jerusalem 10th of the month (as determined by some scholars)
Unblemished	Jesus was sinless, perfect
Male	Jesus took the form of a man
Slain on the 14th day, eve of Passover	Jesus was crucified on the eve of Passover
Blood on doorposts protected the Israelites	Jesus' blood saves us from God's wrath
Freedom from slavery	Jesus frees us from the bondage of sin

OUR FUTURE IS SECURE

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the most profound rescue mission in the history of mankind. In response, Jesus asks us to remember His sacrifice with bread and wine until He returns (Luke 22:17-20). We can also express our gratitude and praise through worship, which is an appropriate response to our salvation.

The Bible often uses yeast as a symbol for sin. God issued a strict command to the Israelites about avoiding leaven during Passover (Exodus 12:14-15, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8). Since Jesus, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed, we should live without the "leaven" or sin, leading holy lives to honor our Savior (1 Peter 1:14-16). David encourages us to seek personal purity in various aspects of our lives (Psalm 139:1-3, 23-24).

God guided the Israelites day and night in the wilderness, teaching them to follow His lead (Exodus 13:21-22, 40:36-38). "When I move, you move; when I stay, you stay. Trust Me, and I will care for you." Similarly, in the New Testament, Jesus assures His followers that they won't walk in darkness if they follow Him (John 8:12). Christ's love should motivate us throughout life (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). If we pursue anything other than Jesus, we are going the wrong way. Let us step out in faith, trust in Jesus' saving blood, and embrace a relationship with the loving God who desires to know us today.

LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15

DISCUSS THIS MESSAGE

Does the fact that Jesus rescued you from sin impact your daily life? If yes, how? If no, why not?

How is your personal purity? Have you looked at, listened to, said, or done things that are displeasing to our holy God? Confess those to Him and to one another right now.

What can you do to follow Jesus more closely every day of your life?

DOWNLOAD THIS CHRONICLE ONLINE!

ccf.org.ph/chronicle/

DOWNLOAD THIS SUNDAY'S 4WS EVERY MONDAY!

ccf.org.ph/4ws/

Who is Jesus to you?

Let's talk about it in the Welcome Center!

STEP INTO THE COMMUNITY

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN

ALL WOMEN

LIVE LOVE: LIVE WITH A FAMILY LOVE (1 JOHN 3)

with Bea Moral

April 18, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

  ccfwomen2women

 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

B1G MINISTRY

SINGLES

CONFESSIONS OF A WORKAHOLIC: FACING CHALLENGES

with Paul de Vera

April 19, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

  B1GMinistry

 beonewithgod

NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

THE SUPER WONDERFUL GOD

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

ONSITE: G/F CCF Center for ages 4-12

LIVESTREAM: YouTube & Facebook

(ccfnxtgen) for ages 4 to 12

ZOOM: for ages 7-12, message us to sign-up

Reach us via [facebook.com/ccfnxtgen](https://www.facebook.com/ccfnxtgen)

JOIN IN AND PARTICIPATE

Come together with the community to learn and grow, or to retreat and recharge!

TRUE LIFE RETREAT: TRANSFORMING LOVE

April 26-27, 8:00 AM, CCF Center

Register here:

bit.ly/TransformingLoveReg

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

JOIN GLC'S NEW TRAINING CYCLE THIS 2024!

GLC LEVEL 1

Book 1: One by One

ONSITE: April 14, Sunday
10:30 AM, Room 2A

ZOOM: April 17, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines

ONSITE: April 14, Sunday
1:30 PM, Room 2A

ZOOM: April 17, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 2

Book 6: Basic Doctrines

ONSITE: April 14, Sunday
1:00 PM, Room 3A

ZOOM: April 18, Thursday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 3

Module 4: Spiritual Warfare

ONSITE: April 14, Sunday
1:00 PM, Room 4A

ZOOM: April 18, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Enroll now: bit.ly/GLCTrainings2024

GLC TRAINING IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING PLATFORMS:

GLC Online (Self-Paced) & GLC in Dgroups

Can't attend F2F or on Zoom? Use the self-paced online format or do GLC in your DGroups!

Register: bit.ly/GLCinDGroupsSignUp

Enroll Here: glc.ccf.org.ph/online

Visit glc.ccf.org.ph for more info on GLC trainings and schedules.

STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER

There's no better way to serve God than to serve His people!

NXTGEN

 ccfnxngen

B1G

 beonewithgod

ACROSS

 ccfacrossministries

HOST TEAM

 go.ccf.org.ph/HTvolunteer

GLC

 bit.ly/GLCvolunteers2024

SPORTS

 bit.ly/CCFSportsVolunteerAM

YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. – 1 John 5:11-13

ccf SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHTS

5:00 PM

SUNDAYS

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN,
and 3:00 PM

ONLINE LIVESTREAM

 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

Visit ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/ for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.