

CELEBRATE
Romans: 16: 1 - 5
July 31, 2022
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Part One

Praise God that we can end our Sunday School's Summer Program with a huge celebration. It is like ending an event with a bang.

Many people have played a part in this big celebration.

Praise God that our friends from the River of Life Mission are our partners in this celebration.

A big 'thank you' goes to our helpers in our Sunday School.

They have given us their level best. Praise God.

They started our Summer Program from scratch.

Then, they brought something to the nothing that we started with last month.

Today, we have learned a very useful lesson.

When we start with nothing, we learn that the hardest of times teaches us the best lessons.

The hardest of times teaches us to be most grateful.

The hardest of times teaches us to work together, to learn together, and to respect each other.

The hardest of times teaches us that all lives matter.

The hardest of times teaches us that people are more important than events.

The hardest of times teaches us that:

**Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red, brown, yellow, black, and white**

**They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world**

Part Two

There are many verses on celebrating in the Bible. All of them deserve our attention. After considering numerous passages on celebrating in the Bible, I've decided to choose Romans 16: 1 - 5 because it is a **celebration of life [people]**, not food or events or festivals.

All the first 16 verses have to do with names of people, with a break on advising the readers to stay away from trouble makers [verses 17 - 20], followed by more names [verses 21 -23], climaxing with Paul committing the church in Rome to God's care and keeping.

One full chapter of celebrating people and people celebrating. Praise God.

God relates effectively with us when we relate with people.

“At funerals, people say things about a dead person that they should have told them while they were still alive.”

— **Wayne Gerard Trotman**

We must find ways to celebrate people's lives and contributions while they are still with us. In other words, we do well to celebrate life even before people know they are dying.

“You cannot appreciate God without appreciating people.” **Sunday Adelaja**

It is only when we understand humans are made in the image of God [imago Dei] that we can appreciate and treat them with respect and do away with racism. This is seen in how the ministry of Christ is related to fellowshiping with people.

How we relate with God is reflected in the way we relate with people.

“When you love your neighbor, you won’t have problems with embracing them”
— **Sunday Adelaja**

Part Three

Let’s look at the people St Paul had mentioned and see how and why they had helped Paul in his missionary journeys.

In just one chapter, St Paul gave thanks to God for 35 people who had helped him in one way or another.

‘She [Phoebe] has worked hard in the church in Cenchrae.’

‘Tell Priscilla and Aquila . . . my *fellow workers* in the affairs of Christ Jesus.’

‘Epaenetus . . . the very first person to become a Christian in Asia.’

‘Say ‘hello’ to Ampliatus, whom I love as one of God’s own children, and Urbanus, *our fellow worker*, and beloved Stachys.’

And the list goes on.

Don’t you think there is something familiar with what so many in this marvelous team of volunteers in our midst are doing this morning?

Praise God for having enabled us to end our Summer Program with a bang.

Praise God for all the cheerful volunteers giving their level best to help God’s children in their spiritual formation.

Praise God our celebration this morning shows we invest in people more than in properties.

Praise God our Summer Sunday School Project, the River of Life Missions, and an “Amazing Team” of volunteers including our teachers and especially you, our Congregation, celebrate with children, families, members, attendees, leaders, and friends from both Mandarin and English services.

I quote Gloria Young.

“Thank You to our Sunday School students (Toddlers-High School) and our Adult class for doing a **wonderful** job decorating **1,256 bags!** Our goal was 1,000.

Much thanks and appreciation to our **dedicated Sunday School teachers** and our **creative Project team**, who spent 3 weeks guiding and designing the "Grace to Go" bags with our children.

Huge thanks to Ginny, Dr. Jeff and Yvonne, and Colin who counted and prepared the spreadsheet showing a total of **5,467 snack items!** Not counted in were the 13 cases (18 cans @case) of Vienna Sausage, canned sardines and pork. The canned goods will be boxed as part of the "Grace to Go" bags.

Our friends, members and YOU gave SO generously! **Thank you!**

The homeless guests of The River of Life Mission will truly know how much others care for them.

If you are available, please help with the bagging of snacks Saturday, July 30 in the Multipurpose Room from 10:00-11:30am. Lovey and her Worship team will be coming at 9:30am to set-up and sanitize tables, help transport all the snack items from the Bridal Room to the MP Room and expedite the bagging. Diane and Lana will give us instructions.

Please join me in giving Thanks and Praise to God for blessing this Project. Thanks be to God!”

The enthusiasm and skill just couldn’t keep pace with the inspiration.

Inspiration pushes us as we work and struggle.

Many hands have played a significant role in today’s success.

That’s how First Chinese celebrates. Praise God.

Choo Lak Yeow

The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai`i

July 31, 2022

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

FYI

From [Home Society](#)

Billy Graham tells cheaters: 'One whose heart is corrupt does not prosper; one whose tongue is perverse falls into trouble.' Proverbs 17:20

Czarina Ong 07 June 2016 | 12:23 AM

Billy Graham says cheaters [**exploiters**] will eventually find themselves 'on a dead-end road.'[\(Facebook/Billy Graham\)](#)

There are some people who seem to do well in life by cheating on [**exploiting**] others. As tempting as it might be to follow their lead to get ahead, evangelist Billy Graham is discouraging people from doing so because the merits of cheating are only temporary and will not last.

"You've probably looked around you and seen people who appeared to be getting ahead by being less than honest—and in the short term perhaps they were," he writes on his [website](#). "But at what cost? In the long term they are on a dead-end road—and so will you be, if you decide to follow their example."

Graham says cheaters [**exploiters**] might get away with their misdeeds from time to time, but eventually, what they are doing will catch up on them and they will have to face the consequences.

"People they cheat [**exploit others**] will eventually realize what has happened—and stop doing business with them or even wanting their friendship. Instead of being liked, they'll end up being mistrusted and even hated," adds Graham.

He says the Bible verse Proverbs 17:20 serves as a good reminder for Christians not to cut corners. It reads, "One whose heart is corrupt does not prosper; one whose tongue is perverse falls into trouble."

Cheating seen in

[1] exploiting people, especially, those who are helping you

[2] gaming the system. You use your expertise to benefit yourself to the maximum by gaming the system.