

God Has Many People 許多人屬於上帝

Acts 使徒行傳 18:1-17 & 1 Corinthians 哥林多前書 2:1-5

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Not long after becoming a Christian nearly three decades ago, I ran into a former work colleague in a shop.

大約三十年前，我成為基督徒後不久，我在一家商店遇到了一位舊同事。

He asked me if it was true what he had heard and that I, in his words, ‘had found religion and was working at a church?’

他問我他所聽到的是否屬實，用他的話來說，我「成為了教徒並在教會工作？」

When I said I had become a Christian, he sharply replied, ‘You keep it to yourself. If you ever speak to me about it, we are finished.’

當我說我是已經成為了基督徒時，他非常尖銳地回答說：「你把這些留給你自己。如果你若要和我談這些事，我會與你絕交。」

Thirty years later, Christians find it harder and harder to be public about their faith in Australia. 三十年後，在澳大利亞的基督徒發現越來越難公開他們的信仰。

I’ve read **Christian teachers** are choosing not to wear crosses because they know that their credibility would be blown out of the water if they were known as Christians.

我曾讀到**基督徒教師**選擇不佩戴十字架，因為他們知道如果他們被認知為基督徒，他們的信譽就會被吹灰。

A couple of years ago, the graduate intake at a major bank in Sydney was told on their first day that “we don’t do religion”.

就在幾年前，悉尼一家大型銀行招聘的畢業生在第一天上班時就被告知「不要在這裡談論宗教信仰」。

Talk of faith wasn’t welcome and would be a breach of corporate policy.

談論信仰是不受歡迎的，並且會違反公司守則。

On many fronts, there is pressure to be quiet, withdraw, and retreat from public spaces.

在許多方面，都面臨著在公開的場合要保持安靜、有保留、或撤退的壓力。

It might come as a surprise to us that the devout, single-minded, bold apostle Paul also battled fear in mission.

虔誠、專一、勇敢的使徒保羅也在宣教中要與恐懼作鬥爭可能會讓我們感到驚訝。

Paul says this about his arrival at Corinth. 1 Corinthians 2:1-4:

保羅在談到他到達哥林多時就是說了以下的說話。哥林多前書 2:1-4:

When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

弟兄們，從前我到你們那裏去，並沒有用高言大智對你們宣講上帝的奧秘。因為我曾定了主意，在你們中間不知道別的，只知道耶穌基督並他釘十字架。我在你們那裏時，又軟弱，又懼怕，又戰戰兢兢。

What has made Paul fearful that the great missionary apostle was on the verge of being silent about the good news of Jesus Christ?

是什麼讓保羅害怕到使這位偉大的傳教使徒預備對耶穌基督的好信息保持沉默？

This reaction is a crisis moment for Paul, the early Christian movement, and the soul of a city. 這是保羅、早期基督教運動和城市的靈魂的危機時刻。

If you have just tuned in, we spent several weeks in the second half of the New Testament book of Acts.

如果你剛剛開始收看，我們過去幾個星期一直在研究新約《使徒行傳》的後半部分。

We have seen the message of Jesus Christ spread through rural Asia-Minor and small towns to now being in Europe and larger cities.

我們已看到耶穌基督的信息現在從小亞細亞的農村和小鎮傳播到的歐洲和大城市。

A whole range of people from different ethnic, economic, social backgrounds has put their faith in Jesus.

來自不同種族、經濟和社會背景各種人都相信耶穌。

As I said two weeks ago, there is no Christian type! Jesus is for everyone, and everyone needs Jesus.

正如我兩週前所說，沒有基督徒的類型！耶穌是適合每一個人的，而每一個人都需要耶穌。

Some of the places Paul has visited have been small and insignificant. It indeed couldn't be said of Corinth.

保羅去過的一些地方很小而且無關緊要。當然不能同樣的說哥林多。

This morning I want to look at Corinth, Paul's Mission in Corinth, and what it means for Us and God's mission in this city.

今天早上我想看看哥林多，保羅在哥林多的使命，以及這對我們和上帝在這座城市的使命意味著什麼。

***Cosmopolitan Corinth* 哥林多大都會**

The **first** thing to know about Corinth is it was a city on the up and up.

關於哥林多，首先要知道的是，它是一座正在欣欣向榮的城市。

It had gone through a dramatic transformation in the early part of the 1st Century.

它在第一世紀初期經歷了戲劇性的轉變。

Money from all over the empire had poured in to rebuild and improve the infrastructure.

帝國各地的資金紛紛湧入去重建和改善基礎設施。

Where Athens was the intellectual centre of the ancient world, Corinth was the commercial centre.

正如雅典是古代世界的知識中心，哥林多是商業中心。

It was strategically placed at the crossroads of trade routes. Trade would travel north and south from Corinth via land and east and west via the sea.

它被戰略性地置於貿易路線的十字路口。貿易將從哥林多通過陸路向北和向南傳播，從海路向東和向西傳播。

Corinth was unusual in that it was geographically positioned on a peninsula, which meant it boasted two shipping ports.

哥林多的獨特之處在於它處於一個半島上的地理位置，意味著它擁有兩個航運港口。

Its markets were stocked with goods from all over the world.

它的市場上堆滿了來自世界各地的商品。

It was a melting pot of cultures and philosophies as the world descended on Corinth.

隨著世界降臨哥林多，這裡是文化和哲學的大熔爐。

People from all over the Roman world had moved in to take advantage of the Corinthian cosmopolitan lifestyle.

來自羅馬世界各地的人們紛紛湧入，以享受哥林多式的國際化生活方式。

The population of Athens was around 10,000 when Paul visited, but Corinth was estimated to be 750,000.

保羅到訪時雅典的人口約為一萬人，而哥林多的人口估計為七十五萬人。

Paul must have seen the strategic importance of Corinth. If trade could radiate from Corinth to the world, so could the good news of Jesus Christ.

保羅一定已經看到了哥林多的戰略重要性。如果貿易可以從哥林多伸展到全世界，那麼耶穌基督的好信息也可以。

Secondly, Corinth was world-famous for immorality. Behind the city rose the mountain Acrocorinth.

其次，哥林多因不道德而聞名於世。在城市的後面聳立著阿克羅哥林多山。

On the flat summit stood the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

在平坦的山頂上矗立著愛神，阿佛洛狄忒，的神殿。

Serving the temple of Aphrodite was 1000 female slaves. These slaves roamed the streets of Corinth as prostitutes.

有一千名女奴在阿佛洛狄忒神殿中服務。這些女奴以妓女的身份在哥林多街頭遊蕩。

The sexual promiscuity of Corinth was famous. So much so that sexual promiscuity was given a name in the ancient world...to *corinthianise*.

哥林多的性濫交是有名的。以至於...哥林多化...是古代世界賦予裡性濫交的一個名字。

Corinth was a large, upwardly mobile, progressive, confident, proud, inclusive, wealthy, and immoral city.

哥林多是一座大型、向上流動、進步、自信、自豪、包容、富有和不道德的城市。

Will the good news of Jesus Christ have an impact in a city like Corinth?

耶穌基督的好信息會對哥林多這樣的城市產生影響嗎？

Paul's Mission in Corinth 保羅在哥林多的使命

Why did courageous, bold Paul come to Corinth in weakness, trembling and great fear?

為什麼勇敢、剛勁的保羅在軟弱、戰兢和極大的恐懼中來到哥林多？

He must have felt at least a little dejected as he walked the 80 kilometres to Corinth from Athens.

當他從雅典步行八十公里到哥林多時，他一定至少感到有點沮喪。

Since arriving in Europe, he had suffered a terrible beating in Philippi, civil rejection in Thessalonica and Berea, and indifference in Athens.

自從抵達歐洲後，他在腓立比遭受了可怕的毆打，在帖撒羅尼迦和庇哩亞遭受了群眾的拒絕，在雅典也遭到冷漠。

Now he's on a mission in Corinth. The size, pride and immorality of the city must have intimidated the tired and bruised Paul.

現在他在哥林多傳教。這座城市的規模、驕傲和不道德一定嚇壞了疲憊不堪、傷痕累累的保羅。

He knew his message would come into direct conflict with the whole city.

他知道他的信息會與整個城市發生直接衝突。

As we've read, He tells us ***I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.***

他告訴我們，正如我們所讀到的，***我曾定了主意，在你們中間不知道別的，只知道耶穌基督並他釘十字架。***

Jesus Christ and him crucified was his message.

耶穌基督並他被釘十字架是他的信息。

For many Christians, that means that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, died on a cross as a once-for-all substitution in our place so that we would not have to suffer eternal death but could enjoy the abundant and eternal life that he purchased for us.

對許多基督徒來說，這意味著耶穌基督，上帝永恆的兒子，死在十字架上，作為一次永遠的替代，代替我們，這樣我們就不必遭受永恆的死亡，而是可以享受那他為我們負了代價而買來的豐富而永恆的生命。

The problem with this view of the cross is that it leaves out a huge fact. It's the one Jesus stated in Luke 9:23—

這種十字架觀點的問題在於它遺漏了一個巨大的事實。就是耶穌在《路加福音》9:23中所說的那個……

“If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

「若有人要跟從我，就當捨己，天天背起自己的十字架來跟從我。」

When Christ died on the cross for sinners, he not only stood in my place, doing what I never could do, forgiving my sin, but he also showed me what I must do if I would save my life.

當基督為罪人死在十字架上時，他不僅站在我的位置上，做了我永遠做不到的事，赦免了我的罪，而且還向我展示了如果我要拯救我的生命，我必須做什麼。

I take up my own cross and join him on the Calvary road of death to self.

我要背起自己的十字架，與他一起踏上通往自我的死亡之路。

Christ died to save us from hell but not to save us from the cross. He died so that we could be glorified, but not to keep us from being crucified.

基督的死是為了救我們脫離地獄，而不是救我們脫離十字架。他死是為了讓我們得榮耀，但不是為了阻止我們被釘十字架。

For the Christian, the cross of Christ is not merely a past place of substitution for our sin and the justice of God being satisfied. It is also a present place of daily execution.

對於基督徒來說，基督的十字架不僅是過去代替我們的罪和滿足神的公義的地方，也是現在要每天行刑的地方。

In other words, never let the cross lose its crucifying power in your life! Never let it slip into the dim and misty past as though Christ died for sinners so that you can live for pleasure.

換句話說，永遠不要讓十字架在你的生命中失去釘十字架的能力！永遠不要讓它溜進昏暗朦朧的過去，好像基督為罪人而死，這樣你就可以為享樂而活。

The pleasures are coming! Jesus has promised them! Some are already here—like forgiveness and acceptance and a measure of holiness and healing!

歡樂是要來的！耶穌已應許了！有些已經來到在這裡了……比如寬恕和接納，以及一定程度的聖潔和醫治！

The Christian has life and hope. But just like Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before him, so it is with us in this age according to the book of Hebrews (12:1–11).

基督徒有生命和希望。但根據《希伯來書》中所說，我們在這個時代也要如耶穌一樣因那擺在前面的喜樂，忍受了十字架的苦難。(12:1-11)

Most of the joy we long for is still over the horizon. But it is coming.

我們渴望的大部分快樂仍然遙遙無期。但是會來的。

And so, Hebrews says to us in 13:13–14, *Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.*

因此，《希伯來書》在 13 章 13-14 節對我們說，*這樣，我們也當走出營外，到他那裏去，忍受他所受的凌辱。在這裏，我們本沒有永存的城，而是在尋求那將要來的城。*

The great tragedy of much contemporary Christianity is that the cross is safely relegated to the distant past.

許多當代基督教的巨大悲劇是在於把十字架安然地降級到遙遠的過去。

And practically what it means is that Jesus was soaked in blood so that I can soak in a Jacuzzi.

實際上它的意思是耶穌被血浸透了，來讓我可以泡在按摩浴缸裡。

The message of Christ and him crucified means if you would save your life, you must lose it, and if you would follow Jesus, you must take up your cross daily.

基督和他被釘十字架的信息意味著凡要救自己生命的，必須喪失生命，如果你願意跟隨耶穌，你必須每天背起你的十字架。

This is Paul's message to Corinth. It was a self-confident, proud city. It was full of self-made people, and the message of Jesus Christ and him crucified undermines all human pride.

這就是保羅給哥林多的信息。這是一座自信而自豪的城市。它充滿了白手起家的人，耶穌基督和他被釘十字架的信息打破了所有人類的驕傲。

Corinth was a city of self-indulgence. A pleasure-seeking city.

哥林多是一座自我放縱的城市。樂於尋求享樂的城市。

The message of Christ crucified would warn them that the sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God.

基督被釘十字架的信息會警告他們，淫亂的人不能承受上帝的國。

The good news calls them to repent and into a life of holiness. Call them to die to self.

好消息呼召他們悔改，進入聖潔的生活。叫他們向自己死。

In other words, the good news calls for both self-humbling and self-denial...it's a stumbling block to the proud and sinful.

換句話說，好消息需要自我謙卑和自我否定……這是驕傲和罪惡的絆腳石。

Would that message be effective in Corinth? The early signs were yes! Crispus, the synagogue leader, became a Christian.

這個信息在哥林多會有效嗎？初期的跡像是會的！會堂的主管基利司布和全家都信了主成為基督徒。

But Paul fell prey to fear and discouragement. I think v6 is the trigger point.

但保羅陷入恐懼和沮喪之中。我認為第 6 節是觸發點。

When he tells the Jews in v. 6 that their blood was on their own heads for rejecting Jesus and then takes the newly converted synagogue leader next door to start a church, he must have expected trouble.

當他在第 6 節告訴猶太人，你們因抗拒耶穌你們的罪歸到你們自己的頭上，然後離開那裏，帶著附近的會堂的主管去創辦教會時，他一定預料到會遇到麻煩。

Previous experience tells him this is when the riots start. This is when the crowd forms, and he is flogged, imprisoned, and thrown out of town.

以往的經驗告訴他，這是暴亂開始的時候。這是人群聚集，他被鞭打、監禁並被趕出城外的時候。

He borrows worries. He is worrying about troubles he is not yet facing. Have you caught yourself doing that?

他是在杞人憂天。他正在擔心他尚未面對的麻煩。你發現自己有這樣做過嗎？

We often worry about a thousand tribulations that we never go through.

我們常常為我們從未經歷過的千萬磨難而擔心。

Maybe Paul thinks that whatever happens next will go bad for him

也許保羅認為接下來發生的一切都會對他不

God now ministers to him. It's a vision bearing words of refreshment. God loves and cares for his child. Verse 9 & 10

那時神來事奉他。這是一個充滿清新話語的異象。上帝愛並關心他的孩子。第 9-10 節：

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

夜間，主在異象中對保羅說：「不要怕，只管講，不要沉默，有我與你同在，沒有人會下手害你，因為在這城裏有許多屬我的人。」

1 John 4:18 teaches us: ***There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.***

《約翰一書》4:18 教導我們：在愛裏沒有懼怕；完滿的愛把懼怕驅逐出去，

The simple words not to be afraid must have filled Paul's heart with God's love.

「不要怕」這句簡單的話一定讓保羅的心充滿了上帝的愛。

God's word tells us again and again not to fear, to stop worrying about tomorrow, to stop borrowing trouble.

神的話語一再告訴我們，不要怕，不要為明天憂慮，要停止杞人憂天。

In Jesus, all fear has been cast out. In Jesus, we are God's much-loved children, and he has tomorrow in his hands.

在耶穌裡，所有的恐懼都被驅散。在耶穌裡，我們是上帝深愛的孩子，他掌握著明天。

Paul is told to speak. His fear made him afraid to speak. Silence would imprison his fear. Boldness would overcome it.

保羅被告知只管講。他的恐懼使他不敢說話。沉默會囚禁他的恐懼，勇敢會克服它。

He is also promised divine protection. *For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you.*

他也得到了神聖的保護。*有我與你同在，沒有人會下手害你，*

The great John Wesley's dying words were: "The best of all is God is with us."

偉大的約翰衛斯理臨終遺言是：「最棒的是，上帝與我們同在。」

It's the promise of the Lord Jesus as he sends his disciples into the world to make disciples... *I am with you always.*

這是主耶穌差遣他的門徒去使萬民作他的門徒時的應許……*我天天與你們同在。*

No harm would come to Paul in Corinth. That wasn't true in the previous months, and it wasn't true for him in the future, but it was true now.

沒有人會在哥林多下手傷害保羅。前幾個月不是這樣，以後他也不是這樣，但現在是。

But it also means that nothing would ultimately and totally harm Paul and bring him down.

但這也意味著沒有任何事情最終會完全傷害保羅並使他失望。

That promise is true for all Christians. God's protection doesn't mean we will be free from difficulties, but God will never allow us to face more than we can bear.

這個應許對所有基督徒都是真實的。神的保守不代表我們就沒有困難，但神永遠不會讓我們面對超過我們所能承受的。

And more than that, nothing can harm the eternal life and hope and joy we have in Jesus.

更重要的是，沒有什麼能傷害我們在耶穌裡的永生、希望和喜樂。

Jesus keeps his promise to protect Paul in Corinth, and the chief means of that protection would, in fact, be Roman law.

耶穌信守了在哥林多保護保羅的承諾，而這種保護的主要手段實際上是羅馬的法例。

The ruling authorities were on his side and his right to speak about Jesus. The opposition backfired.

執政當局站在他一邊，他有權談論耶穌。反對派適得其反。

This surprising event means Paul was free to bring the word of God to Corinth for the next 18 months...and he did.

這一令人驚訝的事件意味著保羅可以在接下來的 18 個月裡自由地將上帝的話語帶到哥林多……他也照樣做了。

There were many who belonged to Jesus in Corinth.

在哥林多有許多屬於耶穌的人。

Our Mission to Chatswood & Beyond 我們對車士活及其他地區的使命

There are many who belong to Jesus in Chatswood too.

在車士活也有許多屬於耶穌的人。

We know God's mission is for people from every tribe, language, nation, and culture to find life and hope in Jesus.

我們知道上帝的使命是讓來自各個部落、語言、國家和文化的人們在耶穌裡找到生命和希望。

Even though the city and the society we find ourselves in here in Sydney is intimidating to the Christian, there are many who belong to God in this city.

儘管在我們身處的這個城市 and 社會，悉尼，對基督徒來說是令人生畏的，但這座城市中有許多屬於上帝的人。

There are those who love it, and there are those who are tired of it, filled with guilt and shame.

有愛它的人，也有厭倦它的人，充滿內疚和羞愧。

Maybe that is you, listening right now! Come to Jesus Christ and find freedom from slavery to sin. Jesus gave his life so that you might have life forever.

也許這就是你，正在收看！來到耶穌基督面前，從罪的奴役中找到自由。耶穌獻出了他的生命，好讓你可以擁有永遠的生命。

The message of Jesus Christ crucified means you are more sinful and wicked than you ever imagined, and yet more loved and affirmed than you think is possible.

耶穌基督被釘十字架的信息意味著你比你想像的更罪惡、更邪惡，但比你想像的更受愛和肯定。

For those who are Christian, it is so important that you not be intimidated by this city and its culture.

對於基督徒來說，重要的是不要被這座城市及其文化所嚇倒。

God is bigger and more powerful. Those who are his will be his.

上帝更大，更強大。屬於他的將屬於他。

The apostle Peter was told not to speak about Jesus by the religious authorities in Acts 4. This was his reply:

在《使徒行傳》第4章，宗教權威告訴使徒彼得不要談論耶穌。這是他的回答：

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

除他以外，別無拯救，因為在天下人間，沒有賜下別的名，我們可以靠著得救。

The same Peter tells us, therefore, in 1 Peter 3:15: ***Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.***

因此，同一個彼得在《彼得前書》3:15中告訴我們：**有人問你們心中盼望的理由，要隨時準備答覆**

If you are someone who has gone quiet about Jesus, I wonder if the reason you aren't freer and more natural in testifying to the reality of your hope in Jesus is that you don't feel very hopeful. 如果你是一個對耶穌保持沉默的人，我想知道你不是更自由、更自然地見證你對耶穌的盼望是真實的，是不是因為你感覺不太有希望。

I think we don't talk about Jesus when our hearts are not full of hope in the promises of Christ. 我認為，當我們的心對基督的應許沒有充滿希望時，我們就不會談論耶穌。

If Jesus is our treasure and our heart's devotion, then it is a delight to tell someone why we are hopeful.

如果耶穌是我們的寶藏和心的歸宿，那麼告訴別人我們為什麼充滿希望是很高興的。

I fear that too many church people cannot make a case for the hope within them because they don't feel any hope brimming up within their hearts.

我擔心太多的教會人士無法證明他們內心的希望，是因為他們心中感覺不到充滿希望。

So, the way to get ready to make a case for your hope is to get hopeful.

所以，準備好為你的希望辯護的方法就是充滿希望。

Apply yourself to settling the questions of your own heart.

要努力去解決自己這上內心的問題。

We must find for ourselves reason enough to get over our fear of people and have lively hope. 我們必須為自己找到足夠的理由來克服我們對人的恐懼並懷有活潑的希望。

Search out the promises of Christ and **meditate** on his character and work for the sake of **banishing** your own fear and **kindling** your own hope.

尋找基督的應許，**默想**他的品格，**努力消除**你自己的恐懼，**點燃**你自己的希望。

The same loving, caring ministry that God offered the apostle Paul, he offers you. He spoke to Paul, and he wants to minister to you too.

上帝為使徒保羅提供的充滿愛心和關懷的事工，他同樣也提供給你。他和保羅說話，他也想事奉你。

In these troubled times, God wants to give you hope too. He wants his promises to be real to you too.

在這些困難時期，上帝想給你希望。他也希望他的承諾對你是真實的。

Day after day, we must go to the Bible, **not** to anxiously amass arguments for every possible **rebuttal** somebody might have in our secular age, but because we are so desperately needy, our own hope wanes.

我們必須日復一日地查考聖經，**不是**為我們在世的期間的每一個可能的反駁而焦急地積累論據，而是因為我們非常有需要，我們自己的希望正在消失。

We have fears that need to be overcome by the promises of God.

我們有需要被上帝的應許克服的恐懼。

We have doubts that need to be answered. The fight of faith is waged in the Word of God and prayer.

我們有疑問需要解答。信心的爭戰是在上帝的話語和祈禱中進行的。

And when we emerge from that encounter with God with a renewed and lively hope in his promises, we will be ready to make a case for our hope.

當我們從與上帝的相遇中對他的應許懷有新的和活潑的希望時，我們將準備好為我們的希望提出理由。

The Bible reveals God's intimate knowledge of his people. He even knows the number of hairs on each head.

聖經揭示了上帝對他的百姓的深入了解。甚至知道每個人頭上的頭髮的數量。

Fear is incompatible with faith. Fear simply means we must grow our confidence in God.

恐懼與信是不相容的。恐懼只是意味著我們必須增強對上帝的信心。

Fear assumes God is distant, unacquainted with the trials of his people. That is not the God of the Bible.

恐懼假設上帝是遙遠的和不了解他的百姓的考驗。這不是聖經中的上帝。

He knows everything we face today, and tomorrow, and next year. But he promises us, ***Never will I leave you or forsake you.***

他知道我們今天、明天和明年要面臨的一切。但他向我們保證，***我永遠不會離開你或拋棄你。***