

God and the Church 上帝與教會

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Romans 羅馬書 12:1-8

A mum here sees her sins and thinks she is the worst, constantly comparing herself to others.
有一個媽媽，她看到了自己的罪，認為她是最壞的媽媽，她不斷地拿自己和別人比較。

There is a man here whose insecurity causes him to question his place before God makes him not feel, so he acts to please people and God.

有一個男人，他的不安全感讓他質疑自己與上帝的關係，感覺不到，所以他的行為是為了取悅人和上帝。

There is a brother here who feels that God is so awesome he demands more of him, and he feels like he should be doing more as a Christian but ends up feeling guilty.

有一個弟兄覺得神太使人敬畏，而且對他要求很多，他覺得作為基督徒他應該做更多的事奉，但最終感到內疚。

A sister here questions their value and feels the need to talk themselves up in front of others and God to protect themselves.

有一個姐妹質疑自己的價值，覺得有必要在別人和上帝面前把自己說得十分十分之好來保護自己。

We have a distorted view of God, and it distorts our view of ourselves and our relationships with other people.

我們對上帝有一種扭曲的看法，它扭曲了我們對自己以及我們與他人關係的看法。

When I question my value, it can lead me to think if God really wants me, if these friends want to hang out with me, or if I am just a burden on my family.

當我質疑自己的價值時，會讓我思考上帝真的想要我嗎，這些朋友真的想和我一起出去玩嗎，或者如果我只是我家庭的負擔。

We are in the book of Romans. See how God makes us New.

這段時間我們查看《羅馬書》。看看上帝如何使我們煥然一新。

1-4 shows God's righteousness and how far we are from it.

在第 1-4 章顯示了上帝的公義以及我們離它有多遠。

In Chapters 5-8, see how God creates a new humanity.

在第 5-8 章中，可以看到上帝是如何創造新的人類。

9-11 see how God's promises work out for Israel and the Gentiles.

在第 9-11 章看到上帝的應許如何對以色列和外邦人產生影響。

Beautiful picture of theology.

神學的美麗圖畫。

And now, starting Chapter 12, we start with the word ‘Therefore’.

現在從第 12 章開始，我們從「所以」這個詞開始。

What is the impact of what God has done through Jesus in the world? How does it change our lives?

上帝通過耶穌在世界上所做的事有什麼影響？它如何改變我們的生命？

Paul starts with our relationship with God and our view of ourselves and others. When our primary relationship with God is out of order, it impacts everything else.

保羅從我們與上帝的關係開始，然後是我們對自己和他人的看法。當我們的主要關係，與上帝的關係，出現問題時，它會影響其他一切。

The challenge will be today to see how when we have a clear relationship with God, it puts everything else into perspective and gives guidance.

今天的挑戰將是看看當我們與上帝有明確的關係時，它如何把其他一切都放在正確的角度，並給予指導。

1. New Life 新生命 12:1-2

This passage starts with the word ‘therefore’. Paul has told us about the good news of Jesus, which comes to people who don’t deserve it, and how we can trust totally in God as the one who makes salvation possible.

這段經文以「所以」一詞開頭。保羅告訴我們耶穌的福音臨到了那些不配得的人。以及我們如何能完全相信上帝是使救恩成為可能的那一位。

And now he says...therefore.

現在他說……所以。

Because of God’s great love for you, therefore...

因為神對你的大愛，所以……

Because of salvation by faith, therefore...

因為因信得救，所以……

Because of justification by grace, therefore...

因為因恩典稱義，所以……

Live differently.

活得不一樣。

These next two verses summarise the entire Christian life following the last 11 chapters!

接下來的兩節經文在之前的 11 章之後對整個基督徒的生命作出總結！

Verse 1
第 1 節

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship.

1 所以，弟兄們，我以上帝的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上當作活祭，是聖潔的，是上帝所喜悅的，你們如此事奉乃是理所當然的。

Paul calls us to live a radical life as Christian and motivates us by looking at God's mercy. 保羅呼召基督徒過積極激進的生活，並通過仰望上帝的憐憫來激勵我們。

The only sufficient motivation for a different life is gratitude for God's mercy. In Romans 8, Paul argued that Christians couldn't lose their salvation. So Mercy and Grace is the only motivation to live a radically different life.

對不同生活的唯一充分動力是對上帝的憐憫的感激之情。回到《羅馬書》8 章，保羅認為基督徒不能失去他們的救恩。因此，過一種完全不同的生活的唯一動力是上帝的慈悲與恩典。

If Christians could lose their salvation, we would be trying to live holy lives out of fear or guilt. I'm not living right. I need to work harder. And then how would that work out in families and relationships? Family, you all need to work harder and read your bible more. Here is where 'religious guilt' comes from. This inner view that not accepted and loved by God and always needs to do more to get it impacts all relationships.

如果一個基督徒可能會失去他們的救恩，那麼我們就會出於恐懼或內疚而努力過聖潔的生活。我活得不好，我需要更加努力。那麼這將如何在家庭和人際關係中發揮作用。家人，你們都需要更加努力，多讀聖經。這就是「宗教內疚」的來源。這種不被上帝接受和愛的內在觀點，總是需要做更多的事情來得到的感覺，影響著所有的關係。

A fear-based person thinks they are getting what they deserve in a season. It leads to anxiety before God and with other people. But this is not the gospel. God has already given us mercy! 基於恐懼的人認為他們在某一個時期中得到的就是他們應得的。導致在上帝面前和其他人面前焦慮。但這不是福音。上帝已慈悲憐憫了我們！

Then, motivated by God's mercy, Paul urges us to do two things, summing up the entire Christian life. The first picture is in verse 1 and the second in verse 2.

然後，以上帝的慈悲，保羅敦促我們做兩件事，總結整個基督徒的生活。第一張圖片在第 1 節中和，第二張圖片在第 2 節中。

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship.

所以，弟兄們，我以上帝的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上當作活祭，是聖潔的，是上帝所喜悅的，你們如此事奉乃是理所當然的

Offer your body as a living sacrifice.

獻上你的身體作為活祭。

The first response to God's mercy is a life of living sacrifice. Paul is using the Old Testament language of sacrifice here. It is the image of a worshipper coming in with an offering. But not the offering that dealt with sin. That's Jesus!

對上帝慈悲的第一個反應是作為活祭地生活。保羅在這裡使用的是舊約獻祭的語言。這是一個敬拜者帶著祭品進來的圖像。但不是對付罪的祭物。耶穌才是！

The offering was a 'burnt offering', a valuable animal from your flock. It had to be perfect, with no blemish, the best and most expensive you had, because you didn't give God your leftovers.

要獻的祭是「燔祭」，是你在羊群中最寶貴的動物。必須是完美的，沒有瑕疵，是你擁有的最好和最昂貴的，因為你不會把剩下的給上帝。

This offering was always completely burnt, and it represented a complete and total devotion to God.

這個祭物總是被完全燒掉，它代表了對上帝的完完全全的奉獻。

What is Paul saying for our lives then? We ought to be offering everything we have to a big bonfire. It might keep us warm for a couple of minutes.

那麼保羅對我們的生命說了什麼要求？我們應該把我們所擁有的一切放入大篝火中嗎？它可能會讓我們暖和幾分鐘。

It's a picture of being willing to obey God in anything.

這是一幅願意在任何事情上順服上帝的圖畫。

And he specifically mentions bodies because in the Roman world, what happened to the body didn't matter, compared to the mind.

而且他特別提到了身體，這可能是因為在羅馬世界裡，身體與心靈相比，發生了什麼並不重要。

So the religious and philosophical Romans and Greeks would cultivate their mind and soul to purity but committed sexual sins of the body as if it didn't matter.

因此，羅馬和希臘的宗教人仕和哲學家專注將他們의思想和靈魂培養成純潔，但卻讓身體去犯性愛的罪，就好像無關緊要。

Paul is being inclusive of everything of the Christian. Offer everything to God as a living sacrifice. We might not think the same way as the ancient Romans separating what happens with the body and the mind. But we still think that we can separate ourselves from God.

保羅把基督徒的一切包括在內。將一切作為活祭獻給神。我們可能不會像古羅馬人那樣把身體和心靈發生的事情分開來思考。但我們仍然認為我們可以將自己與上帝分開。

I'll offer to God my money, my Sunday mornings. But I want to pursue the job that I want. I will pursue the sexual experiences that I want. I'll parent as I see fit.

我會把我的錢，我的星期天早上獻給上帝。但我想追求我想要的工作。我會追求我想要的性體驗。我會以我認為合適的方法做父母。

Your body, your mind, your thoughts, your hopes, your dreams.
你的身體，你的思想，你的想法，你的希望，你的夢想。

God wants everything! It sounds greedy, but when we understand how deep his mercy is in giving us Jesus - we see we only have anything because he has given it to us. So to be a living sacrifice is the most obvious response!

上帝一切都要！這聽起來很貪婪，但當我們了解到祂將耶穌賜給我們的慈悲有多深時…我們會看到我們擁有的任何東西都是祂給我們的。所以做活祭是最明顯的反應！

And it's living.
還有是要活的。

It's a daily giving ourselves over to God. As we sit in his word, remind ourselves of his mercy, and continue to offer different parts of our life to him.

這是每天把自己交給上帝。當我們閱讀他的話時，以他的慈悲提醒自己，並繼續向他獻上我們生命的不同部分。

On Wednesday afternoon, I had to take my youngest to soccer. I wanted to drop him off, nap, hide, or read a book in the car. I was tired. I had this little 45-minute window where I wanted to do anything I wanted.

週三下午，我不得不帶我最小的孩子去踢足球。我想送他去，打盹，或者躲起來，或者在車裡看書。我累了。我有這個 45 分鐘的小窗口，可以做任何我想做的事情。

But I also know that there's another Dad at soccer that I've had some great conversations about life and religion. So, I decided to go and have a great 45-minute conversation about religion, and we're going to have lunch this week.

但我也知道在足球場上還有另一些爸爸，我以前就生活和宗教進行了一些很棒的談話。所以，我決定去就宗教進行了 45 分鐘的精彩對話，我們這週約好吃午飯。

Now, that's just a small example of what it means to be a living sacrifice. There is the living sacrifice of sacrificing sinful ways of living and putting aside lust, pride, and greed. But I can also make my life look pretty Christian and still choose myself in those important moments. 這只是活祭的一個小例子。有活祭是把放棄罪惡的生活方式，放下情慾、驕傲和貪婪。但我也可以讓我的生活看起來很基督徒，而在那些重要的時刻仍然選擇自己。

Will I sacrifice my hopes, dreams, rest, and time to God?
我會為上帝獻上我的希望和夢想、休息和時間嗎？

This living is pleasing to God.
這種生活是神所喜悅的。

How amazing, God is already pleased with us! Like God says to Jesus at his baptism, this is my son, whom I am well pleased with. We get to be his children with whom he is well pleased.

何等奇妙，神已經喜悅我們了！就像上帝在耶穌受浸時對他說的那樣，這是我的兒子，我所喜悅的。我們已成為他所喜悅的孩子。

Speaking of Soccer, some parents look pleased with their kids, and some aren't. I work hard not to be the parent shouting abusive encouragement on the sidelines. God is the Parent who is pleased with their child whether they score a goal or chase butterflies. God is already pleased with us. We get to live a life that is pleasing to him.

說到足球，有些父母看起來對他們的孩子很滿意，有些則不滿意。我努力不成為在場邊大聲辱罵著鼓勵的家長。上帝是對孩子，無論他們進了球還是在追逐著蝴蝶，都感到滿意的天父。上帝已經對我們滿意了，我們可以過一種讓他滿意的生活。

The second aspect of the Christian life is to be transformed, not conformed.

基督徒生活的第二個方面是更新變化，而不是效法。

Verse 2.

第 2 節。

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 不要效法這個世界，只要心意更新而變化，叫你們察驗何為上帝的善良、純全、可喜悅的旨意。

Paul holds up two ways to live. Two patterns of life. The pattern of the world and the pattern of God's will. And they are always set against each other. Living a pleasing, sacrificial life means seeing the patterns of thinking and acting from the world and the patterns of living and thinking from God.

保羅提出了兩種生活方式。兩種生活的模式。世界的模式，上帝旨意的模式。他們總是互相對立。過快樂的，獻身的生活，意味著看到來自世界的思維方式和行為方式，以及來自上帝的生活和思維方式。

The world says...

世界說……

You deserve this. Treat yourself.

這是你應得的，善待自己。

You are the most important, so everyone is wrong, don't listen to them.

你是最重要的，所以每個人都錯了，不要聽他們的。

You can be whatever you want and do whatever you want!

你可以成為任何你想成為的，做任何你想做的事！

And the pattern of the world is to celebrate that!

世界的模式就是慶祝這些點！

Chase the dream, be the best version of yourself and put yourself first.
追逐夢想，做最好的自己，把自己放在第一位。

But the gospel tells us that...
但福音告訴我們……

We don't deserve anything good, but God gives us all his grace and mercy
我們不配得到任何好處，但上帝給了我們他所有的恩典和慈悲

We are not important, but we are loved and valued
我們不是最重要的，但我們是被愛和被重視的

I can do whatever because I'm forgiven, but I choose to obey Jesus out of love and thank God for his mercy to me.
因為我被赦免了我可以做任何事，但我選擇出於愛和感謝上帝對我的慈悲去服從耶穌。

Being the best version of me is to pursue looking like Jesus.
成為最好的我就是追求看起來像耶穌。

That is an identity that will stand the test of time. The pattern of the world around will not shake that.
那是一種經得起時間考驗的身份，不會被周圍世界的格局所動搖。

When our identity is first found and defined by God, it helps us to see everything else.
當我們首先以上帝的定義來發現我們的身份時，將有助於我們清楚地看到其他一切。

2. New view of Self 自我的新觀點 12:3-4

God's mercy to you. Think of Self right before him.
上帝對你的慈悲是在他面前正確地思考自我。

Because of God's mercy, we can be right and relate to him.
由於上帝對我們的慈悲，我們可以正確地與他建立正確的關係。

That is the primary relationship. And now it helps us to see ourselves right.
那是首要的關係。現在它幫助我們正確看待自己。

Verse 3.
第3節。

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

3 我憑著所賜我的恩對你們每一位說：不要把自己看得太高，要照著上帝所分給各人的信心來衡量，看得合乎中道。

Do not think of yourself more highly, but with sober judgement. Paul has shown us the right way to view a relationship with God, living sacrificially, transformed by his mercy, and pleasing to him.

不要把自己看得太高，但要看得合乎中道。保羅向我們展示了看待與上帝關係的正確方式，獻身的生活，因他的慈悲而心意更新而變化，是上帝所喜悅的。

Now he shows us how we are to relate to ourselves.

現在他向我們展示了我們如何與自己相處。

And he uses the language of sober judgement. Think of the person who is not sober. The one who is impacted by alcohol or drugs. Someone who is not thinking clearly. They will often think in one of 2 ways. Alcohol can make people boastful, thinking they can do things they can't.

他使用合乎中道的語言。想想那個不清醒受酒精或藥物影響的人。思維不清晰的人。他們通常會以兩種方式之一進行思考。酒精可以讓人非常自誇，認為他們可以做他們真的做不到的事情。

I can jump over that wall, fight a crocodile, and drive a car - I'm fine!

我可以跳過那堵牆，可以與鱷魚打架，我可以開車...我很好！

None of these things is a good decision. But also, when impacted by alcohol, it is the flip side because alcohol is a depressant. So people can be depressed. Unable or unwilling to do anything.

這些都不是好的決定。但是，當受到酒精的影響時，是有另一面的，因為酒精是一種鎮靜劑。所以，人們可能會感到沮喪。不能或不願做任何事情。

So don't be like that, too boastful or too down on yourself. Think of yourself with sober judgement in accordance with the faith God has given.

所以不要那樣，太自誇或太看不起自己。要照著上帝所分給各人的信心來衡量，看得合乎中道。

Romans 3 has a wonderful contrast that demonstrates this. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. We all deserve his punishment. It would be right to think of ourselves as the lowest of the low.

《羅馬書》3章中有一個奇妙的對比證明了這一點。我們都犯了罪，虧缺了神的榮耀。我們都應該受到他的懲罰。看不起自己認為自己是最低的是正確的。

Yet, in the next verse, we are all justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came from Christ Jesus. How can we think lowly of ourselves when God said we were worth dying for? It is the highest of views.

然而，就在下一節經文中，如今卻蒙上帝的恩典，藉著在基督耶穌裏的救贖，就白白地得稱為義。若上帝親自說我們值得以耶穌的死來救贖，我們怎麼能自卑。這是最高的觀點。

We need to hold these two views together because Paul has already warned us about the danger of conforming ourselves to the pattern of the world. Our culture warns against low self-esteem, but often the bigger problem is self-centredness and an inflated ego.

我們需要將這兩種觀點結合在一起，因為保羅已經警告我們，讓自己順從世界模式的危險。我們的文化警告人們不要自卑，但更大的問題往往是自我中心和自我膨脹。

But when we first understand ourselves before God, we can have sober judgement about ourselves.

但當我們首先在神面前認識自己時，我們就能對自己有合乎中道的衡量。

And we have this sober judgement in accordance with the faith that we have been given. The way I would most often read this would be about how much faith has been given.

我們要照著上帝所分給各人的信心作合乎中道的衡量。我經常以給予了多少信心來解讀這段經文。

So think about myself based on how much faith God has given me. God has given me much faith so that I can think much of myself. I'm pretty great because I have a lot of faith.

根據上帝給了我的信心來衡量我自己。上帝給了我很多信心，所以我可以為更重視自己。因為我有很大的信心我很厲害。

But if you've been with us the last three weeks, Paul has been talking about Christians and Jews and how salvation works for these groups.

但如果你過去三週和我們在一起，保羅一直在談論救恩如何對基督徒和猶太人起作用。

So it is not about how much faith is, but Paul calls on the Jews not to think too highly about themselves and the gentiles too lowly because of their background. God is the one who gives the faith, regardless of background, abilities and giftings. God loves us equally in Jesus.

不是關於有多少信心…保羅呼籲猶太人不要太看重自己，而外邦人不要因為他們的背景而太自卑。上帝是賜予信心的那一位，無論背景，無論能力和恩賜如何，上帝在耶穌裡同樣愛我們。

The gospel prevents us from thinking more lowly of ourselves than we ought.

福音阻止我們認為自己過於卑微。

It is a call to self-appreciation by remembering who we are in the gospel. Valued and loved by God.

這是通過記住我們在福音中被上帝珍視和愛戴的身份，對自我欣賞的呼喚。

3. New Service 新的事奉 12:5-8

We find our identity in God. It helps us to understand ourselves.

我們在上帝中找到自己的身份，將幫助我們了解自己。

But we are not created to be an island.

但我們不是被創造為一個島嶼。

Verse 4 and 5 reminds us of our interdependence

第 4 和 5 節提醒我們，我們的相互依存

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

4 正如我們一個身子上有好些肢體，肢體也不都有一樣的用處。5 這樣，我們許多人在基督裏是一個身體，互相聯絡作肢體。

We each have different gifts, personalities, histories and abilities that equip us to serve one another differently. God has deliberately created his church to be a beautiful tapestry of uniqueness and difference, but where that difference is celebrated as needed, not to be ironed out.

我們每個人都有不同的天賦、個性、歷史和能力，使我們能夠以不同的方式為彼此服侍。上帝故意將他的教會創造為獨特和差異的美麗掛毯，這種差異是在有需要時被慶祝，而不是去消除。

Verse 6

第 6 節

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

6 按著所得的恩典，我們各有不同的恩賜。

God is the one who makes us righteous by his grace, and he also gives us gifts by his grace. These aren't given for our benefit. And they aren't given to more special people.

神藉著他的恩典使我們成為義，他也藉著他的恩典賜給我們恩賜。這些不是為了我們自己的利益而賜。而且不是給更特別的人。

We all have a role to play in the church. We need others and need ourselves. When we think about ourselves with sober-minded judgement, we're reminded we're not to be on our own.

We belong to God, as his children, and the church, not ourselves.

我們在教會中都有要扮演一個角色。需要別人，也需要自己。當我們合乎中道的衡量自己時，我們會被提醒不要獨自一人。我們屬於上帝，作為他的孩子，但也屬於教會，而不是只屬於我們自己。

Paul goes on to list many gifts, similar to other lists in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4.

保羅接著列舉了一些類似於《哥林多前書》12 章和《以弗所書》4 章中的其他清單的恩賜。

If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

或說預言，要按著信心的程度說預言；7 或服事的，要專一服事；或教導的，要專一教導；8 或勸勉的，要專一勸勉；施捨的，要誠實；治理的，要殷勤；憐憫人的，要樂意。

The emphasis of these is that they are other person-centred.

這些的重點是以他人為中心。

I recently did a gifts assessment. Working on that as a church.

我最近做了一個恩賜的評估。為了教會在這方面的發展而作。

And 2 of the major gifts that God has given me are evangelism and hosting other people.

And that's true. I love making people feel welcome here and doing the same at church. I saw those gifts and thought, yes! I've had many people come to my house to host them. I desire to do that in a harder way, to combine that evangelism with welcoming people.

上帝給我的兩個主要恩賜是傳福音和接待他人。這是正確的。我喜歡讓人們感到賓至如歸，並在教會做同樣的事情。我看到了那些恩賜，並認為。是的！我有很多人來我家招待他們。我希望以更艱難的方式做到這一點，將傳福音和接待他人結合起來。

Do you know what your gifts are and what it would look like to live sacrificially?

你知道你的恩賜是什麼嗎，獻身的生活會是什麼樣子嗎？

Come and talk with me after church if you want to learn more about your gifts.

如果您想了解更多關於您的恩賜的信息，請在崇拜結束後與我交談。

A reordered view of God, self, and others helps a healthy Christian life.

重新審視上帝、自我和他人有助於擁有健康的基督徒生活。

Knowing who I am in God helps me view myself right and my value to the community around me.

了解我在上帝中的身份有助於我正確看待自己以及我對周圍社群的價值。

That is a healthy Christian life. And it all begins when we meditate on God's mercies to us each day.

這就是健康的基督徒生活。一切開始在我們每天默想上帝對我們的慈悲時。