

BIRTH OF THE SPIRIT

DAILY READINGS:

Monday: John 3:1-21
Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 5:10-21
Wednesday: Ephesians 2:1-22
Thursday: Titus 2:11-3:8
Friday: 1 Peter 1:3-25
Saturday: 1 John 3:1-24
Sunday: 1 John 5:1-21

2 Corinthians 5:17

***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

若有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人，舊事已過，都變成新的了。

INTRODUCTION:

One of the best-known stories of the life of Christ is His meeting with a Pharisee called Nicodemus. This ruler of the Jews came to Jesus by night and engaged Him in a conversation. It was from this meeting and conversation that the most familiar verse used in gospel witnessing is found ([John 3:16](#)). It is also from the words of Jesus on this occasion that we have the most sublime teaching on the basic fundamental cornerstone of the gospel.

John 3:16	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 「神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。」
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LESSON NOTES:

The New Birth: Nowhere does it say that Nicodemus asked specifically "of salvation and light." His opening remark was simply an acknowledgment that Jesus was a "teacher" sent from God. This was the conclusion Nicodemus reached after he had seen what must have been several outstanding miracles ([John 3:2](#)). Jesus, who knows the secrets of every heart, picked up the conversation from this point and led it into the truth which Nicodemus was seeking.

John 3:2	The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him". 這人夜裡來見耶穌，說「拉比，我們知道你是由神那來作師傅的；因為你所行的神蹟，若沒有神同在，無人能行。」
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As a religious leader of his day, Nicodemus was looking forward to the long-awaited kingdom. Every man "sent from God" would be intensely questioned on this point. Perhaps in anticipation of this thinking Jesus began by saying. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" ([v.3](#)).

John 3:3	Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 耶穌回答說：「我實實在在地告訴你，人若不重生，就不能見神的國。」
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This concept of a "new birth" as related to the kingdom of God was completely foreign to Nicodemus who was looking for a physical kingdom. The concept itself, however, was not foreign to him, for a Gentile who became converted to Judaism and so a "proselyte" was considered to have been "born again." Jesus made it plain that the matters of the kingdom had to do with the spirit and the soul (vv.4-6). To illustrate the spiritual and unseen aspects of the kingdom, the new birth was likened to the wind which cannot be seen by the eye. It has no physical substance though its effect is real and can very definitely be felt (v.8).

John 3:4-6	<p>⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" 尼哥底母說：「人已經老了，如何能重生呢？豈能再進母腹生出來嗎？」</p> <p>⁵Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." 耶穌說：「我實實在在的告訴你，人若不是從水和聖靈生的，就不能進神的國。」</p> <p>⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 從肉身生的就是肉身；從靈生的就是靈。</p>
John 3:8	<p>The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. 風隨著意思吹，你聽見風的響聲，卻不曉得從那裡來，往那裡去；凡從聖靈生的，也是如此。」</p>

The New Life: Just as an apple tree is known by the apples which grow on it, so *a truly "born-again" person is known by the fruits of his new life*. All through the New Testament the emphasis is on the new life resultant from the new birth. Old things, that is, the former way of living, are passed away, and all things are become new. New interests and new desires, different from the old way of life, take the place of these former things.

One of the things which the Christian community debates endlessly is the relation of "works" to "faith." The Bible is *very* clear as to the relationship between the two. *Grace alone saves us*. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation (see Titus 3:1-8). *Salvation is by grace through faith*. This means that we believe in His gracious provision and accept His offer. However, *we are created unto good works, to walk in them once we have been born again* (see Eph. 2:10). Without exception, this theme recurs in *all* the teachings of the New Testament. Peter tells us not to be conformed to the passions of our former ignorance (1 Peter 1:14). John tells us that every one who has the hope of salvation in him purifies himself as He is pure (1 John 3:3). *Obviously there is an effort required of us beyond simply believing and then going our own way.*

Titus 3:1-8	<p>¹Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, 你要提醒眾人，叫他們順服作官的、掌權的，遵他的命，預備行各樣的善事。</p> <p>²To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. 不要毀謗，不要爭競，總要和平，向眾人大顯溫柔。</p> <p>³For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 我們從前也是無知、悖逆、受迷惑、服事各樣私慾，和宴樂，常存惡毒（或作：陰毒）嫉妒的心，是可恨的，又是彼此相恨。</p> <p>⁴But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 但到了神-我們救主的恩慈和他向人所施的慈愛顯明的時候，</p> <p>⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,</p>
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	<p>by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 他便救了我們；並不是因我們自己所行的義，乃是照他的憐憫，藉著重生的洗和聖靈的更新。</p> <p>⁶Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 聖靈就是神藉著耶穌基督我們救主厚厚澆灌在我們身上的，</p> <p>⁷That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 好叫我們因他的恩得稱為義，可以憑著永生的盼望成為後嗣。（或作：可以憑著盼望承受永生）。</p> <p>⁸This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. 這話是可信的。我也願你把這些事切切實實的講明，使那些已信神的人留心做正經事業（或作：留心行善）。這都是美事，並且與人有益。</p>
Ephesians 2:10	<p>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. 我們原是他的工作，在基督耶穌裡造成的，為要叫我們行善，就是神所預備叫我們行的。</p>
1 Peter 1:14	<p>As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 你們既作順命的兒女，就不要效法從前蒙昧無知的時候那放縱私慾的樣子。</p>
1 John 3:3	<p>And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 凡向他有這指望的，就潔淨自己，像他潔淨一樣。</p>

THE LESSONS:

Being "born again" simply means that we begin life again with a new nature and a new character. It is a fresh start. It is the embodiment of a new spirit different from the old. When we entered the world the first time, we bore the likeness and spirit of the world just as we inherited certain physical traits from our parents. *Being born again is a birth of the Spirit of God which stamps His image upon us and thus makes us His children and heirs to His blessings in life.* It is a miraculous birth in which the former things pass away and all things become new. We don't know how it happens, but we know it does.

The *only* way in which this new birth can be obtained is through believing on Jesus. There is no way in which the wisdom of this world can accept or describe this procedure. Read [Numbers 21:4-9](#) to obtain an illustration of what is meant by "looking" at Jesus. Note then an image of that which brought the plague was sufficient to overcome the effects of these serpents. So Christ was made a curse for us, and simply looking to Him provides salvation.

Numbers 21:4-9	<p>⁴And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. 他們從何珥山起行，往紅海那條路走，要繞過以東地。百姓因這路難行，心中甚是煩躁，</p> <p>⁵And the people spake against God, and against Moses, "Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread." 就怨讟 神和摩西說：你們為甚麼把我們從埃及領出來、使我們死在曠野呢？這裡沒有糧，沒有水，我們的心厭惡這淡薄的食物。</p> <p>⁶And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much</p>
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	<p>people of Israel died. 於是耶和華使火蛇進入百姓中間，蛇就咬他們。以色列人中死了許多。</p> <p>⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." And Moses prayed for the people. 百姓到摩西那裡，說：我們怨讎耶和華和你，有罪了。求你禱告耶和華，叫這些蛇離開我們。於是摩西為百姓禱告。</p> <p>⁸And the LORD said unto Moses, "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live." 耶和華對摩西說：你製造一條火蛇，掛在杆子上；凡被咬的，一望這蛇，就必得活。</p> <p>⁹And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. 摩西便製造一條銅蛇，掛在杆子上；凡被蛇咬的，一望這銅蛇就活了。</p>
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The purpose of salvation is that we might become the "righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). Accepting His death as a substitution for our death means *we no longer live unto ourselves but for Him (v.15)*. *The mark of the child of God is his life (1 John 3:10)*. For example, love, as well as other good works, is to be indeed, not in word or speech. In other words, **action**, not talk, **is the sign of him that is born of the Spirit**.

2 Corinthians 5:21	<p>For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 神使那無罪（無罪：原文是不知罪）的，替我們成為罪，好叫我們在他裡面成為神的義。</p>
2 Corinthians 5:15	<p>And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 並且他替眾人死，是叫那些活著的人不再為自己活，乃為替他們死而復活的主活。</p>
1 John 3:10	<p>In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 從此就顯出誰是神的兒女，。誰是魔鬼的兒女。凡不行義的就不屬神，不愛弟兄的也是如此。</p>

The birth of the Spirit is but the *beginning* of a new life. The kingdom of God goes far beyond this entry point. However, in order to "see" or "enter" this kingdom, we must begin with the new birth. This is the thing which all the prophets prophesied and which was ordained from the foundation of the earth (1 Peter 1:19, 20). This is the door by which all, Jew and Gentile alike, enter into the kingdom of God (Eph. 2:14-22). It is a gift of God given through His love for us. Only through this birth of the Spirit can all the promises of the kingdom be realized in our lives.

1 Peter 1:19, 20	<p>¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 乃是憑著基督的寶血，如同無瑕疵、無玷污的羔羊之血。</p> <p>²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 基督在創世以前是預先被神知道的，卻在這末世才為你們顯現。</p>
Ephesians 2:14-22	<p>¹⁴For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 因他使我們和睦（原文作：因他是我們的和睦），將兩下合而為一，拆毀了中間隔斷的牆；</p> <p>¹⁵Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;</p>

而且以自己的身體廢掉冤仇，就是那記在律法上的規條，為要將兩下藉著自己造成一個新人，如此便成就了和睦。

¹⁶And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

既在十字架上滅了冤仇，便藉這十字架使兩下歸為一體，與神和好了，

¹⁷And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

並且來傳和平的福音給你們遠處的人，也給那近處的人。

¹⁸For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

因為我們兩下藉著他被一個聖靈所感，得以進到父面前。

¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

這樣，你們不再作外人和客旅，是與聖徒同國，是神家裡的人了；

²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

並且被建造在使徒和先知的根基上，有基督耶穌自己為房角石，

²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto *an holy temple* in the Lord:

各（或作：全）房靠他聯絡得合式，漸漸成為主的聖殿。

²²In whom ye also are builded together for *an habitation of God* through the Spirit.

你們也靠他同被建造，成為神藉著聖靈居住的所在。

Psalm 119:4

Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently.

耶和華啊，你曾將你的訓詞吩咐我們，為要我們殷勤遵守。

Monday: John 3:1-21

¹There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

有一個法利賽人，名叫尼哥底母，是猶太人的官。

Nicodemus	Jesus
<p>²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him”.</p> <p>這人夜裡來見耶穌，說「拉比，我們知道你是由神那來作師傅的；因為你所行的神蹟，若沒有神同在，無人能行。」</p>	<p>³Jesus answered and said unto him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot <u>see</u> the kingdom of God.”</p> <p>耶穌回答說：「我實實在在地告訴你，人若不重生，就不能見神的國。」</p>
<p>⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, “How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?”</p> <p>尼哥底母說：「人已經老了，如何能重生呢？豈能再進母腹生出來嗎？」</p>	<p>⁵Jesus answered, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot <u>enter</u> into the kingdom of God.”</p> <p>耶穌說：「我實實在在的告訴你，人若不是從水和聖靈生的，就不能進神的國。</p> <p>⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.</p> <p>從肉身生的就是肉身；從靈生的就是靈。</p> <p>⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 我說：『你們必須重生』，你不要以為希奇。</p> <p>⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”</p> <p>風隨著意思吹，你聽見風的響聲，卻不曉得從那裡來，往那裡去；凡從聖靈生的，也是如此。」</p>
<p>⁹Nicodemus answered and said unto him, “How can these things be?”</p> <p>尼哥底母問他說：「怎能會有這事呢？」</p>	<p>¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?”</p> <p>耶穌回答說：「你是以色列人的先生，還不明白這事嗎？」</p>

¹¹Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

我實實在在的告訴你，我們所說的是我們知道的；我們所見證的是我們見過的；你們卻不領受我們的見證。

¹²If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

我對你們說地上的事，你們尚且不信，若說天上的事，如何能信呢？

¹³And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

除了從天降下、仍舊在天的人子，沒有人升過天。

14And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
摩西在曠野怎樣舉蛇，人子也必照樣被舉起來，

15That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
叫一切信他的都得永生（或作：叫一切信的人在他裡面得永生）。

16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
「神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。

17For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
因為神差他的兒子降世，不是要定世人的罪（或作：審判世人；下同），乃是要叫世人因他得救。

18He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
信他的人，不被定罪；不信的人，罪已經定了，因為他不信神獨生子的名。

19And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
光來到世間，世人因自己的行為是惡的，不愛光，倒愛黑暗，定他們的罪就是在此。

20For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.
凡作惡的便恨光，並不來就光，恐怕他的行為受責備。

21But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.
但行真理的必來就光，要顯明他所行的是靠神而行。」

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 5:10-21

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

因為我們眾人必要在基督臺前顯露出來，叫各人按著本身所行的，或善或惡受報。

¹¹Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

我們既知道主是可畏的，所以勸人。但我們在神面前是顯明的，盼望在你們的良心裡也是顯明的。

¹²For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

我們不是向你們再舉薦自己，乃是叫你們因我們有可誇之處，好對那憑外貌不憑內心誇口的人，有言可答。

¹³For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

我們若果顛狂，是為神；若果謹守，是為你們。

¹⁴For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

原來基督的愛激勵我們；因我們想，一人既替眾人死，眾人就都死了；

¹⁵And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

並且他替眾人死，是叫那些活著的人不再為自己活，乃為替他們死而復活的主活。

¹⁶Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

所以，我們從今以後，不憑著外貌（原文是肉體；本節同）認人了。雖然憑著外貌認過基督，如今卻不再這樣認他了。

¹⁷Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

若有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人，舊事已過，都變成新的了。

¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

一切都是出於神；他藉著基督使我們與他和好，又將勸人與他和好的職分賜給我們。

¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

這就是神在基督裡，叫世人與自己和好，不將他們的過犯歸到他們身上，並且將這和好的道理託付了我們。

²⁰Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

所以，我們作基督的使者，就好像神藉我們勸你們一般。我們替基督求你們與神和好。

²¹For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

神使那無罪（無罪：原文是不知罪）的，替我們成為罪，好叫我們在他裡面成為神的義。

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:1-22

¹And you hath he **quickened**, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
你們死在過犯罪惡之中，他叫你們活過來。

²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
那時，你們在其中行事為人，隨從今世的風俗，順服空中掌權者的首領，就是現今在悖逆之子心中運行的邪靈。

³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
我們從前也都在他們中間，放縱肉體的私慾，隨著肉體和心中所喜好的去行，本為可怒之子，和別人一樣。

⁴But God, who is **rich in mercy**, for his **great love** wherewith he loved us,
然而，神既有豐富的憐憫，因他愛我們的大愛，

⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath **quickened us together with Christ**, (by grace ye are saved);
當我們死在過犯中的時候，便叫我們與基督一同活過來。你們得救是本乎恩。

⁶And hath **raised us up together**, and made us **sit together** in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**:
他又叫我們與基督耶穌一同復活，一同坐在天上，

⁷That in the ages to come he might shew the **exceeding riches** of his **grace** in his **kindness** toward us **through Christ Jesus**.
要將他極豐富的恩典，就是他在基督耶穌裡向我們所施的恩慈，顯明給後來的世代看。

⁸For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
你們得救是本乎恩，也因著信；這並不是出於自己，乃是神所賜的；

⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.
也不是出於行為，免得有人自誇。

¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
我們原是他的工作，在基督耶穌裡造成的，為要叫我們行善，就是神所預備叫我們行的。

¹¹Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

[Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.]
所以你們應當記念：你們從前按肉體是外邦人，是稱為沒受割禮的；這名原是那些憑人手在肉身上稱為受割禮之人所起的。

¹²That at that time ye were without **Christ**, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

那時，你們與基督無關，在以色列國民以外，在所應許的諸約上是局外人，並且活在世上沒有指望，沒有神。

¹³But now in **Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the **blood of Christ**.

你們從前遠離神的人，如今卻在基督耶穌裡，靠著他的血，已經得親近了。

¹⁴For he is our **peace**, who hath made both one, and hath **broken** down the middle wall of partition between us;

因他使我們和睦（原文作：因他是我們的和睦），將兩下合而為一，拆毀了中間隔斷的牆；

¹⁵Having **abolished** in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making **peace**;

[He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.]

而且以自己的身體廢掉冤仇，就是那記在律法上的規條，為要將兩下藉著自己造成一個新人，如此便成就了和睦。

¹⁶And that he might **reconcile** both unto God in one body by the cross, having **slain** the enmity thereby:

既在十字架上滅了冤仇，便藉這十字架使兩下歸為一體，與神和好了，

¹⁷And **came** and **preached peace** to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

並且來傳和平的福音給你們遠處的人，也給那近處的人。

¹⁸For **through him** we both have access by **one Spirit** unto the Father.

因為我們兩下藉著他被一個聖靈所感，得以進到父面前。

¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

這樣，你們不再作外人和客旅，是與聖徒同國，是神家裡的人了；

²⁰And are **built** upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself** being the chief corner stone;

並且被建造在使徒和先知的根基上，有基督耶穌自己為房角石，

²¹In whom all the building fitly **framed together groweth** unto **an holy temple** in the Lord:

各（或作：全）房靠他聯絡得合式，漸漸成為主的聖殿。

²²In whom ye also are **builed together** for **an habitation of God** through the Spirit.

你們也靠他同被建造，成為神藉著聖靈居住的所在。

Thursday: Titus 2:11 – 3:8

^{2:11}For the **grace** of God that bringeth **salvation** hath appeared to all men,
因為神救眾人的恩典已經顯明出來，

¹²**Teaching** us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
教訓我們除去不敬虔的心和世俗的情慾，在今世自守、公義、敬虔度日，

¹³Looking for that blessed **hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour **Jesus Christ**;
等候所盼望的福，並等候至大的神和我們（或作：神-我們）救主耶穌基督的榮耀顯現。

¹⁴Who **gave** himself for us, that he might **redeem** us from all iniquity, and **purify** unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
他為我們捨了自己，要贖我們脫離一切罪惡，又潔淨我們，特作自己的子民，熱心為善。

¹⁵These things **speak**, and **exhort**, and **rebuke** with all authority. Let no man despise thee.
這些事你要講明，勸戒人，用各等權柄責備人；不可叫人輕看你。

^{3:1}Put them in mind to **be subject** to principalities and powers, to **obey** magistrates, to **be ready** to every good work,
你要提醒眾人，叫他們順服作官的、掌權的，遵他的命，預備行各樣的善事。

²To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.
不要毀謗，不要爭競，總要和平，向眾人大顯溫柔。

³For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.
我們從前也是無知、悖逆、受迷惑、服事各樣私慾，和宴樂，常存惡毒（或作：陰毒）嫉妒的心，是可恨的，又是彼此相恨。

⁴But after that the **kindness** and **love** of God our Saviour toward man appeared,
但到了神-我們救主的恩慈和他向人所施的慈愛顯明的時候，

⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his **mercy** he **saved** us, by the **washing** of regeneration, and **renewing** of the Holy Ghost;
他便救了我們；並不是因我們自己所行的義，乃是照他的憐憫，藉著重生的洗和聖靈的更新。

⁶Which he **shed** on us abundantly through **Jesus Christ** our Saviour;
聖靈就是神藉著耶穌基督我們救主厚厚澆灌在我們身上的，

⁷That being **justified** by his **grace**, we should be made heirs according to the **hope** of eternal life.
好叫我們因他的恩得稱為義，可以憑著永生的盼望成為後嗣。（或作：可以憑著盼望承受永生）。

⁸This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou **affirm** constantly, that they which have believed in God might **be careful** to **maintain** good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.
這話是可信的。我也願你把這些事切切實實的講明，使那些已信神的人留心做正經事業（或作：留心行善）。這都是美事，並且與人有益。

Friday: 1 Peter 1:3-25

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

耶穌基督的使徒彼得寫信給那分散在本都、加拉太、加帕多家、亞西亞、庇推尼寄居的，

²Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

就是照父神的先見被揀選，藉著聖靈得成聖潔，以致順服耶穌基督，又蒙他血所灑的人。願恩惠、平安多多的加給你們。

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

願頌讚歸與我們主耶穌基督的父神！他曾照自己的大憐憫，藉耶穌基督從死裡復活，重生了我們，叫我們有活潑的盼望，

⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

可以得著不能朽壞、不能玷污、不能衰殘、為你們存留在天上的基業。

⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

你們這因信蒙神能力保守的人，必能得著所預備、到末世要顯現的救恩。

⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

因此，你們是大有喜樂；但如今，在百般的試煉中暫時憂愁，

⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

叫你們的信心既被試驗，就比那被火試驗仍然能壞的金子更顯寶貴，可以在耶穌基督顯現的時候得著稱讚、榮耀、尊貴。

⁸Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

你們雖然沒有見過他，卻是愛他；如今雖不得看見，卻因信他就有說不出來、滿有榮光的大喜樂；

⁹Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

並且得著你們信心的果效，就是靈魂的救恩。

¹⁰Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

論到這救恩，那預先說你們要得恩典的眾先知早已詳細的尋求考察，

¹¹Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

就是考察在他們心裡基督的靈，預先證明基督受苦難，後來得榮耀，是指著甚麼時候，並怎樣的時候。

¹²Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you **with the Holy Ghost** sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

他們得了啟示，知道他們所傳講（原文是服事）的一切事，不是為自己，乃是為你們。那**靠著從天上差來的聖靈傳福音**給你們的人，現在將這些事報給你們；天使也願意詳細察看這些事。

¹³Wherefore **gird up** the loins of your mind, **be sober**, and **hope** to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

所以要約束你們的心，（原文是束上你們心中的腰），謹慎自守，專心盼望耶穌基督顯現的時候所帶來給你們的恩。

¹⁴As **obedient** children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

你們既作順命的兒女，就不要效法從前蒙昧無知的時候那放縱私慾的樣子。

¹⁵But as he which hath called you is holy, so **be ye holy** in all manner of conversation;

那召你們的既是聖潔，你們在一切所行的事上也要聖潔。

¹⁶Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

因為經上記著說：「你們要聖潔，因為我是聖潔的。」

Leviticus 利未記 11:44	For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy : neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 我是耶和華—你們的神；所以你們要成為聖潔，因為我是聖潔的。你們也不可在地上的爬物污穢自己。
Leviticus 利未記 19:2	Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy . 你曉諭以色列全會眾說：你們要聖潔，因為我耶和華—你們的神是聖潔的。
Leviticus 利未記 20:7	Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God . 所以你們要自潔成聖，因為我是耶和華—你們的神。

¹⁷And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here **in fear**:

你們既稱那不偏待人、按各人行為審判人的主為父，就當存敬畏的心度你們在世寄居的日子，

¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

知道你們得贖，脫去你們祖宗所傳流虛妄的行為，不是憑著能壞的金銀等物，

¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

乃是憑著基督的寶血，如同無瑕疵、無玷污的羔羊之血。

²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

基督在創世以前是預先被神知道的，卻在這末世才為你們顯現。

²¹Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

你們也因著他，信那叫他從死裡復活、又給他榮耀的神，叫你們的信心和盼望都在於神。

²²Seeing ye have **purified** your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that **ye love one another with a pure heart fervently**:

你們既因順從真理，潔淨了自己的心，以致愛弟兄沒有虛假，就當從心裡（從心裡：有古卷是從清潔的心）彼此切實相愛。

²³Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

你們蒙了重生，不是由於能壞的種子，乃是由於不能壞的種子，是藉著神活潑常存的道。

²⁴For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

因為凡有血氣的，盡都如草；他的美榮都像草上的花。草必枯乾，花必凋謝；

²⁵But **the word of the Lord** endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

惟有主的道是永存的。所傳給你們的福音就是這道。

Saturday: 1 John 3:1-24

¹Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

你看父賜給我們是何等的慈愛，使我們得稱為神的兒女；我們也真是他的兒女。世人所以不認識我們，是因未曾認識他。

²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

親愛的弟兄阿，我們現在是神的兒女，將來如何，還未顯明；但我們知道，主若顯現，我們必要像他，因為必得見他的真體。

³And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

凡向他有這指望的，就潔淨自己，像他潔淨一樣。

⁴Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

凡犯罪的，就是違背律法；違背律法就是罪。

⁵And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

你們知道主曾顯現，是要除掉人的罪；在他並沒有罪。

⁶Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

凡住在他裡面的，就不犯罪；凡犯罪的，是未曾看見他，也未曾認識他。

⁷Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

小子們哪，不要被人誘惑，行義的才是義人，正如主是義的一樣。

⁸He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

犯罪的是屬魔鬼，因為魔鬼從起初就犯罪。神的兒子顯現出來，為要除滅魔鬼的作為。

⁹Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

凡從神生的，就不犯罪，因神的道（原文作種）存在他心裡；他也不能犯罪，因為他是由神生的。

¹⁰In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

從此就顯出誰是神的兒女，。誰是魔鬼的兒女。凡不行義的就不屬神，不愛弟兄的也是如此。

¹¹For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

我們應當彼此相愛。這就是你們從起初所聽見的命令。

¹²Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

不可像該隱；他是屬那惡者，殺了他的兄弟。為甚麼殺了他呢？因自己的行為是惡的，兄弟的行為是善的。

¹³Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

弟兄們，世人若恨你們，不要以為希奇。

¹⁴We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

我們因為愛弟兄，就曉得是已經出死入生了。沒有愛心的，仍住在死中。

15Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
凡恨他弟兄的，就是殺人的；你們曉得凡殺人的，沒有永生存在他裡面。

16Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
主為我們捨命，我們從此就知道何為愛；我們也當為弟兄捨命。

17But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
凡有世上財物的，看見弟兄窮乏，卻塞住憐恤的心，愛神的心怎能存在他裡面呢？

18My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
小子們哪，我們相愛，不要只在言語和舌頭上，總要在行為和誠實上。

19And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
從此就知道我們是屬真理的，並且我們的心在神面前可以安穩。

20For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
我們的心若責備我們，神比我們的心大，一切事沒有不知道的。

21Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
親愛的弟兄阿，我們的心若不責備我們，就可以向神坦然無懼了。

22And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
並且我們一切所求的，就從他得著；因為我們遵守他的命令，行他所喜悅的事。

23And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, as he gave us commandment.
神的命令就是叫我們信他兒子耶穌基督的名，且照他所賜給我們的命令彼此相愛。

24And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
遵守神命令的，就住在神裡面；神也住在他裡面。我們所以知道神住在我們裡面是因他所賜給我們的聖靈。

Sunday: 1 John 5:1-21

¹Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

凡信耶穌是基督的，都是從神而生，凡愛生他之神的，也必愛從神生的。

²By this we know that we **love the children of God**, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

我們若愛神，又遵守他的誡命，從此就知道我們愛神的兒女。

³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

我們遵守神的誡命，這就是愛他了，並且他的誡命不是難守的。

⁴For **whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world**: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

因為凡從神生的，就勝過世界；使我們勝了世界的，就是我們的信心。

⁵Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

勝過世界的是誰呢？不是那信耶穌是神兒子的麼？

⁶This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

這藉著水和血而來的，就是耶穌基督；不是單用水，乃是用水又用血，

⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

並且有聖靈作見證，因為聖靈就是真理。

⁸And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

作見證的原來有三：就是聖靈、水，與血，這三樣也都歸於一。

⁹If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

我們既領受人的見證，神的見證更該領受了（該領受：原文作大），因神的見證是為他兒子作的。

¹⁰He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

信神兒子的，就有這見證在他心裡；不信神的，就是將神當作說謊的，因不信神為他兒子作的見證。

¹¹And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

這見證就是神賜給我們永生；這永生也是在他兒子裡面。

¹²He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

人有了神的兒子就有生命，沒有神的兒子就沒有生命。

¹³These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

我將這些話寫給你們信奉神兒子之名的人，要叫你們知道自己有永生。

¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us**:

我們若照他的旨意求甚麼，他就聽我們，這是我們向他所存坦然無懼的心。

15And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

既然知道他聽我們一切所求的，就知道我們所求於他的，無不得著。

16If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

人若看見弟兄犯了不至於死的罪，就當為他祈求，神必將生命賜給他；有至於死的罪，我不說當為這罪祈求。

17All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

凡不義的事都是罪，也有不至於死的罪。

18We know that **whosoever is born of God sinneth not**; but he that **is begotten of God keepeth himself**, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

我們知道凡從神生的，必不犯罪，從神生的，必保守自己（有古卷作：那從神生的必保護他），那惡者也就無法害他。

19And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

我們知道，我們是屬神的，全世界都臥在那惡者手下。

20And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

我們也知道，神的兒子已經來到，且將智慧賜給我們，使我們認識那位真實的，我們也在那位真實的裡面，就是在他兒子耶穌基督裡面。這是真神，也是永生。

21Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

小子們哪，你們要自守，遠避偶像！