

Chinese Simplified

信函

新约中另一种文学类型就是信函，这些书信是一些宗徒写给初期基督徒团体的信函。

在这些书信中，门徒们根据各基督徒团体的不同情况，阐明福传工作的原则，解释引起争议的问题。另外非常重要的一点就是在新的文化背景下把福音的讯息传播出去，创造了信理神学的法则。

在这些信函中，最为著名的当属保禄书信，他为基督信仰向外邦人传播方面建立了不朽的功绩。

在这本简明圣经里，我们选择了保禄、雅各伯和若望一些书信中比较知名的片断，这些片断也常在教会的礼仪中出现。

圣保禄书信

罗马人书

前言

保禄可能是在格林多的时候，决定给罗马的团体写这封信。

这封信的语气十分有力、确定，并努力平衡忠于犹太传统与忠于普遍召叫这两者之间的关系。而且，信中展示了基督信仰中一个重要的信条，一些学者称之为救世神学或救恩论。

《罗马人书》是在教会历史中，对教会产生深远影响的文献之一。

English

LETTERS

Another literary genre of the New Testament are the letters written by some apostles to the first Christian communities.

In these letters they applied the evangelical principles to particular situations or explain controversial points. Of great importance also is the transmission of the gospel message to new cultural categories, creating in this way a theology of faith.

The most known letters are the ones of St. Paul, responsible for embarking towards a new expansion of Christianity.

We select here some of the most known texts of Paul, James and John as they have been used in the liturgy and in Christian tradition.

LETTERS OF SAINT PAUL

LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Introduction

Probably at Corinth Paul decides to write and send a letter to the community of Rome.

The letter is a strong, stable and tense structure between two poles: fidelity to Judaism and to the universal vocation. And it presents a capital point of the Christian faith. Some authors call it soteriology or the doctrine about salvation.

The letter to the Romans is one of the documents that have influenced more in the history of the Church

圣神内的生活

8

14 凡由天主圣神引导的人都是天主的子女。15 所以，别担心：你们领受了圣神，并非做其奴隶，而是做其义子。圣神教我们向天主高呼：“阿爸呀！父亲！”16 圣神本身也和我们心灵一起证实我们是天主的儿女。17 你们既是子女，就是继承者，天主的继承者，与基督同为他的继承者。我们既与基督一起受苦，我们必与他同享光荣。

基督徒的标准

12

9 你们要真诚相爱，嫉恶如仇，秉持忠良。10 以兄弟之情彼此相爱，互相平等尊敬。11 愿你们在主佑之下，圣神的恩赐内，满怀热忱，积极奉行，毫不怠惰。

12 在希望中要喜乐，在困苦中坚忍，恒心地作祈祷。13 分担弟兄的痛苦，邀请外乡客来你家歇息。

14 祝福那些迫害你的人，你要祝福他们，不要诅咒他们。15 跟快乐的人同乐，跟忧伤的人同悲泣。16 你们彼此要和谐，别好高骛远；要虚心谦卑，别刚愎自用。

17 切勿以恶报恶，让众人都证明你们的善意。18 尽可能与人和平相处。19 切莫私下施行报复，让天主作判断吧。因为经上写着：“报仇是我的事，让我来跟每个人算帐，”这是上主的话。20 不但如此，当你的敌人饿了，要给他东西吃；渴了，要给他水喝。你这样做，就像把炭火堆在他头上。”21 所以，你不能被邪恶压倒，而要以善去征服恶。

Life of the Spirit

8¹⁴All those who walk in the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. 15Then, no more fear: you did not receive a spirit of slavery, but the Spirit that makes you sons and daughters and every time we cry, ‘*Abba!* (that is Dad!) Father!’ 16the Spirit assures our spirit that we are sons and daughters of God. 17If we are children, we are heirs, too. Ours will be the inheritance of God and we will share it with Christ; for if we now suffer with him, we will also share Glory with him.

Norms about Christian life

12⁹Let love be sincere. Hate what is evil and hold to whatever is good. 10Love one another and be considerate. Outdo one another in mutual respect. 11Be zealous in fulfilling your duties. Be fervent in the Spirit and serve God.

12Have hope and be cheerful. Be patient in trials and pray constantly. 13Share with other Christians in need. With those passing by, be ready to receive them.

14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not wish evil on anyone. 15Rejoice with those who are joyful, and weep with those who weep. 16Live in peace with one another. Do not dream of extraordinary things; be humble and do not hold yourselves as wise.

17Do not return evil for evil, but let everyone see your good will. 18Do your best to live in peace with everybody. 19Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but let God be the one who punishes, as Scripture says: *Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.* 20And it adds: *If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him to drink; by doing this you will heap burning coals upon his head.* 21Do not let evil defeat you, but conquer evil with goodness.

格林多人前书

前言

在过去，格林多曾经是世界性的贸易国家。它东西部的两个港口为国家提供了方便的咨询和文化流通。圣保禄在那里建立了基督徒团体，团体中大部分成员都来自社会的底层。格林多的教会十分繁荣，但也面临内忧外患，这个团体在外邦人的环境及在自身的挣扎中成长起来。

保禄根据格林多人的具体生活情况，向他们阐明了伟大的基督信仰宗旨和原则。

超越的智慧

2

1 弟兄们，我从前到你们那里去宣讲天主的奥迹时，并没有用什么华丽的词藻与高深的学识。2 跟你们在一起时，我只想做一个认识被钉十字架的耶稣默西亚的人。3 因而，我在你们中间时，我觉得软弱，也曾担忧。4 我没有用动听的词藻和令人折服的睿智来给你们讲我的道理，只凭圣神的威力。5 因为，你们的信德，不是凭借人的智慧，而是仰仗天主的力量。

圣体圣事

11

23 我传授给你们的，是我从主那里领受来的。主耶稣被出卖的那天晚上，拿起面饼，24 感谢了，掰开，说：“这是我的身体，是为你们而献出的。你们要这么做，为纪念我。”25 晚餐后，他同样拿起杯来，说：“这是用我的血所立的新约之杯。每当你们喝的时候，要这样做，来纪念我。”26 所以，每次你们吃这饼，喝这杯时，你们是向世人宣告主的死亡，直到主再来。

FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

Introduction

In the past Corinth was a cosmopolitan commercial empire. Its two ports, at East and West, opened it up advantageously and made of it a center for cultural communication. Paul founded there a Christian community, composed to a great extent by low class people. The church at Corinth was a prosperous pluralistic community, exposed to the contamination of the pagan environment and undergoing internal tensions.

Starting from concrete life situation, Paul rises up to great principles and Christian vision.

Superior wisdom

2 ¹When I came to reveal to you the mystery of God's plan I did not count on eloquence or on a show of learning. ²I was determined not to know anything among you but Jesus, the Messiah, and a crucified Messiah. ³I myself came weak, fearful and trembling; ⁴my words and preaching were not brilliant or clever to win listeners. ⁵It was, rather, a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might be a matter, not of human wisdom, but of God's power.

Agape and Eucharist

11 ²³This is the tradition of the Lord that I received and that in my turn I have handed on to you; the Lord Jesus, on the night that he was delivered up, took bread and, ²⁴after giving thanks, broke it, saying, 'This is my body which is broken for you; do this in memory of me.' ²⁵In the same manner, taking the cup after the supper, he said, 'This cup is the new Covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me.' ²⁶So, then, whenever you eat of this bread and drink from this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord until he comes.

27 如果有人在吃这饼，喝这杯时，缺乏敬意，他就冒犯了主的体和主的血。

28 希望每个人在吃这饼、喝这杯之前，要好好省察自己。29 因为他吃了，喝了而不认识这体，便是在吃喝他自己的罪行。34 谁要是饿了，可在家先吃。以免在聚餐的时候，遭受谴责。

共融

12

12 肢体器官虽多，但身体只有一个。不管有多少肢体器官，却只组成一个身体：基督的身体也是这样。13 不论我们是犹太人、希腊人；是为人奴的，或是自由的，我们都在圣神中领洗，成为一体。我们所共享的圣神是同一位。

14 身体不只由一个部分，而是由好多部分构成的。15 如果脚说：“我不是手，所以我不是身体的一部分。”它就错了，因为脚是身体的一部分。16 纵使耳朵说：“我不是眼，所以我不是身体的一部分，”耳朵依旧是身体的一部分。17 要是全身都是眼睛，我们怎么能听声音呢？要是全身都是耳朵，我们怎么能闻呢？

18 但现在天主随自己的意愿造了好些肢体器官，把它们安置在同一个身体上，各就其位。19 若都是同一器官，怎么能成为身体呢？20 肢体器官虽多，但身体却是一个。21 眼睛不能对手说：“我不需要你。”头也不能跟脚说：“我不需要你。”

歌颂基督徒的爱情

13

1 即使我能说人间的各种语言，和天使的话语，却没有爱心，我就只是一个会鸣的锣和发响的钹而已。

2 即使我有预知的能力，能看透一切奥秘，拥有一身学问；并且信念

27 Therefore, if anyone eats of the bread or drinks from the cup of the Lord unworthily, he sins against the body and blood of the Lord.

28 Let each one, then, examine himself before eating of the bread and drinking from the cup. 29 Otherwise, he eats and drinks his own condemnation in not recognizing the Body. 34 The other instructions I shall give when I go there.

Charisms

12 ¹²As the body is one, having many members, and all the members, while being many, form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³All of us, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, have been baptized in one Spirit to form one body and all of us have been given to drink from the one Spirit.

¹⁴The body has not just one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, 'I do not belong to the body for I am not a hand,' it would be wrong: it is part of the body! ¹⁶Even though the ear says, 'I do not belong to the body for I am not an eye,' it is part of the body. ¹⁷If all the body were eye, how would we hear? And if all the body were ear, how would we smell?

¹⁸God has arranged all the members, placing each part of the body as he pleased. ¹⁹If all were the same part where would the body be? ²⁰But there are many members and one body. ²¹The eye cannot tell the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor the head tell the feet, 'I do not need you.'

Hymn to Christian love

13 ¹If I could speak all the human and angelic tongues, but had no love, I would only be sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

²If I had the gift of prophecy, knowing secret things with all kinds of knowledge, and had faith great enough to remove mountains, but had no

坚定，可以移山倒海；但我若没有爱，我就算不得什么。³ 即使我捐献所有，甚至牺牲自己的身躯，只为美化自己，根本没有爱，那对我没有任何益处。

⁴ 爱是持久忍耐，又有恩慈。爱从不嫉妒，不张狂，不自夸；⁵ 不粗鲁，也不为已；不动怒，不记仇；⁶ 爱不喜欢不义，只喜欢真理；⁷ 爱是凡事包容，凡事相信；凡事盼望，凡是忍耐。

⁸ 爱永不止息。而预言之恩，终将逝去，言语之恩，终必停止，广博学问之恩，终将消逝。⁹ 因为我们现在的学问只是局部的，我们讲的预言也只是局部的。¹⁰ 当无限完美来临时，那些不完美的便会消逝。¹¹ 我是孩子时，说话像孩子，也用孩童的思维来判断。如今我长大成人，我要丢弃所有孩童的幼稚言行和思维。

¹² 现在我们看到的，只是一面模糊镜子的反射，不够清楚；但总有一天，我们要与天主面对面相见。现在我对天主的认识是有限的，但有一天我将全部明白，正像他现在透彻了解我一样。¹³ 目前，有信、望和爱三大德，其中最重要、最伟大的当属爱德。

死人的复活

15

³ 我当日曾把自己所领受的传授给你们，其中最重要的就是基督为我们诸多的罪而死了，正应验了圣经所言。⁴ 他被埋葬，第三天复活，也是按圣经所说的。⁵ 他先显现给伯多禄，然后显现给十二宗徒。⁶ 后来，他又一次显现在五百多位弟兄面前，其中一些现已过世，大部分仍健在。⁷ 他又显现给雅各伯，接着是所有的宗徒。⁸ 他亦曾显现给我——这个不足月的孩子，⁹ 因为我是最微小的宗徒，我甚至不配称为宗徒，因为我曾迫害过天主的教会。¹⁰ 但是，我要衷心感谢天主让我成为今日的我，他赐予我的恩宠一点也没落空。是的，我比其他宗徒更辛勤工作，并不是我，而是天主的恩宠在我身上工作。¹¹ 总之，不论他

love, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I had to the poor, and even give up my body to be burned, if I am without love, it would be of no value to me.

⁴Love is patient, kind, without envy. It is not boastful or arrogant. It is not ill-mannered nor does it seek its own interest. ⁵Love overcomes anger and forgets offenses. ⁶It does not take delight in wrong, but rejoices in truth. ⁷Love excuses everything, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love will never end. Prophecies may cease, tongues be silent and knowledge disappear. ⁹For knowledge grasps something of the truth and prophecy as well. ¹⁰And when what is perfect comes, everything imperfect will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child I thought and reasoned like a child, but when I grew up, I gave up childish ways.

¹²Likewise, at present we see dimly as in a mirror, but then it shall be face to face. Now we know in part, but then I will know as I am known. ¹³Now we have faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

Resurrection of the death

15 ³In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; ⁴that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures; ⁵that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. ⁶Afterwards he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters together; most of them are still alive, although some have already gone to rest. ⁷Then he appeared to James and after that to all the apostles. ⁸And last of all, he appeared to the most despicable of them, this is to me. ¹¹Now, whether it was I or they, this we preach and this you have believed.

们还是我，这就是我们共同宣扬的，也就是你们所相信的。¹²既然我们已传报基督从死者中复活，怎么你们当中还有人说没有死者复活这回事呢？

¹³如果死者不能复活，基督当然也不能复活。¹⁴要是基督没有复活，我们讲的道就落空了，你们信的也是枉然！

²⁰实际上，基督已从死者中复活了，成为所有安眠人初熟的果实。²¹死亡因一个人降在我们身上，死人的复活也是从一个人来的。²²在亚当里，众人都死了，照样，在基督内，众人也将复活。

格林多人后书

前言

在保禄写了第一封信之后，格林多团体出现了新的问题。团体中的一些人开始质疑保禄的权威。因此，保禄在极度的忍耐中，再次写信给格林多团体。

在这种情况下，保禄对使徒的任务作了重要的阐述。

信仰的规范

5

¹¹怀着对主敬畏的心，我们总劝人相信。在天主面前，我们是坦诚的。我也希望我们在你们的良心前是坦诚的。¹²我们不是向你们再次夸耀自己，只是愿你们能以我们为骄傲，好使你们可以对付那些只凭外貌夸耀而不凭内心夸耀的人。¹³如果我们说的是狂语，那是为了天主，如果我们说的有意义，就是为了你们！

¹⁴基督的爱激荡在我们心中，使我们觉得：既然他一个人为大家死了，那么众人就都已死了。¹⁵他为众人而死，目的就是要使活着的人

¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.
¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is empty and our belief comes to nothing.

²⁰But no, Christ has been raised from the dead and he comes before all those who have fallen asleep. ²¹A human being brought death; a human being also brings resurrection of the dead. ²²All die for being Adam's, and in Christ all will receive life.

SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

Introduction

New happenings have appear in Corinth since the first letter. Some people have arrived questioning Paul's authority. Paul reacts with passion.

In this way the letter becomes a vital treatise about the apostolic mission.

The faith criterion

⁵ ¹¹So we know the fear of the Lord and we try to convince people while we live openly before God. And I trust that you know in your conscience what we truly are. ¹²Once more, we do not try to win your esteem; we want to give you a reason to feel proud of us, that you may respond to those who heed appearances and not the reality. ¹³Now, if I have spoken foolishly, let God alone hear; if what I have said makes sense, take it for yourselves.

¹⁴Indeed the love of Christ holds us and we realize that if he died for all,

不再为他们自己活，而是为那位替他们死，又为他们复活的主而活。

16 因此，我们不再以人性的标准来衡量世人，即使我们曾按人性的标准认识过基督，如今不再如此去认识他了。

虚假的自夸

11

18 既然那么多人凭人性的行为夸耀自己，那么，我何不也这么做呢！
19 然而，你们是聪明人，怎能够甘心容忍蠢才呢？**20 难道你们喜欢被人奴役，任人侵害，甘愿被掠夺和欺压，甚至让人掌掴耳光，也都无所谓？**21 我们都太懦弱了，我为此觉得羞耻。

既然他们敢那么大胆夸耀，我说句蠢话，我也敢。22 他们是希伯来人吗？我也是。他们是以色列人吗？我也是。他们是亚伯郎的后代吗？我也是。23 他们是基督的仆人吗？我要说句大胆的话：我比他们更为基督效劳。

我工作辛苦；坐过多次的监牢；挨过无数次的鞭打；甚至几次与死亡擦肩而过。24 犹太人曾鞭打我五次，每次三十九鞭。25 受过三次杖击，一次被石头砸，三次在乘船时几乎惨遭灭顶之灾，曾在水里漂流过一天一夜。

26 江湖的凶险，盗匪的侵袭，同胞对我的阴谋陷害，外教人的危险，这些都是我辛苦旅途中连续不断遭遇的困难。在城镇里受困，在荒野独行时遇难；湖泊大海的危险；假仁假义弟兄的危险。27 我倍尝千辛万苦，精疲力竭；常常夜不成眠；又饥又渴；常常不得温饱，衣不蔽体，忍受寒冷。

28 除此之外，对各地教会的担忧更是每天萦绕在我心头。

all have died. ¹⁵He died for all so that those who live may live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and rose again for them.

¹⁶And so from now on, we do not regard anyone from a human point of view; and even if we once knew Christ personally, we should now regard him in another way.

Boasting about a fake fool

11 ¹⁸As some people boast of human advantages, I will do the same. ¹⁹Fortunately you bear rather well with fools, you who are so wise! ²¹What a shame that I acted so weakly with you!

But if others are so bold, I shall also dare, although I may speak like a fool. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they ministers of Christ? (I begin to talk like a madman) I am better than they.

Better than they with my numerous labors. Better than they with the time spent in prison. The beatings I received are beyond comparison. How many times have I found myself in danger of death! ²⁴Five times the Jews sentenced me to thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with a rod, once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked, and once I spent a night and a day adrift on the high seas.

²⁶I have been continually in hazards of traveling because of rivers, because of bandits, because of my fellow Jews, or because of the pagans; in danger in the city, in the open country, at sea; in danger from false brothers. ²⁷I have worked and often labored without sleep, I have been hungry and thirsty and starving, cold and without shelter.

²⁸Besides these and other things, there was my daily concern for all the churches.

启示和缺陷

12

1 虽然夸耀毫无益处，若我必须夸口，就让我高声谈论主给我的显现和启示。

2 十四年前，我认识一位在基督内的人，他曾被提升至三层天上。带着身躯而升吗？我不知道。或是躯体没有升上天？我也不知道。只有天主知道。3 总之，我认识的这个人—或具躯壳，或不具躯壳，唯天主知道。4 曾被提升到乐园去，他听到一种人不能述说的语言，没有人能形容出来的。

5 我想到这人，我本可为他夸口，可是我宁愿夸耀我的软弱。6 即使我要夸耀，我说的话也不算狂妄，因为我说的都是实话。但我不那么做，怕的就是别人把我捧得过高，超过了他在我身上所见的。7 为了使我得到这么多启示之后，仍不自觉优越，趾高气扬，就有一根利刺扎在我身上，也有撒殛使者掌我嘴巴。如此一来，我就不会骄傲。8 我曾三次向主请求，替我除去这痛，9 但他对我说：“有我的恩宠，为你就够了！在软弱中，我的力量才能发挥得淋漓尽致。”

所以，我在软弱的时刻，才觉得最稳当；因为基督的德能护卫着我。

加拉达人书

前言

保禄曾在罗马的加拉达省宣讲施教。那里的一些外邦人皈依了基督，保禄在那里建立了一些团体。一段时间以后，一些犹太化的基督徒开始宣称所有基督徒都应受割礼，并遵守梅瑟的法律。

保禄以身施教，着重阐述了基督徒的自由。

Revelations and shortcomings

12¹It is useless to boast; but if I have to, I will go on to some visions and revelations of the Lord.

²I know a certain Christian: fourteen years ago he was taken up to the third heaven. ³Whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows. But I know that this man, whether in the body or out of the body—I do not know, God knows—⁴was taken up to Paradise where he heard words that cannot be told: things which humans cannot express.

⁵Of that man I can indeed boast, but of myself I will not boast except of my weaknesses. ⁶If I wanted to boast, it would not be foolish of me, for I would speak the truth. ⁷However, I better give up lest somebody think more of me than what is seen in me or heard from me. Lest I become proud after so many and extraordinary revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a true messenger of Satan, to slap me in the face. ⁸Three times I prayed to the Lord that it leave me, ⁹but he answered, ‘My grace is enough for you; my great strength is revealed in weakness.’

Gladly, then, will I boast of my weakness that the strength of Christ may be mine.

LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

Introduction

Paul had preached in the Roman Province of Galatia. There he started some communities of converted pagans. Some time later some judaizers appear there preaching that Christians had to be circumcised and observe certain Mosaic prescriptions.

The letter is a vibrant declaration in favor of Christian freedom, citing autobiographical traits and anecdotes.

保禄的圣召

1

13 你们听说了，我当年在犹太团体中的态度，我曾竭力迫害天主的教会，想要消灭它。14 在犹太教里，我比许多同龄的犹太人更热忱急切地拥护祖先的传统。

15 但是从母胎中已选拔了我的天主，以他的恩宠召唤我，16 愿意以他的“子”启示我，叫我在外邦人中传扬他。那时我没向任何人询问，也没上耶路撒冷去见在我之前已成为宗徒的人。17 我立即去了阿拉伯，从那里回到了大马士革。18 此后，过了三年，我才上耶路撒冷去见刻法（伯多禄），在他那里待了十五天。19 除了主的兄弟雅各伯外，我没见到其他宗徒。20 我在天主面前发誓，我写的都是事实。

21 此后，我去了叙利亚和基里基雅。22 犹太境内的基督教会都没见过我的面，23 只听说过我：“那曾迫害过我们的人，现今正在传扬他曾竭力想消灭的信仰。”24 他们为了我而感谢天主。

保禄和宗徒

2

1 过了十四年，我和巴尔纳伯一起去耶路撒冷，我们还带着弟铎。2 我是受了启示而去的。我向他们陈述了我在外邦人中传播的福音；私下里又和领导者作了说明，免得我过去的和未来的工作都得不到效果。3 但是，就连和我一起去的弟铎，他虽是希腊人，也没有人强迫他受割礼。4 事实上，已有些假弟兄站进来，窥探我们在基督耶稣内所享有的自由，要我们再成为奴隶。5 可是我们一刻也没有对他们让步，为使福音真理在你们中保存不变。

6 那些被视为权威的人士，（我不在乎他们以前是何等人物，天主对

Paul's vocation

1¹³You have heard of my previous activity in the Jewish community; I furiously persecuted the Church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴For I was more devoted to the Jewish religion than many fellow Jews of my age, and I defended the traditions of my ancestors more fanatically.

¹⁵But one day God called me out of his great love, he who *had chosen me from my mother's womb*; and he was pleased ¹⁶to reveal in me his Son, that I might make him known among the pagan nations. Then I did not seek human advice ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me. I immediately went to Arabia, and from there I returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸Later, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to meet Cephas, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹But I did not see any other apostle except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰On writing this to you, I affirm before God that I am not lying.

²¹After that I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²²The churches of Christ in Judea did not know me personally; ²³they had only heard of me: 'He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he tried to uproot.' ²⁴And they praised God because of me.

Paul and the other apostles

2¹After fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and Titus came with us. ²Following a revelation, I went to lay before them the Gospel that I am preaching to the pagans. I had a private meeting with the leaders—lest I should be working or have worked in a wrong way. ⁷They recognized that I have been entrusted to give the Good News to the pagan nations, just as Peter has been entrusted to give it to the Jews. ⁸In the same way that God made Peter the apostle of the Jews, he made me the apostle of the pagans. ⁹James, Cephas and John acknowledged the graces God gave

人决不私心偏袒），并没有给我什么新的教诲。7 他们看出来：我是受委托去外邦人地区传播福音的，就像伯多禄受委托向犹太人传播福音一样。8 使伯多禄作为犹太人宗徒的那位，也同样使我成为外邦人的宗徒。9 雅各伯，刻法和若望都承认我得到了恩宠，被称为教会栋梁的这三位，与我和巴尔纳伯握手，表示愿意通力合作。我们往外邦人地区，而他们去犹太人中间。10 他们只要求我们顾念穷人，这正是我一向努力实行的。

斐理伯人书

前言

斐理伯是一座文化气氛浓郁的小城，由亚利山大-马股努斯（Alexander Magnus）的父亲斐理伯建立，是罗马人在希腊境内的定居点，是一个交通发达的信息枢纽。这座小城也是保禄在欧洲传教的第一站。

这封书信的高潮是称颂基督的圣咏，基督谦卑自下，是所有基督徒的榜样和希望，这片圣咏被广泛地应用在教会的礼仪中。我们这里把这片不朽的诗作挑选出来，供大家阅读和反省。

基督徒的爱和谦卑的基督

2

5 你们应以基督耶稣之心为心。

6 他虽具有天主的形体，却没有自视等同于天主，

7 反而虚空自己，取了奴仆的身体，与人一样。

8 一旦得为人形，他更贬抑自己。服从至死，

me. Those men who were regarded as the pillars of the Church stretched out their hand to me and Barnabas as a sign of fellowship; we would go to the pagans and they to the Jews. ¹⁰We should only keep in mind the poor among them. I have taken care to do this.

LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Introduction

Philippos, a small city with a great aura. Founded by Philip, father of Alexander Magnus, a Roman colony in Greek territory and juncture of communications. It is the first city in European territory evangelized by Paul.

And the highlight: the hymn to Christ, humbled and exalted, model and hope of Christians, and vastly used in the liturgy. We select it as a jewel of Christian tradition.

Christian love and humility of Christ

2 ⁵Your attitude should be the same as Jesus Christ had:

⁶Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself, taking on the nature of a servant, made in human likeness, and in his appearance found as a man.

⁸He humbled himself by being obedient to death, death on the cross.

死于十字架上。
9 为此天主举扬他，
给他超越一切的“名”；
10 并叫天上、人间和地下的一切，
无不屈膝在耶稣名前，
11 众口齐声宣布：
“耶稣基督是主！”
愿光荣归于天主父！

哥罗森人书

前言

圣保禄在罗马的监狱中给位于小亚细亚费利基亚的哥罗森基督徒团体写了这封信。这个团体当时正面临着异端的威胁。

一些学者在详细地研究了这封书信的主题、语言和格式之后认为，这封信是由保禄的门徒写成的，他利用保禄的口吻教导哥罗森的基督徒团体。

3

12 你们是天主所选的、他钟爱的神圣子民！你们应有怜悯、善良、谦虚、温柔和忍耐之心；13 你们应彼此宽容，若两人之间有嫌怨，要互相原谅。正如主宽恕了你们一样，你们也要宽恕别人。14 任何事上，你们要用爱来联系，使一切趋于完美。15 愿基督的平安主宰你们的心，正因为这一目标，你们被召选为一体。感恩吧！

16 愿基督的话语如宝藏般留在你们心中。你们应以种种智慧彼此教导、劝勉，怀着感激之情，在你们中以圣咏诗篇、灵性经文赞颂天主。
17 不论你们做什么、说什么，都要借主耶稣的名去行，并通过他，向天父感恩致谢。

⁹That is why God exalted him
and gave him the Name which outshines all names,
¹⁰so that at the Name of Jesus
all knees should bend
in heaven, on earth and among the dead,
¹¹and all tongues proclaim that Christ Jesus
is the Lord
to the glory of God the Father.

LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

Introduction

The text is presented as a letter written by Paul, a prisoner in Rome, to the community of Colossos, in Phrygia, Asia Minor. The occasion is a great danger of heresy that threatens that community.

A critical examination of the theme, language and style, suggests that the letter is written by a disciple of Paul, of the next generation, able to imitate well the master and using Paul's authority.

3 ¹²Clothe yourselves, then, as is fitting for God's chosen people, holy and beloved of him. Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience ¹³to bear with one another and forgive whenever there is any occasion to do so. As the Lord has forgiven you, forgive one another. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵May the peace of Christ overflow in your hearts; for this end you were called to be one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of God dwell in you in all its richness. Teach and admonish one another with words of wisdom. With thankful hearts sing to God psalms, hymns and spontaneous praise. ¹⁷And whatever you do or say, do it in the Name of Jesus, the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

弟茂德后书

前言

根据书信的题目和格式，共有三封保禄书信被冠以“牧函”的名衔。因为在这三封信中，保禄直接写给当地基督徒团体的负责人，给他们管理当地团体的标准和规范。

这三封牧函分别是：弟茂德前书、弟茂德后书和弟铎书。弟茂德与圣保禄关系密切，他陪伴保禄出外传教，每次有重要的任务，保禄都会派弟茂德去办理。

2

8 要记着我所传播的福音：耶稣基督是达味的后裔，从死者中复活了。 9 正为此福音，我才受苦，好像歹徒被捕入狱。但天主的话是绝对锁不住的。10 我为天主选民忍受一切，好使他们获得在基督耶稣内的救恩和永久的荣耀。

11 下面这一段话是确实可信的：如果我们与他同死，必与他同生；

12 若我们与他一起坚忍到底，必与他共荣；若我们不承认他，他一定不承认我们；

13 既使我们不忠诚，他依然保持忠诚，因为他不能违背自己。

SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

Introduction

Given the topic and style three writings are gathered together with the title of pastoral letters, because Paul addresses them to persons responsible of a local community, giving them norms of government for their use and of Christian conduct for the community.

The addressees are Timothy and Titus. Timothy was closely united with Paul; he was his companion on trips and mission, a man of trust for important and delicate assignments.

2⁸Remember Christ Jesus, risen from the dead, Jesus, son of David, as preached in my Gospel.

¹¹This statement is true:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

¹²If we endure with him, we shall reign with him;

If we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

其他书信

雅各伯书

前言

这封信名副其实，因为它是雅各伯本人写成的，没有请人代笔。据记载，雅各伯被称为主的兄弟（玛 6: 3, 迦 1: 19），耶路撒冷教会的领袖（宗 15: 13），十二门徒之一。

这封信是以智慧书的形式写成的，阐明了基督徒的伦理道德观。

1

1 天主及主耶稣基督的仆人雅各伯，向散居各地的十二支派问候。

对贫者富者一视同仁

2

1 我的弟兄姐妹们！若你们有对我们的主耶稣、光荣的基督的信德，就不该以貌取人。

2 假如有一个衣着华丽、戴金戒的人走入你们的会堂，同时来了一个穿破烂衣服的穷人；3 而如果你们全都朝向那穿华服者，并说：“请上座！”而对那穷人说：“站到一边去！”或：“你就在我的脚凳旁坐下。”4 你们岂不是待人有别吗？你们岂不是偏心判断了吗？

5 我亲爱的弟兄姐妹们！听着：天主选了今世的穷人，使他们有丰富的信德，热爱天主的这些人将继承天主预许的天国，6 可是，你们竟然瞧不起穷人！其实，不正是富人欺压你们，逼你们上法庭吗？7 不正是他们羞辱了你们被尊称的基督的名吗？8 你们若照着经文所写的“天国的法律”去做：“爱你的近人如同爱你自己一样”，你们做的就的确不错。9 若你们区别待人，你们就犯了罪，法律将裁决你们是有罪之人。10 谁若遵守全部法律，而只犯了其中一条，仍然被视为犯法。

OTHER LETTERS

LETTER OF JAMES

Introduction

The heading is proper of a letter. It is sent by James, known as the brother of Lord (Mk 6:3; Gal 1:19), head of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13), one of the Twelve.

The letter resembles a wise writing, with ethical topics, and transferred to a Christian context.

1 ¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, sends greetings to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations.

Partiality

2 ¹My brothers and sisters, if you truly believe in our glorified Lord, Jesus Christ, you will not discriminate between persons. ²Suppose a person enters the synagogue where you are assembled, dressed magnificently and wearing a gold ring; at the same time, a poor person enters dressed in rags. ³If you focus your attention on the well-dressed and say, ‘Come and sit in the best seat,’ while to the poor one you say, ‘Stay standing or else sit down at my feet,’ ⁵**Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters, did God not choose the poor of this world to receive the riches of faith and to inherit the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?** ⁶Yet you despise them! Is it not the rich who are against you and drag you to court? ⁸If you keep the Law of the Kingdom, according to Scripture: *Love your neighbor as yourself*, you do well; ⁹but if you make distinctions between persons, you break the law and are condemned by the same law. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one aspect, is guilty of breaking it all.

富裕和满足

5

1 现在轮到你们这些富人了！你们的灾祸快来了，哀号哭泣吧！2 你们的财富正在腐烂：衣服已被虫蛀了！金银都生了锈，3 这些腐锈正是控告你们的证据，会像火一般吞噬你们的血肉。末日已临，你们还只知积攒财富！

4 你们竟扣发收割庄稼的工人的工资。收割工人的鸣冤之声已上达万军之主的耳边。5 你们在世上奢华享乐，养肥自己，等待那宰杀的日子。6 你们定了义人的罪，又杀害了他们；他们却没有办法抵抗你们。

补赎和祈祷

13 你们中有谁承受了打击，就该祈祷！有谁觉得神清气爽，就该赞美天主！14 你们中若有人病了，就该请教会的长老来，他们要为他祈祷，并以主之名给他傅油。15 信德的祈祷会解救病人，主必使他复元。如果那人犯了罪，也将获赦免。

16 你们要彼此公开忏悔，互相祈祷，如此可得痊愈。因为义人的祈祷大有功效。

若望一书

前言

忠信的基督徒具有以下几个特别点：遵守天主的诫命，躲避罪恶，践行正义，明认耶稣是默西亚，并特别爱自己的邻人。因为天主是光明，天主是爱。

Rich and satisfied

5 ¹So, now for what concerns the rich! Cry and weep for the misfortunes that are coming upon you. ²Your riches are rotting and your clothes eaten up by the moths. ³Your silver and gold have rusted and their rust grows into a witness against you. It will consume your flesh like fire, for having piled up riches in these the last days.

⁴You deceived the workers who harvested your fields but now their wages cry out to the heavens. The reapers' complaints have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵You lived in luxury and pleasure in this world thus fattening yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶You have easily condemned and killed the innocent since they offered no resistance.

Patience and prayer

¹³Are any among you discouraged? They should pray. Are any of you happy? They should sing songs to God. ¹⁴If anyone is sick, let him call on the elders of the Church. They shall pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer said in faith will save the sick person; the Lord will raise him up and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.

¹⁶There will be healing if you confess your sins to one another and pray for each other. The prayer of the upright man has great power, provided he perseveres.

FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

Introduction

The authentic Christian is known by several signs: fulfills the commandments, avoid sins and practices justice, confesses Jesus as Messiah and, especially, loves neighbor. God is light, God is love.

The old tradition has attributed this letter to John, the author of the

根据古老的传统，这封信被归于若望的名下，他也是若望福音的作者。这封信的写作特点与若望福音颇为相似，这一点在这封信的字里行间得到了明显的体现。

1

1 我所说的是从起初就有的生命之道，也就是我们听过、亲眼见过、亲手触摸过的生命之道。

2 这生命已经显现，就是我们看见过的、为之作见证的、并向你们宣讲的永恒生命。这生命与父同在，而且已向我们显示了。

3 我们把所见所闻的告知你们，好使你们来和我们相通相融的；我们是与父及其子耶稣基督相通相融。

4 我们现在写信给你们，好让我们的喜乐圆满。

基督徒与世界

2

12 孩子们，我给你们写这些：你们的罪已经借着基督之名得到赦免。

13 父老们，我给你们写这些：你们已认识自太初即已存在的那位。年轻人，我给你们写这些：因为你们已战胜了“邪恶者”。

14 孩子们，我给你们写了这些，因为你们已认识了父。父老们，我给你们写这些，因为你们已认识了自太初即已存在的那位。年轻人，我给你们写了这些，因为你们强壮有力，天主圣言居于你们中间，且你们已战胜了“邪恶者。”

15 不要爱慕这世界和其中的一切。谁要是爱这世界，父的爱便不在他内。

16 因为这世界的东西，不论是肉体的欲望，或眼目的贪欲，或财势虚荣，都不是来自父，而是来自世俗。

17 这世界和属于它的欲望都会逝去，唯有实行天主旨意的人永远长存。

gospel. The similarity between these two writings is obvious.

1¹This is what has been from the beginning, and what we have heard and have seen with our own eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, I mean the *Word* who is Life...

2²The *Life* made *itself* known, we have seen Eternal Life and we bear witness, and we are telling you of it. It was with the Father and made himself known to us.

3³So we tell you what we have seen and heard, that you may be in fellowship with us, and us, with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

4⁴And we write this that our joy may be complete.

Christians and the world

2¹²My dear children, I write this to you: you have already received the forgiveness of your sins through the Name of Jesus. ¹³Fathers, I write this to you: you know him who is from the beginning. Young men, I write this to you: you have overcome the Evil One. My dear children, I write to you because you already know the Father.

¹⁴Fathers, I write to you because you know him who is from the beginning. Young men, I write to you because you are strong and the Word of God lives in you who have indeed overcome the Evil One.

¹⁵Do not love the world or what is in it. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶For everything in the world
—the craving of the flesh,
the greed of eyes
and people boasting of their superiority—
all this belongs to the world, not to the Father.

¹⁷The world passes away with all its craving but those who do the will of God remain for ever.

爱的诫命

3

11 这是从起初你们就听到的信息：我们应彼此相爱。12 千万不要学加音，他是邪恶者的子女，他杀了自己的兄弟。他为什么杀害兄弟呢？因为他所做的都是恶的，而他兄弟做的都是义的。13 弟兄们！如果世界仇恨你们，你们不必惊讶。14 我们知道因为我们爱自己的弟兄，我们已通过死亡，获得生命，那不爱自己兄弟的仍处在死亡中。

15 忌恨自己兄弟的，就是杀人者，你们知道杀人者是没有永恒生命的。

16 基督为我们牺牲自己，以此我们认识了爱。我们也应为自己兄弟牺牲性命。

17 若有人拥有这世界的财富，见其兄弟有难，却漠不关心，那么天主的爱如何会在他身上呢？18 孩子们！不要只用言词、在嘴上谈论爱，而要以诚心和行动来表现。

天主是爱

4

7 亲爱的朋友们，因为爱源自天主，我们要彼此相爱。凡爱的，皆出于天主，并认识主，8 没有爱的，不认识主，因为天主是爱。9 你们知道天主的爱是如何启示给我们的：天主派了他的“独子”来到世上，为使我们借他而活。

10 这就是爱的意义：并非我们爱天主，而是他爱了我们，他派他的儿子来作我们赎罪的祭品。

19 因此，我们要彼此相爱，因为天主先爱了我们。

20 凡说：“我爱天主”，却仇恨自己兄弟的，他就是骗子。他若不爱看得见的兄弟，如何去爱看不见的天主呢？21 他给了我们这样的诫命：凡爱天主的也必要爱他的兄弟。

The commandment of love

3 ¹¹For this is the message taught to you from the beginning: we must love one another. ¹³So, be not surprised, brothers if the world hates us; ¹⁴we love our brothers and sisters, and with this we know that we have passed from death to life. The one who does not love remains in death.

¹⁵The one who hates his brother is a murderer, and, as you know, eternal life does not remain in the murderer.

¹⁶This is how we have known what love is: he gave his life for us. We, too, ought to give our life for our brothers and sisters.

¹⁷If anyone enjoys the riches of this world, but closes his heart when he sees his brother or sister in need, how will the love of God remain in him? ¹⁸My dear children, let us love not only with words and with our lips, but in truth and in deed.

God is love

4 ⁷My dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Those who do not love have not known God, for God is love. ⁹How did the love of God appear among us? God sent his only Son into this world that we might have life through him.

¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God but that he first loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹⁹So let us love one another, since he loved us first.

²⁰If you say, 'I love God,' while you hate your brother or sister, you are a liar. How can you love God whom you do not see, if you do not love your brother whom you see? ²¹We received from him this commandment: let those who love God also love their brothers.