

Chinese Traditional Character

信函

新約中另一種文學類型就是信函，這些書信是一些宗徒寫給初期基督徒團體的信函。

在這些書信中，門徒們根據各基督徒團體的不同情況，闡明福傳工作的原則，解釋引起爭議的問題。另外非常重要的一點就是在新的文化背景下把福音的訊息傳播出去，創造了信理神學的法則。

在這些信函中，最為著名的當屬保祿書信，他為基督信仰向外邦人傳播方面建立了不朽的功績。

在這本簡明聖經裏，我們選擇了保祿、雅各伯和若望一些書信中比較知名的片斷，這些片斷也常在教會的禮儀中出現。

聖保祿書信

羅馬人書

前言

保祿可能是在格林多的時候，決定給羅馬的團體寫這封信。

這封信的語氣十分有力、確定，並努力平衡忠於猶太傳統與忠於普遍召叫這兩者之間的關係。而且，信中展示了基督信仰中一個重要的信條，一些學者稱之為救世神學或救恩論。

《羅馬人書》是在教會歷史中，對教會產生深遠影響的文獻之一。

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

聖神內的生活

8 14 凡由天主聖神引導的人都是天主的子女。15 所以，別擔心：你們領受了聖神，並非做其奴隸，而是做其義子。聖神教我們向天主高呼：“阿爸呀！父親！”16 聖神本身也和我們心靈一起證實我們是天主的兒女。17 你們既是子女，就是繼承者，天主的繼承者，與基督同為他的繼承者。我們既與基督一起受苦，我們必與他同享光榮。

基督徒的標準

12 9 你們要真誠相愛，嫉惡如仇，秉持忠良。10 以兄弟之情彼此相愛，互相平等尊敬。11 願你們在主佑之下，聖神的恩賜內，滿懷熱忱，積極奉行，毫不怠惰。

12 在希望中要喜樂，在困苦中堅忍，恆心地作祈禱。

13 分擔弟兄的痛苦，邀請外鄉客來你家歇息。14 祝福那些迫害你的人，你要祝福他們，不要詛咒他們。15 跟快樂的人同樂，跟憂傷的人同悲泣。

16 你們彼此要和諧，別好高騖遠；要虛心謙卑，別剛愎自用。17 切勿以惡報惡，讓眾人都證明你們的善意。18 盡可能與人和平相處。

19 切莫私下施行報復，讓天主作判斷吧。因為經上寫著：“報仇是我的事，讓我來跟每個人算帳，”這是上主的話。20 不但如此，當你的敵人餓了，要給他東西吃；渴了，要給他水喝。你這樣做，就像把炭火堆在他頭上。”21 所以，你不能被邪惡壓倒，而要以善去征服惡。

Life of the Spirit

8 14 All those who walk in the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. 15 Then, 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!' 16 the Spirit assures our spirit that we are sons and daughters of God. 17 If 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

12 9 Let love be sincere. Hate what is evil and hold to whatever is good. 10 Love one another and be considerate. Outdo one another in mutual respect. 11 Be zealous in fulfilling your duties. Be fervent in the Spirit and serve God.

12 Have hope and be cheerful. Be patient in trials and pray constantly.

13 Share with other Christians in need. With those passing by, be ready to receive them. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not wish evil on anyone. 15 Rejoice with those who are joyful, and weep with those who weep.

16 Live in peace with one another. Do not dream of extraordinary things; be humble and do not hold yourselves as wise. 17 Do not return evil for evil, but let everyone see your good will. 18 Do your best to live in peace with everybody.

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but let God be the one who punishes, as Scripture says: *Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.* 20 And 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.* 21 Do not let evil defeat you, but conquer evil with goodness.

格林多人前書

前言

在過去，格林多曾經是世界性的貿易國家。它東西部的兩個港口為國家提供了方便的諮詢和文化流通。聖保祿在那裏建立了基督徒團體，團體中大部分成員都來自社會的底層。格林多的教會十分繁榮，但也面臨內憂外患，這個團體在外邦人的環境及在自身的掙扎中成長起來。

保祿根據格林多人的具體生活情況，向他們闡明了偉大的基督信仰宗旨和原則。

超越的智慧

2 1 弟兄們，我從前到你們那裏去宣講天主的奧迹時，並沒有用什麼華麗的詞藻與高深的學識。² 跟你們在一起時，我只想做一個認識被釘十字架的耶穌默西亞的人。³ 因而，我在你們中間時，我覺得軟弱，也曾擔擾。⁴ 我沒有用動聽的詞藻和令人折服的睿智來給你們講我的道理，只憑聖神的威力。⁵ 因為，你們的信德，不是憑藉人的智慧，而是仰仗天主的力量。

聖體聖事

11 ²³ 我傳授給你們的，是我從主那裏領受來的。主耶穌被出賣的那天晚上，拿起面餅，²⁴ 感謝了，掰開，說：“這是我的身體，是為你們而獻出的。你們要這麼做，為紀念我。”²⁵ 晚餐後，他同樣拿起杯來，說：“這是用我的血所立的新約之杯。每當你們喝的時候，要這樣做，來紀念我。”²⁶ 所以，每次你們吃這餅，喝這杯時，你們是向世人宣告主的死亡，直到主再來。

²⁷ 如果有人吃這餅，喝這杯時，缺乏敬意，他就冒犯了主的體和主

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.

²⁷Therefore, if anyone eats of the bread or drinks from the cup of the

的血。

28 希望每個人在吃這餅、喝這杯之前，要好好省察自己。29 因為他吃了，喝了而不認識這體，便是在吃喝他自己的罪行。34 誰要是餓了，可在家先吃。以免在聚餐的時候，遭受遣責。

共融

13 12 肢體器官雖多，但身體只有一個。不管有多少肢體器官，卻只組成一個身體：基督的身體也是這樣。13 不論我們是猶太人、希臘人；是為人奴的，或是自由的，我們都在聖神中領洗，成爲一體。我們所共用的聖神是同一位。

14 身體不只由一個部分，而是由好多部分構成的。15 如果腳說：“我不是手，所以我不是身體的一部分。”它就錯了，因爲腳是身體的一部分。16 縱使耳朵說：“我不是眼，所以我不是身體的一部分，”耳朵依舊是身體的一部分。17 要是全身都是眼睛，我們怎麼能聽聲音呢？要是全身都是耳朵，我們怎麼能聞呢？

18 但現在天主隨自己的意願造了好些肢體器官，把它們安置在同一個身體上，各就其位。19 若都是同一器官，怎麼能成爲身體呢？20 肢體器官雖多，但身體卻是一個。

21 眼睛不能對手說：“我不需要你。”頭也不能跟腳說：“我不需要你。”

歌頌基督徒的愛情

13 1 即使我能說人間的各種語言，和天使的話語，卻沒有愛心，我就只是一個會鳴的鑼和發響的鈸而已。

2 即使我有預知的能力，能看透一切奧迹，擁有一身學問；並且信念堅定，可以移山倒海；但我若沒有愛，我就算不得什麼。3 即使我捐獻所有，甚至犧牲自己的身軀，只爲美化自己，根本沒有愛，那對我沒有任何益處。

Lord unworthily, he sins against the body and blood of the Lord.

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

4 愛是持久忍耐，又有恩慈。愛從不嫉妒，不張狂，不自誇；5 不粗魯，也不為己；不動怒，不記仇；6 愛不喜歡不義，只喜歡真理；7 愛是凡事包容，凡事相信；凡事盼望，凡是忍耐。

8 愛永不止息。而預言之恩，終將逝去，言語之恩，終必停止，廣博學問之恩，終將消逝。

9 因為我們現在的學問只是局部的，我們講的預言也只是局部的。10 當無限完美來臨時，那些不完美的便會消逝。

11 我是孩子時，說話像孩子，也用孩童的思維來判斷。如今我長大成人，我要丟棄所有孩童的幼稚言行和思維。

12 現在我們看到的，只是一面模糊鏡子的反射，不夠清楚；但總有一天，我們要與天主面對面相見。現在我對天主的認識是有限的，但有一天我將全部明白，正像他現在透徹瞭解我一樣。

13 目前，有信、望和愛三大德，其中最重要、最偉大的當屬愛德。

死人的復活

15 3 我當日曾把自己所領受的傳授給你們，其中最重要的就是基督為我們諸多的罪而死了，正應驗了聖經所言。4 他被埋葬，第三天復活，也是按聖經所說的。5 他先顯現給伯多祿，然後顯現給十二宗徒。6 後來，他又一次顯現在五百多位弟兄面前，其中一些現已過世，大部分仍健在。7 他又顯現給雅各伯，接著是所有的宗徒。8 他亦曾顯現給我——這個不足月的孩子，9 因為我是最微小的宗徒，我甚至不配稱為宗徒，因為我曾迫害過天主的教會。10 但是，我要衷心感謝天主讓我成為今日的我，他賜予我的恩寵一點也沒落空。是的，我比其他宗徒更辛勤工作，並不是我，而是天主的恩寵在我身上工作。11 總之，不論他們還是我，這就是我們共同宣揚的，也就是你們所相信的。12 既然我們已傳報基督從死者中復活，怎麼你們當中還有人說沒有死者復活這回事呢？

13 如果死者不能復活，基督當然也不能復活。14 要是基督沒有復

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. ¹

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.

¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.

活，我們講的道就落空了，你們信的也是枉然！

20 實際上，基督已從死者中復活了，成為所有安眠人初熟的果實。21 死亡因一個人降在我們身上，死人的復活也是從一個人來的。22 在亞當裏，眾人都死了，照樣，在基督內，眾人也將復活。

格林多人後書

前言

在保祿寫了第一封信之後，格林多團體出現了新的問題。團體中的一些人開始質疑保祿的權威。因此，保祿在極度的忍耐中，再次寫信給格林多團體。

在這種情況下，保祿對使徒的任務作了重要的闡述。

信仰的規範

5 11 懷著對主敬畏的心，我們總勸人相信。在天主面前，我們是坦誠的。我也希望我們在你們的良心前是坦誠的。12 我們不是向你們再次誇耀自己，只是願你們能以我們為驕傲，好使你們可以對付那些只憑外貌誇耀而不憑內心誇耀的人。13 如果我們說的是狂語，那是為了天主，如果我們說的有意義，就是為了你們！

14 基督的愛激蕩在我們心中，使我們覺得：既然他一個人為眾人死了，那麼眾人就都已死了。15 他為眾人而死，目的就是要使活著的人不再為他們自己活，而是為那位替他們死，又為他們復活的主而活。

16 因此，我們不再以人性的標準來衡量世人，即使我們曾按人性的標準認識過基督，如今不再如此去認識他了。

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, 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.

虛假的自誇

11 18 既然那麼多人憑人性的行為誇耀自己，那麼，我何不也這麼做呢！19 然而，你們是聰明人，怎能夠甘心容忍蠢才呢？20 難道你們喜歡被人奴役，任人侵害，甘願被掠奪和欺壓，甚至讓人掌摑耳光，也都無所謂？21 我們都太懦弱了，我為此覺得羞恥。

既然他們敢那麼大膽誇耀，我說句蠢話，我也敢。22 他們是希伯來人嗎？我也是。他們是以色列人嗎？我也是。他們是亞伯郎的後代嗎？我也是。23 他們是基督的僕人嗎？我要說句大膽的話：我比他們更為基督效勞。

我工作辛苦；坐過多次的監牢；挨過無數次的鞭打；甚至幾次與死亡擦肩而過。24 猶太人曾鞭打我五次，每次三十九鞭。25 受過三次杖擊，一次被石頭砸，三次在乘船時幾乎慘遭滅頂之實，曾在水裏漂流過一天一夜。

26 江湖的兇險，盜匪的侵襲，同胞對我的陰謀陷害，外教人的危險，這些都是我辛苦旅途中連續不斷遭遇的困難。在城鎮裏受困，在荒野獨行時遇難；湖泊大海的危險；假仁假義弟兄的危險。27 我倍嘗千辛萬苦，精疲力竭；常常夜不成眠；又饑又渴；常常不得溫飽，衣不蔽體，忍受寒冷。

28 除此之外，對各地教會的擔憂更是每天索繞在我心頭。

啓示和缺陷

12 1 雖然誇耀毫無益處，若我必須誇口，就讓我高聲談論主給我的顯現和啓示。

2 十四年前，我認識一位元在基督內的人，他曾被提升至三層天上。帶著身軀而升嗎？我不知道。或是軀體沒有升上天？我也不知道。只有天主知道。3 總之，我認識的這個人—或具軀殼，或不具軀殼，唯天主知道。4 曾被提升到樂園去，他聽到一種人不能述說的語言，沒有人能形容出來的。

Boasting about a fake fool

11 18 As some people boast of human advantages, I will do the same. 19 Fortunately you bear rather well with fools, you who are so wise! 21 What 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. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are 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! 24 Five times the Jews sentenced me to thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three 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.

26 I 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. 27 I have worked and often labored without sleep, I have been hungry and thirsty and starving, cold and without shelter.

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

Revelations and shortcomings

12 1 It is useless to boast; but if I have to, I will go on to some visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I know a certain Christian: fourteen years ago he was taken up to the third heaven. 3 Whether 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—4 was taken up to Paradise where he heard words that cannot be told: things which humans cannot express.

5 我想到這人，我本可爲他誇口，可是我寧願誇耀我的軟弱。6 即使我要誇耀，我說的話也不算狂妄，因爲我說的都是實話。但我不那麼做，怕的就是別人把我捧得太高，超過了他在我身上所見的。7 爲了使我在得到這麼多啓示之後，仍不自覺優越，趾高氣揚，就有一根利刺紮在我身上，也有撒殫使者掌我嘴巴。如此一來，我就不會嬌傲。8 我曾三次向主請求，替我除去這痛，9 但他對我說：“有我的恩寵，爲你就夠了！在軟弱中，我的力量才能發揮得淋漓盡致。”

所以，我在軟弱的時刻，才覺得最穩當；因爲基督的德能護衛著我。

迦拉達人書

前言

保祿曾在羅馬的迦拉達省宣講施教。那裏的一些外邦人皈依了基督，保祿在那裏建立了一些團體。一段時間以後，一些猶太化的基督徒開始宣稱所有基督徒都應受割禮，並遵守梅瑟的法律。

保祿以身施教，著重闡述了基督徒的自由。

保祿的聖召

1 13 你們聽說了，我當年在猶太團體中的態度，我曾竭力迫害天主的教會，想要消滅它。14 在猶太教裏，我比許多同齡的猶太人更熱忱急切地擁護祖先的傳統。15 但是從母胎中已選拔了我的天主，以他的恩寵召喚我，16 願意以他的“子”啓示我，叫我在外邦人中傳揚他。那時我沒向任何人詢問，也沒上耶路撒冷去見在我之前已成爲宗徒的人。17 我立即去了阿拉伯，從那裏回到了大馬士革。

18 此後，過了三年，我才上耶路撒冷去見刻法（伯多祿），在他那裏待了十五天。19 除了主的兄弟雅各伯外，我沒見到其他宗徒。20 我在天

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.

Paul's vocation

1 ¹³You 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

主面前發誓，我寫的都是事實。

21 此後，我去了敘利亞和基裏基雅。22 猶太境內的基督教會都沒見過我的面，23 只聽說過我：“那曾迫害過我們的人，現今正在傳揚他曾竭力想消滅的信仰。”24 他們爲了我而感謝天主。

保祿和宗徒

2 1 過了十四年，我和巴爾納伯一起去耶路撒冷，我們還帶著弟鐸。2 我是受了啓示而去的。我向他們陳述了我在外邦人中傳播的福音；私下裏又和領導者作了說明，免得我過去的和未來的工作都得不到效果。3 但是，就連和我一起去的弟鐸，他雖是希臘人，也沒有人強迫他受割禮。4 事實上，已有些假弟兄站進來，窺探我們在基督耶穌內所享有的自由，要我們再成爲奴隸。5 可是我們一刻也沒有對他們讓步，爲使福音真理在你們中保存不變。

6 那些被視爲權威的人士，（我不在乎他們以前是何等人物，天主對人決不私心偏袒），並沒有給我什麼新的教誨。7 他們看出來：我是受委託去外邦人地區傳播福音的，就像伯多祿受委託向猶太人傳播福音一樣。8 使伯多祿作爲猶太人宗徒的那位，也同樣使我成爲外邦人的宗徒。9 雅各伯，刻法和若望都承認我得到了恩寵，被稱爲教會棟梁的這三位，與我和巴爾納伯握手，表示願意通力合作。我們往外邦人地區，而他們去猶太人中間。10 他們只要求我們顧念窮人，這正是我一向努力實行的。

斐理伯人書

前言

斐理伯是一座文化氣氛濃郁的小城，由亞利山大-馬股努斯（Alexander Magnus）的父親斐理伯建立，是羅馬人在希臘境內的定居點，是一個交通發達的資訊樞紐。這座小城也是保祿在歐洲傳教的第一站。

這封書信的高潮是稱頌基督的聖詠，基督謙卑自下，是所有基督徒的榜樣和希望，這片聖詠被廣泛地應用在教會的禮儀中。我們這裏把這片不朽的詩作挑選出來，供大家閱讀和反省。

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

2 ¹After 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 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

Philippus, 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.

基督徒的愛和謙卑的基督

2 5 你們應以基督耶穌之心為心。

6 他雖具有天主的形體，
卻沒有自視等同於天主，

7 反而虛空自己，
取了奴僕的身體，
與人一樣。

8 一旦得為人形，
他更貶抑自己。

服從至死，
死於十字架上。

9 為此天主舉揚他，
給他超越一切的“名”；

10 並叫天上、
人間和地下的一切，
無不屈膝在耶穌名前，

11 衆口齊聲宣佈：
“耶穌基督是主！”

願光榮歸於天主父！

哥羅森人書

前言

聖保祿在羅馬的監獄中給位於小亞細亞費利基亞的哥羅森基督徒團體寫了這封信。這個團體當時正面臨著異端的威脅。

一些學者在詳細地研究了這封書信的主題、語言和格式之後認為，這封信是由保祿的門徒寫成的，他利用保祿的口吻教導哥羅森的基督徒團體。

3 12 你們是天主所選的、他鍾愛的神聖子民！你們應有憐憫、善良、謙虛、溫柔和忍耐之心；13 你們應彼此寬容，若兩人之間有嫌怨，要互相

Christian love and humility of Christ

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

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

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

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

9 That is why God exalted him
and gave him the Name which outshines all names,

10 so that at the Name of Jesus
all knees should bend
in heaven, on earth and among the dead,

11 and 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 12 Clothe yourselves, then, as is fitting for God's chosen people, holy and beloved of him. Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and

原諒。正如主寬恕了你們一樣，你們也要寬恕別人。14 任何事上，你們要用愛來聯繫，使一切致于完美。15 願基督的平安主宰你們的心，正因為這一目標，你們被召選為一體。感恩吧！

16 願基督的話語如寶藏般留在你們心中。你們應以種種智慧彼此教導、勸勉，懷著感激之情，在你們中以聖詠詩篇、靈性經文讚頌天主。17 不論你們做什麼、說什麼，都要借主耶穌的名去行，並通過他，向天父感恩致謝。

弟茂德後書

前言

根據書信的題目和格式，共有三封保祿書信被冠以“牧函”的名銜。因為在這三封信中，保祿直接寫給當地基督徒團體的負責人，給與他們管理當地團體的標準和規範。

這三封牧函分別是：弟茂德前書、弟茂德後書和弟鐸書。弟茂德與聖保祿關係密切，他陪伴保祿出外傳教，每次有重要的任務，保祿都會派弟茂德去辦理。

2 8 要記著我所傳播的福音：耶穌基督是達味的後裔，從死者中復活了。9 正為此福音，我才受苦，好像歹徒被捕入獄。但天主的話是絕對鎖不住的。10 我為天主選民忍受一切，好使他們獲得在基督耶穌內的救恩和永久的榮耀。

11 下面這一段話是確實可信的：如果我們與他同死，必與他同生；
12 若我們與他一起堅忍到底，必與他共榮；若我們不承認他，他一定不承認我們；
13 即使我們不忠誠，他依然保持忠誠，因為他不能違背自己。

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.

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.

2 8 Remember Christ Jesus, risen from the dead, Jesus, son of David, as preached in my Gospel.

11 This statement is true:

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

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

If we deny him, he will also deny us;

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

其他書信

雅各伯書

前言

這封信名副其實，因為它是雅各伯本人寫成的，沒有請人代筆。據記載，雅各伯被稱爲主的兄弟（瑪 6：3，迦 1：19），耶路撒冷教會的領袖（宗 15：13），十二門徒之一。

這封信是以智慧書的形式寫成的，闡明了基督徒的倫理道德觀。

1 1 天主及主耶穌基督的僕人雅各伯，向散居各地的十二支派問候。

對貧者富者一視同仁

2 1 我的弟兄姐妹們！若你們有對我們的主耶穌、光榮的基督的信德，就不該以貌取人。2 假如有一個衣著華麗、戴金戒的人走入你們的會堂，同時來了一個穿破爛衣服的窮人；3 而如果你們全都朝向那穿華服者，並說：“請上座！”而對那窮人說：“站到一邊去！”或：“你就在我的腳凳旁坐下。”4 你們豈不是待人有別嗎？你們豈不是偏心判斷了嗎？5 我親愛的弟兄姐妹們！聽著：天主選了今世的窮人，使他們有豐富的信德，熱愛天主的這些人將繼承天主預許的天國，6 可是，你們竟然瞧不起窮人！其實，不正是富人欺壓你們，逼你們上法庭嗎？7 不正是他們羞辱了你們被尊稱的基督的名嗎？8 你們若照著經文所寫的“天國的法律”去做：“愛你的近人如同愛你自己一樣”，你們做的就的確不錯。9 若你們區別待人，你們就犯了罪，法律將裁決你們是有罪之人。10 誰若遵守全部法律，而只犯了其中一條，仍然被視爲犯法。

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,” ⁵Listen, 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.

富裕和滿足

5 1 現在輪到你們這些富人了！你們的災禍快來了，哀號哭泣吧！2 你們的財富正在腐爛：衣服已被蟲蛀了！金銀都生了鏽，3 這些腐鏽正是控告你們的證據，會像火一般吞噬你們的血肉。末日已臨，你們還只知積攢財富！

4 你們竟扣發收割莊稼的工人的工資。收割工人的鳴冤之聲已上達萬軍之主的耳邊。5 你們在世上奢華享樂，養肥自己，等待那宰殺的日子。6 你們定了義人的罪，又殺害了他們；他們卻沒有辦法抵抗你們。

補贖和祈禱

13 你們中有誰承受了打擊，就該祈禱！有誰覺得神清氣爽，就該讚美天主！14 你們中若有人病了，就該請教會的長老來，他們要為他祈禱，並以主之名給他傅油。15 信德的祈禱會解救病人，主必使他複元。如果那人犯了罪，也將獲赦免。

16 你們要彼此公開懺悔，互相祈禱，如此可得痊愈。因為義人的祈禱大有功效。

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.

若望一書

前言

忠信的基督徒具有以下幾個特別點：遵守天主的誡命，躲避罪惡，踐行正義，明認耶穌是默西亞，並特別愛自己的鄰人。因為天主是光明，天主是愛。

根據古老的傳統，這封信被歸於若望的名下，他也是若望福音的作者。這封信的寫作特點與若望福音頗為相似，這一點在這封信的字裏行間得到了明顯的體現。

1 1 我所說的是從起初就有的生命之道，也就是我們聽過、親眼見過、親手觸摸過的生命之道。

2 這生命已經顯現，就是我們看見過的、為之作見證的、並向你們宣講的永恒生命。這生命與父同在，而且已向我們顯示了。

3 我們把所見所聞的告知你們，好使你們來和我們相通相融的；我們是與父及其子耶穌基督相通相融。4 我們現在寫信給你們，好讓我們的喜樂圓滿。

基督徒與世界

2 12 孩子們，我給你們寫這些：你們的罪已經借著基督之名得到赦免。13 父老們，我給你們寫這些：你們已認識自太初即已存在的那位。年輕人，我給你們寫這些：因為你們已戰勝了“邪惡者”。

14 孩子們，我給你們寫了這些，因為你們已認識了父。父老們，我給你們寫這些，因為你們已認識了自太初即已存在的那位。年輕人，我給你們寫了這些，因為你們強壯有力，天主聖言居於你們中間，且你們已戰勝了“邪惡者。”

15 不要愛慕這世界和其中的一切。誰要是愛這世界，父的愛便不在他內。

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 gospel. The similarity between these two writings is obvious.

1 ¹This 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...

²The *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.

³So 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.

⁴And we write this that our joy may be complete.

Christians and the world

2 ¹²My 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.

16 因為這世界的東西，
不論是肉體的欲望，
或眼目的貪欲，
或財勢虛榮，
都不是來自父，
而是來自世俗。
17 這世界和屬於它的欲望都會逝去，唯有實行天主旨意的人永遠長存。

愛的誠命

3 11 這是從起初你們就聽到的資訊：我們應彼此相愛。12 千萬不要學加音，他是邪惡者的子女，他殺了自己的兄弟。他為什麼殺害兄弟呢？因為他所做的都是惡的，而他兄弟做的都是義的。

13 弟兄們！如果世界仇恨你們，你們不必驚訝。14 我們知道因為我們愛自己的弟兄，我們已通過死亡，獲得生命，那不愛自己兄弟的仍處在死亡中。15 忌恨自己兄弟的，就是殺人者，你們知道殺人者是沒有永恒生命的。

16 基督為我們犧牲自己，以此我們認識了愛。我們也應為自己兄弟犧牲性命。17 若有人擁有這世界的財富，見其兄弟有難，卻漠不關心，那麼天主的愛如何會在他身上呢？18 孩子們！不要只用言詞、在嘴上談論愛，而要以誠心和行動來表現。

天主是愛

4 7 親愛的朋友們，因為愛源自天主，我們要彼此相愛。凡愛的，皆出於天主，並認識主，8 沒有愛的，不認識主，因為天主是愛。9 你們知道天主的愛是如何啓示給我們的：天主派了他的“獨子”來到世上，為使我們借他而活。

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.

The commandment of love

3 **11**For 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; **14**we 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. **15**The 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. **17**If 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? **18**My dear children, let us love not only with words and with our lips, but in truth and in deed.

God is love

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

10 這就是愛的意義：並非我們愛天主，而是他愛了我們，他派他的兒子來作我們贖罪的祭品。

19 因此，我們要彼此相愛，因為天主先愛了我們。

20 凡說：“我愛天主”，卻仇恨自己兄弟的，他就是騙子。他若不愛看得見的兄弟，如何去愛看不見的天主呢？²¹ 他給了我們這樣的誡命：凡愛天主的也必要愛他的兄弟。

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.