

彼得後書

4. Calling and Election 呼召和揀選 – Part II

Sept.30, 2018

Commitment-Phobia

- People are lack of commitment nowadays
- Do you agree?
- Why? Why not?

Recap

- Faith was given (1:1 NLT)
 - Fairness/Justice of Christ
- Fully equipped
 - Live a godly life (1:3 NIV)
 - Live in the unlivable world
 - Contaminated
 - Escape corruption 敗壞 of this world (1:4 NIV)
- Spiritual growth is not an option
 - Make every effort (1:5 NIV)
 - 分外地殷勤 (CUV)
 - 要多多努力 (CNV)

信徒應當追求長進 (1:3-10 CNV)

- New Creation (2 Cor 5:17)
 - Spiritual growth is not an option
- Area to develop (1:5-7)
 - Based on faith
 - Bounded by love
 - Goodness 美德
 - Knowledge 知識
 - Self-control 節制
 - Perseverance 忍耐
 - Godliness 敬虔
 - Brotherly kindness 弟兄的愛

Expectation - 期望

- For if you possess these qualities in **increasing measure**, they will keep you from being **ineffective** and **unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1:8 NIV)
 - 因為你們有了這幾樣，並且**繼續增長**，就必叫你們在確實認識我們的主耶穌基督上，不至於**閒懶不結果子**。(CNV)
- Growth is expected - 繼續增長
- Ineffective **閒懶** used only three times in NT (Matt 20:3,6)
 - Refer to the “idle” workers (在街市上無所事事 CCB)
 - Ineffective – useless, worthless, needless, 廢
- Unproductive
 - Literally – without fruit
 - Fruitless fig tree (Mark 11:12-14, 20-26)

Forgetful? 健忘?

- But whoever does not have them is **nearsighted and blind**, **forgetting** that they have been cleansed from their past sins. (1:9 NIV)
 - 人若沒有這幾樣，就是**近視**，簡直是**瞎眼的**，忘記他過去的罪已經得了潔淨。(CUV)
- Without spiritual growth = shortsighted + blind
 - Out of focus
 - Turn a blind eye
- Forgetting the grace of Christ
 - 無良心？
 - Not mental process
 - A practical failure

Call and Election 呼召和揀選

- Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you **do these things**, you will **never stumble**, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (1:10-11 NIV)
 - 所以弟兄們，要更加努力，使你們所蒙的呼召和揀選堅定不移；你們若**實行這幾樣**，就決**不會跌倒**。這樣，你們就得著充分的裝備，可以進入我們的主和救主耶穌基督永遠的國。(CNV)
- **Do these things** 你們若實行這幾樣 (virtues)
 - Never stumble – sin, go astray
 - Rich welcome

“Making Sure” of One’s Election 揀選？ (1:10)

- Make every effort to **confirm**... (NIV)
- Work hard to **prove**... (NLT)
- More diligent to **make certain** about... (NASB)
- More diligent to **make** your call and election **sure** (NKJV)
- So, friends, **confirm** God’s invitation to you, his choice of you. Don’t put it off; do it now. (MSG)
- 應當更加殷勤，使你們所蒙的恩召和揀選**堅定不移** (CUV)
- 要更加努力，使你們所蒙的呼召和揀選**堅定不移** (CNV)
- 你們要更加努力，以**確定**自己蒙了呼召和揀選(CCB)

“Making Sure” of One’s Election? (1:10)

- By Faith? By Work?
 - There is a remnant chosen by grace. And if were by grace, then it is no longer by work; if it were, grace no longer be grace. (Rm 11:5b-6)
 - 上帝按照揀選的恩典留下了少數人。既然是靠著恩典，就不再是由於行為了；不然的話，恩典就不再是恩典了。(CNV)
- Two sides of a same coin...
- In God We Trust
 - Through Faith
- E pluribus unum
 - “Out of many, one”
 - Through Work
- Salvation also has two sides

Two Sides of Salvation

- God side - Grace
 - Calls people out of grace
 - Reaching out (Landowner in Matthew 20)
 - God chooses us
 - Ensure that we get to heaven
 - Paid fairly (Matthew 20)
- Human side – Response
 - Choose God = choose a godly life
 - “Confirm” our salvations through spiritual growth
- Faith at the finish line...

Earnestness 語重心長

- Make every effort...
- **Make every effort** to add to your faith goodness (1:5 NIV)
 - 你們要多多努力：有了信心，又要增添美德 (CNV)
- **Make every effort** to confirm your calling and election (1:10 NIV)
 - 要更加努力，使你們所蒙的呼召和揀選堅定不移 (CNV)
- **I will make every effort** to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. (1:15 NIV)
 - 我要盡力使你們在我離世以後仍然常常記得這些事。(CCB)
- Church tradition: Peter crucified in Rome (AD64)
- Remember these things 常常記得這些事
 - Grow in knowledge of Jesus our Lord (1:3, 5, 6, 8)
 - Grow in virtue

Outline

- Salutation (1:1-2)
 - Greeting – may grace and peace abundance 多多加給你們
- Letter Opening (1:3-15)
 - Opening exhortation (1:3-11)
 - Everything need for godly life are given (1:3-4)
 - Call to virtue 美德 (1:5-11)
 - Purpose statement (1:12-15)
 - Peter's death-bed earnestness
- Letter Body (1:16-3:13)
 - Addressing issues at churches
- Letter Closing (3:14-18)