

Polycarp and the Joy of Living for Jesus

坡旅甲 - 为耶稣而活的喜悦

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The Bishop of Smyrna in Turkey was a man named Polycarp. He was born around 70AD and died in 156AD. At the age of 86 he was given a choice; give up Jesus and say that Caesar is god, or die.

坡旅甲是在土耳其的士每拿教会的主教。他出生于公元70年左右，死于156年。他在86岁时得作出选择。背弃耶稣，说该撒是神，或者死。

What do you think you would do in that situation? Do you think you would lie to save your life?

在这种情况下，您会怎么做？您会否撒谎来挽救自己的生命？

I hope that if I was in that situation, I would confess that Jesus is my Lord.

我希望，如果我处于那种情况下，我会公开宣告耶稣是我的主。

Today we're starting a short series throughout January looking at heroes of the faith. In particular, their joy in Jesus. Today we are going to meet Polycarp who had been living with joy for Jesus. He lived almost 2,000 years ago, born just after the death of Jesus.

今天开始我们将在整个一月探讨的一个简短系列 - 信仰英雄。特别是他们在耶稣里的喜乐。今天我们将要见识一直为耶稣而快乐地生活的坡旅甲。他生活于约2000年前，在耶稣刚死后出生。

Polycarp was faced with dying for Jesus, and he will help us to see what it means to truly live for Jesus.

坡旅甲面临为耶稣而死的决择，他将帮助我们看到真正为耶稣而活的意义。

1. Living for Jesus in the first and second Century

在第一世纪和第二世纪的为耶稣而活的

Polycarp was the Bishop of Smyrna in modern day turkey. He lived from about AD 70 to 156. He was said to have been appointed Bishop by the Apostle John himself. Irenaeus, another early church father who was taught by Polycarp said that he used to share about his discussions with John and the others who has seen Jesus.

坡旅甲是土耳其的士每拿主教。他的生活于公元70年至156年。据说他是使徒约翰本人任命的主教。由坡旅甲教导的另一位早期教会父亲爱任纽说，他过去经常分享他与约翰和其他见过耶稣的人的讨论。

John the apostle was the last of the Apostle to die, around 100 AD. There were many problems for the leadership of the young church. Problems of doctrine, church organisation, and of persecution. Christians seeking to grow in the faith collected letters from the Apostles and began to form the set of scriptures that we have today.

使徒约翰是死于公元100年左右的最后一个使徒。当时的年轻教会的领导遇上很多问题。教义，教会组织和迫害的问题。寻求信仰成长的基督徒从使徒那里收集了书信，并开始形成我们今天拥有的新约圣经。

Around February of 155AD tensions were mounting between Christians and those who worshipped Caesar as one of the gods. Christians were called atheists because they refused to worship any of the Roman gods. And they had no images or shrines of their own that they worshiped.

大约在公元155年2月，基督徒与那些崇拜该撒为众神之一的人之间的紧张局势愈演愈烈。基督徒被称为无神论者，因为他们拒绝崇拜任何罗马人的神。他们没有任何作敬拜的神像或神社。

Under Roman law, a Christian who professed faith in Jesus was subject to the death penalty, because they would not join in worshipping the Emperor. Some rulers were keen to keep the peace and were relaxed with the law.

根据罗马法律，自称信奉耶稣的基督徒将被判处死刑，因为他们不参加朝拜皇帝。一些统治者热衷于维持和平，并不严厉执行这法律。

In particular, Christians dreaded the sports festivals because many were thrown to the arena's wild beasts to satisfy the blood thirsty crowds. On this occasion in February of 155AD, 11 Christians had already been martyred, but the crowd cried out for more. And they cried out for Polycarp the bishop.

基督徒尤其害怕运动会，因为许多人被扔进竞技场上的野兽中，以满足嗜血的人群。公元155年2月的这个场合，已经有11名基督徒殉难了，但群众欢呼更多。他们为坡旅甲主教到竞技场上而大喊大叫。

A messenger quickly come to Polycarp to flee out of Smyrna, and he agreed to be taken to a farm outside the city. There he hid and spent time praying for Christians suffering and their persecutors.

一个使者迅速来到坡旅甲，恳求他逃离士每拿，他同意被带到城外的一个农场。他在那儿藏身并为受苦的基督徒及其迫害者祈祷。

There he hid, until he saw a vision from God that he must be burned alive. What a realisation to have. The authorities sought him and he came down from an upper room that he was hiding in and talked with those who came to arrest him. "All that were present marvelled at his age and constancy, and that there was so much ado about the arrest of such an old man" (p. 9). He asked for permission to pray before being taken away. They allowed it and "being so filled with the grace of God that for two hours he could not hold his peace". 他藏在那里，直到他看到他必须接受活着被烧死的上帝的异象。逮捕他的人来了，他从他躲藏的楼上下下来，并与那些来逮捕他的人进行了交谈。“现在看到他庄严稳重的举止神态，觉得希奇：为甚么当局要那么紧张的捉一位老人？”（第9页）。他求他们给他时间在离开前作祷告。他们同意了，“在之后的两个小时，因为充满了神的恩典，他无法保持安静”。

When he got to the town, the sheriff met him and took him into his carriage. He tried to persuade him to deny Christ. The Sheriff said to him, “Now what harm is there in saying ‘Lord Caesar,’ and in offering incense . . . and then saving yourself?” Polycarp answered, “I do not intend to do what you advise.”

当他到镇上时，民官接见他，让他同坐上车，劝他说：“你称‘该撒是主’并献祭，有甚要紧？那是保全你性命之道。”坡旅甲回答，“我绝不照你劝说的去作。”

He was taken before the ruler who again tried to persuade him to save himself. “Have respect to your age, Swear by Caesar, Repent, and Say, ‘Away with the atheists! [that is, Christians who didn’t believe in all the Roman gods].” Polycarp turned to the “mob of lawless heathen in the stadium, and he waved his hand at them, and looking up to heaven he groaned and said, ‘Away with the atheists.’ (as in the Romans because they didn’t believe in Jesus)” Again, the ruler said, “Swear, and I will release you; curse the Christ.”

他被带到总督面前，总督再次试图说服他去拯救自己。“尊重您的年龄，悔改吧，向该撒宣誓，说：‘打倒无神者’。（因为基督徒拒绝拜偶像，被称为“无神者”。）坡旅甲转向“在竞技场内的无法无天的异教徒暴徒，他向他们挥手，深深叹一口气，举目望天说：“打倒无神者！”（因为当时的罗马人不相信耶稣），总督对他说：“宣誓，辱骂基督，我就释放你。”

If you were there with Polycarp at that moment what encouragement would you have given him? He seems to be a living embodiment of those two bible passages that we read earlier. Polycarp’s life has been so affected by Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, that he will live for him regardless of what it means for himself.

如果那时候你和坡旅甲在一起，你会给他什么鼓励？他似乎是我们先前阅读的那两个圣经段落的生动体现。坡旅甲的生活受耶稣的生命，死和复活的影响如此之大，以至于无论这对自已意味着什么他将为他而活。

From Galatians 2, Paul says;
保罗在加拉太书2章说。

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

我已经与基督同钉十字架，20 现在活着的不再是我，乃是基督在我里面活着；并且我如今在肉身活着，是因信上帝的儿子而活；他是爱我，为我舍己。

Paul is saying that once we follow Jesus our old life dies, and our new life begins. As Jesus says we need to be born again. A new life starts. And this new life can only happen because of the death and new life of Jesus, who rose to life. Our entire lives have changed. It is not a preference to be a Christian. It is not that we now spend time on a Sunday at church instead of at the shops, or the beach, or at a family meal. Everything has changed! Everything is different because we are different!

保罗说，我们跟随耶稣之后，我们的旧生命就会死去，新的生命就会开始。正如耶稣所说，我们需要重生。新的生命开始。而这新生命只能因耶稣的死和复活了的新生命而得以实现。我们的整个生命改变了。成为基督徒不只是次序的改变。不是我们现在星期日活动在教堂的而不在商店，海滩或家庭聚餐。一切都变了！一切都不同，因为我们已再不如前！

When God reveals himself to us, and we put our trust in him, in that moment, we die and are made alive. And the priorities of this new life are different to the old.

当上帝向我们展示自己，并且我们信任他时，就在那一刻，我们死了并且复活了。而这新生命的重点与旧生命不同。

Paul makes the good news of the gospel that Jesus died and rose extremely personal. I have been crucified with Christ, and he gave himself for me. This is the wonderful truth of the gospel that Paul can say, we can say, and Polycarp lived. Jesus died for me. He died for THIS PERSON, and THIS PERSON. And he is alive, and he is living in me now and in you. 保罗看耶稣死和复活的福音的好信息格外个人化。我已经与基督同钉十字架，他为我舍己。这是保罗可以说，我们可以说，坡旅甲活出的福音的奇妙真理。耶稣为我而死。他为这个人和这个人而死。他还正在活着，现在在我和你里面活着。

Because of this new life, Paul can declare in 1 Corinthians 15;
由于有了这种新生命，保罗可以在哥林多前书15中宣布。

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”
「死亡啊！你得胜的权势在哪里？死亡啊！你的毒刺在哪里？」

Death is defeated. Even though Paul died, and we will all die. The sting of death is defeated, all because we have a new life that can not be destroyed by death.

死亡被击败。即使保罗死了，我们也都会死。死亡的毒刺是被击败了，因为我们拥有无法被死亡摧毁的新生命。

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

56 死亡的毒刺就是罪，罪的权势就是律法。57 感谢上帝，他使我们借着我们的主耶稣基督得胜。

Jesus has won a victory over sin and death and he gifts it to us. We no longer need to live our lives fearful of death. Because in Jesus, he has given us a new life. Not just a life for now, but a new life that endures beyond the grave.

耶稣已经战胜了罪恶和死亡，并把胜利赐给了我们。我们不再需要在死亡的恐惧中生存。因为在耶稣里，他给了我们新的生命。不仅是现在的生命，而且是超越死亡的新生命。

This has massive implications on how we live our lives. When our lives after our death are secure, we can fully trust God with what happens now.

这对我们如何生活有着重大影响。当我们死后的生命得到保障时，我们可以现在所发生的一切上完全相信上帝。

When Alisa and I were first married, I used to joke with Alisa about riding a motorbike. That it didn't matter that riding a motorbike had a higher risk of me dying, because I'd go to God, and it was part of his plan!

当我和艾莉萨刚结婚时，我常以骑摩托车的事情和艾莉萨开玩笑。骑摩托车虽然有更高的死亡风险，但没关系的，因为我会去上帝那里，这是他计划的一部分！

That's not that loving to a new wife, but the sentiment is right. The future looks different because of what Jesus has done. The old life, the old attitudes have died, the new life has begun.

那对一个新妻子不是爱的表现，但那观点是正确的。由于耶稣所成就了的，未来看起来截然不同。旧生活，旧态度已经消亡，新生命已经开始。

Paul continues in 1 Corinthians 15

保罗继续在哥林多前书15章

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

58 所以，我亲爱的弟兄们，你们务要坚固，不可动摇，常常竭力多做主工，因为你们知道，你们在主里的劳苦不是徒然的。

New life for us means that our lives are now different. We can stand firm, because even when we are knocked over, we are raised in Jesus.

对我们而言，新生命意味着我们的生活现在与以往不同。我们能站得住脚，因为即使我们被打倒，我们也会与耶稣同活起来。

And so, for Polycarp, when he faced that situation, when asked by the ruler, "Swear, and I will release you; curse the Christ."

因此，对于坡旅甲，当他面对他的情况时，当总督对他说：“宣誓，辱骂基督，我就释放你。”

Polycarp gave his most famous response, "Eighty six years have I served him, and he has done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my king who saved me?"

坡旅甲作出了他最有名的回答，“这八十六年来，我事奉祂，祂从未亏负过我；我怎能够亵渎拯救我的王？”

The ruler said again, "Swear by Caesar." And Polycarp answered, "hear plainly that I am a Christian." The ruler said, "I will make you to be consumed by fire, if you repent not."

Polycarp answered, "You threaten the fire that burns for an hour and in a little while is

quenched; for you don't know of the fire of the judgment to come, and the fire of the eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. But why do you delay? Bring what you will.”

总督再劝促他：“向该撒宣誓。”坡旅甲回答说：“现在听我公开宣告：我是基督徒。”总督说：“除非你悔改；我要用火烧你。”坡旅甲回答：“你用火来吓我，火只能烧一会儿，然后就熄灭了；但你不知道，将来审判的时候，不敬畏神的，要受永远刑罚的火。为甚么迟延？随你怎样作。”

The ruler sent word that it should be proclaimed aloud to the crowd three times, “Polycarp has confessed himself to be a Christian.” Polycarp was taken to a pyre, as spectators craned and jostled for a view.

总督派人在场中央连喊三次：“坡旅甲自认是基督徒。”坡旅甲被带到一个木桩，观众鹤吊和挤，以图一视。

The executioner approached Polycarp to nail him to the stake, but he said calmly, “Leave me as I am. He who grants me to endure the fire will enable me to remain on the pyre unmoved, without the security you wish from the nails.”

行刑者走近坡旅甲要把他钉在木桩上，但他平静地说：“不必如此；那位赐我力量忍受烈火的，不必你们用钉子，也能使我不畏缩。”

The gentle aged Bishop raised his voice in prayer praising God that he was deemed worthy to die for God. In death, Polycarp received the crown of life, and his faithful witness and testimony inspired other Christians to persevere, to triumph and to die following Jesus as the church grew and spread.

温柔的年迈的主教在祈祷中提高了嗓门赞美上帝，因他被认为值得为神而死。在死亡中，坡旅甲获得了生命的冠冕，他忠实的见证在教会的成长和扩展中激励其他基督徒坚定不移的为耶稣去坚持，胜利和死亡。

Polycarp was such a wonderful example of what Paul encouraged in Galatians and 1 Corinthians. He was able to stand firm facing his death, all because of his confidence in his new life. He knew that even though death would hurt, the sting would last only a little while. The fire would burn only an hour. But that he would have an eternity with God.

坡旅甲是保罗在加拉太书和哥林多书中的鼓励的一个很好的例子。由于对新生命充满信心，他能够坚定面对死亡。他知道即使死亡会有伤痛，刺痛也只会持续一小会儿。火只能烧一会儿。但是，他将永远与上帝同在。

When we are so satisfied in Christ that we are enabled to willingly die for him, we are freed to live the life that he has for us as we show that Christ is our greatest Treasure.

当我们对基督如此满意，以致我们愿意为他而死时，我们就可以自由活出他为我们而设的生命，表明基督是我们最大的宝藏。

2. Living for Jesus today

今天为耶稣而活

Now for us, I don't think that many of us will be faced with that question. Life for Christians is getting harder in Australia. The things that God loves and values are no longer things that

society broadly agrees with. But we are not yet at the point where Christianity is illegal and Christians are thrown to the lions.

现在对我们来说，我认为我们当中很多人都不会面临这个问题。在澳大利亚，基督徒的生活越来越艰难。神所爱和珍视的事物不再是社会广泛认同的事物。但是，我们还没有到基督教是非法的，基督徒被扔到狮子坑的地步。

So how does it help to know whether we would say Yes I believe in Jesus, if faced with death? It helps us to know what we are living for. Remember what Polycarp said before he died, “Eighty-six years have I served him, and he has done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my king who saved me?” Polycarp’s decision to stand firm was based on a life of following Jesus, because Jesus is always good. Salvation by Jesus had shaped his footsteps going forward, even those steps that took him to his death.

那么，知道我们如果面对死亡是否会说“是的，我相信耶稣”有什么帮助呢？它可以帮助我们了解我们为何而活。记得坡旅甲死前所说的话吗：“这八十六年来，我事奉祂，祂从未亏负过我；我怎能够亵渎拯救我的王？”坡旅甲坚定立场的决定是基于跟随耶稣的生命，因为耶稣从未亏负过他。耶稣的救赎塑造了他前进的脚步，甚至使他丧命的脚步也是如此。

Polycarp stood firm in the face of death against the gods of his day. Worshiping Caesar, and doing what was approved by his culture. The gods of our day are different, but being accepted by our culture is still an idol for us. Following the gods that our culture sets is a temptation.

坡旅甲在面对他那个时代的众神，敬拜该撒，并做他的文化认可的事情，在死亡面前站稳了脚跟。当今的众神不同，但希望被我们的文化接受仍然是我们的偶像。追随我们文化所设定的神灵是一种诱惑。

We are less likely to have people call to us that we should be burned alive at the stake, but we will have people that call us to temptation. The Sheriff and Ruler than tried to tempt Polycarp to deny Jesus were not vicious. ‘Come on, just deny Jesus, it’s better for you if you do!’ But they part of the dominant culture against God.

我们不太可能有人呼喊着，要把我们活活烧死，但我们会有人呼吁我们去受诱惑。当时的民官和总督试图诱使坡旅甲否认耶稣并不是恶意的。“来吧，只是否认耶稣，如果这样做，对你更好！”但是他们是反对上帝的主导文化的一部分。

As we start a new year and a new decade, Polycarp is a great encouragement of a life trusting God. A life of joy trusting in Jesus. Treasuring Jesus even more than his life on earth. And so for us, it’s worthwhile that we ask some tough questions and commit to living for him in 2020 and beyond.

随着我们开始新的一年和新的十年，坡旅甲极大地鼓励了人们信靠上帝。信靠耶稣喜悦地生活。珍惜耶稣比他在地上的生命还要多。因此，对于我们来说，值得提出一些棘手的问题，并承诺在2020年及以后为他而活。

I have a list of questions for us to think about as this new year and new decade starts. This is a list that is on John Pipers website, Desiring God. And I've printed it in handy bookmark form to put in your bible and consider.

在新的一年和新的十年开始之际，我有一系列问题供我们考虑。这是John Pipers网站“渴望上帝DesiringGod.com”上的列表。我已经将它以方便的书签形式打印，以便放入您的圣经中并加以思考。

1. What's one thing you can do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

今年您可以做什么以增加对上帝的享受？

God has promised to bless us most directly and consistently through means such as his word, prayer, and the church. One specific suggestion I'd offer would be to include some *meditation* on Scripture along with your daily reading. It's better to read less — if necessary — and yet as the result of meditation remember *something*, than to read more and remember *nothing*.

上帝已答应通过他的话语，祈祷和教会等方式最直接，最一致地祝福我们。我要提出的一项具体建议是，在日常阅读的同时还要对圣经进行冥想。（如果有必要）最好减少阅读量，来借着冥想记住一些东西，而不是多读书却什么也没记住。

2. What's an impossible prayer you can pray?

您可以为什么是不可能的作祈祷？

Some of my favourite parts of the bible start with 'But God...' Situations that were humanly impossible were transformed by "but God". Ephesians 2, we were dead, lost, hopeless...but God! What's a "but God" prayer you can pray for the coming year?

我在圣经中最喜欢的部分常以“然而，上帝...”作开头，人类无法实现的情况被“然而，上帝”所改变。以弗所书2章，我们死了，迷失了，绝望的.....然而，上帝！您可以为来年祈祷的“然而，上帝”祈祷是什么？

3. What's the most important thing you could do to improve your family life?

你为改善家庭生活可以作的最重要的事情是什么？

Spend a moment praying together during a meal. Share what you are reading in the bible.

About a year ago, we used a little prayer jar, the kids would write or draw on a slip of paper a prayer, and we'd pull them out and pray. I want to bring that back this year.

用餐时花点时间一起祈祷。分享您在圣经中所读的内容。大约一年前，我们用了一个小罐子，孩子们会在纸上写字或绘画一个祷告，然后我们把他们抽出来祈祷。我今年想再这样做。

4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year?

今年您最想在哪一个属灵操练上取得进展？

Here at St Paul's we talk about five areas of Spiritual Discipline to grow in. Magnifying God, growing in maturity, mission of sharing the gospel, ministering to others, and the membership of the church. How could you grow in one of these areas. You can grab one of these Health Check ups to help you with that.

在圣保罗堂，我们有五个属灵操练的方面可成长。赞美上帝，日渐成熟，分享福音的宣教，服务他人和教会成员。您如何在这些领域之一中成长。您可以拿一份教会健康检查来帮助您。

5. What's the single biggest time-waster in your life, and how can you redeem the time?

您一生中最浪费时间的是什么？如何把这些时间赎回？

Social media? TV? Video games? Sports? Hobbies? It's easy for any of these (or something else) to take too much of our hearts and time. Is repentance required? Trying to stop, by itself, is probably not the answer. Actively replacing it with something better helps us in "making the best use of the time, because the days are evil".

社交媒体？电视？电玩？运动？爱好？这些（或其他东西）中的任何一个很容易占用我们太多的心和时间。是否需要悔改？试图停止本身可能不是答案。积极地用更好的东西代替它可以帮助我们“充分利用时间，因为现今的日子是邪恶的”。

6. What's the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?

你来加强教会最有用的新方法是什么？

Christianity is not just a personal faith, but we are part of the church, the body. How could you be serving, or giving, or praying differently to last year. We pledged to support ministry in November, have you changed your giving to reflect that yet?

基督教不仅是个人的信仰，而是我们是教会身体的一部分。与去年相比，您如何在事奉上，奉献上或祈祷上有所不同。我们在11月时已承诺支持事工，您有否更改奉献额以反映这一点？

7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?

您今年将为谁的救恩最热切的祈祷？

Praying frequently and fervently for someone's salvation makes us more sensitive to opportunities to share the gospel with him or her. Will you commit to praying for at least one person's salvation every day this new year?

经常并热切地为某人的救恩祈求使我们对他或她分享福音的机会更加敏感。您是否愿意在今年新的一年每天至少为一个人的救赎祈祷？

8. What's the most important way, by God's grace, you will try to make this year different from last?

借着神的恩典，您将尝试使今年与去年有所不同的最重要的方法是什么？

Under God's sovereignty he gives us a measure of responsibility over many areas of life. In which of these would you most like to see a change from last year? You may find that your answer to this question is found in one of your answers above. To which of them do you sense the Holy Spirit calling your attention most urgently?

在上帝的主权下，他使我们对生命的许多方面都负有责任。与去年相比，您最想看到哪些变化？您可能会在上面的答案之一中找到对这个问题的答案。您觉得圣灵最迫切地吸引你向它们当中的哪一个？

9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?

今年您能做点什么来改善自己的祷告生活？

For many, it might be as simple as designating a time exclusively for prayer instead of praying only “on the go” types of prayers. Last year I read through the Psalms and turned them into prayers. It was great, so I’m looking forward to doing that again this year.

对于许多人来说，这可能很简单，只需为其指定一个祷告时间，而不是仅在“边行边走中”祷告。去年，我通读了《诗篇》并将其变成祈祷。是很好的经历，因此我很期待今年再次这样做。

10. What single thing can you plan to do this year that will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

您今年打算做哪一件事情，对于将来十年或对于永恒是最重要的？

But don’t let the tyranny of the urgent distract you from something you’re neglecting that would have enormous long-term impact on your soul, your family, or your church.

但是，不要让紧急情况的专政分散您对自己所忽视的事情的注意力，这些事情会对您的灵魂，家庭或教会产生长期的巨大影响。

Polycarp was able to stand firm following Jesus even in the face of death, all because he knew that Jesus had saved him. He lived a life of that for 86 years.

即使面对死亡，坡旅甲仍然能够坚定地跟随耶稣，这一切都是因为他知道耶稣已经救了他。他以此活了86年的生命。

Let’s commit this new year, and this new decade to following Jesus.

让我们把这个新的一年和这个新的十年奉献给跟随耶稣。