

Church for all People 萬民的教會

Acts 使徒行傳 20:17-38

USED使用: Sunday 29th August 2021 年 8 月 29 日星期日 (St Paul's 聖保羅堂, Livestream直播)

Good morning to you all as you tune in for another Sunday service at St Paul's.
在你收看聖保羅堂的另一個主日崇拜的早上，大家好。

We have just begun our ninth week of lockdown in Sydney. One of the consequences of that is we cannot meet face to face.

我們剛剛進入悉尼區的禁足令封城的第九週。因此我們無法面對面聚集。

My connection with you is digital. While this technology is a great blessing in this season, it is something for this season.

我與你的聯繫只可以是數碼化。雖然這種科技在這個時段是一個巨大的祝福，但它只是適用於這個時段的東西。

There is something hollow about it.

它有一些空洞的東西。

In her sobering book, *Alone Together*, Sherry Turckle says our:

在她發人深省的書《獨自一人》中，雪莉·特克爾 (Sherry Turckle) 說：

digital connections...may offer the illusions of companionship with the demands of friendship. Our networked life allows us to hide from each other, even as we are tethered to each other.

我們的數碼連接……可能會為我們對友誼的需求提供像友誼的幻覺。我們的網絡生活使我們能夠相互隱藏，即使我們是彼此相連著。

I'm convinced that like anything else in our culture today, the church has something very significant to offer our society right now, and beyond this lockdown.

我相信，就像我們今天文化中的其他任何事物一樣，教會可以現在，並超越這次封城，為我們的社會提供一些非常重要的東西。

Truth, authentic lives, and deep relationships. Let's jump into Acts 20 and see that in action.

真理、真實的生命和深厚的關係。讓我們跳到《使徒行傳》第 20 章，看看實際的果效。

What is unique is this is the only speech in Acts which is addressed to a Christian audience.

這段經文的獨特之處是在於這是《使徒行傳》中唯一針對基督徒聽眾的演講。

So while it has something to say to pastors and leaders, its also got something to say to all Christians and the church.

因此，雖然是對牧師和教會領袖的一段說話，但同時也對所有基督徒和教會也有話要說。

I want to highlight three characteristics of a church for all people: *Bible Saturated, Humble Authenticity & Treasures Jesus Together.*

我想強調一個為萬民而設的教會的三個特徵：聖經浸透、真誠謙卑和一起珍愛耶穌。

Bible Saturated 聖經浸透

Paul spent about three years building the church at Ephesus. In verses 18-24 he summarises his ministry to the church.

保羅花了大約三年時間在以弗所建造教會。在 18-24 節中，他總結了他對教會的事工。

We read in vv20 & 21 part of that summary: *You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.*

我們在該摘要的20和21節部分讀到：20你們也知道，凡對你們有益的，我沒有一樣隱瞞不說的，或在公眾面前，或在每一個人的家裏，我都教導你們，21不論猶太人和希臘人，我都已證明他們當在上帝面前悔改，信靠我們的主耶穌。

Paul says he preached and taught at Ephesus. That is the essence of the church's purpose in the world.

保羅說他在以弗所傳道和教導。這就是教會在世界上的效用的宗旨本質。

We have a body of content that must be communicated. Our purpose is to convey truth to the world.

我們有一系列必須傳達的內容。我們的目的是向世界傳達真理。

Paul has preached and taught, and propagated and defended and guarded a body of truth.

保羅傳道、教導、傳播、捍衛和保護了一個系統性的真理。

This is the job he hands on to the Ephesian elders, and to the church down the centuries.

這是他交給以弗所長老和世紀以來的教會的工作。

This is so important. For instance, if you want to know who I am, you can't just believe anything you want about me.

這是十分重要。作個比喻，如果你想認識我，你不能隨意決定你想要相信有關我的任何東西。

What if someone comes up to me and says: *you know Steve, I really like to think of you as a Colombian coffee merchant based in Dubai.*

如果有人走過來對我說：史蒂夫，你知道嗎，我真的很想把你想像成一個住在迪拜的賣哥倫比亞咖啡的商人。

I do like my coffee, and it is a free country, so you are free to believe what you want about me. But its not the truth.

我確實喜歡我的咖啡，而我們身處的是一個自由的國家，所以你可以自由地相信你對我的看法。但事實並非如此。

If you want to know someone who need to know what is true about them.

如果你想認識一個人，你需要了解他們的真實情況是怎麼樣。

It's the same with God. We can't just believe anything we want about him if we want to know him.
同樣對於上帝。如果我們想了解他，我們就不能隨意相信任何我們認為是關於他的事情。

Let me go one step further and say you need to know him if you want to know yourself. We cannot fully know ourselves without knowing God.

更進一步說，如果你想了解自己，就需要認識他。我們如果不認識上帝是無法完全認識自己。

Our modern world says we are just a body. We are nothing but a physical being...no soul.

我們的現代世界說我們只是一個身體。我們只不過是一個肉體……沒有靈魂。

The Bible says we are more complex than that. We are soul and body.

聖經說我們比那更複雜。我們是靈魂和身體的結合。

Our modern world says we are the product of an evolutionary process, our biology, DNA, genes, our culture, and environment.

現代的世界說我們是進化過程的產物，包括我們的生態、DNA、基因、我們的文化和環境。

The Bible says its more complex than that. We are also in the image of God.

聖經說它比這更複雜。我們也有上帝的形象。

Both accounts of you and me can't be right. One is truth and the other is not. We need to know the truth to know who we are.

兩個有關你和我的說法不能同時都是對的。一個是真理，另一個不是。我們需要認識真理才能知道我們是誰。

Christianity declares that the Bible's account of who we are and who God is is true.

基督教宣稱聖經對我們是誰和上帝是誰的描述才是真實的。

The Bible, therefore, must be central in the church. The truth must be preached, and taught, and defended, and guarded.

因此，聖經必須是教會的中心。必須去傳講、教導、捍衛和守衛真理。

Paul also modelled how we should do this when he said to the elders: ***You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you.***

保羅也為我們示範了應該如何做這件事，他對長老說：***你們也知道，凡對你們有益的，我沒有一樣隱瞞不說的***

Without hesitation, and what was helpful. Paul didn't shrink back. He wasn't afraid. Biblical truth will always offend somebody somewhere.

凡是有益的，毫不猶豫隱瞞。保羅沒有退縮。他並不害怕。聖經的真理總會在某處冒犯某人。

But Christians must lift up the message of the Bible and not shrink back from it when it offends.

但是基督徒必須高舉聖經的信息，當它冒犯時不要退縮。

But it is so crucial that we mix a boldness with a helpfulness.
但至關重要的是，我們將大膽與凡是有益的相結合。

Notice how Paul speaks about helpfulness in v32: ***Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up.***

請注意保羅在第32節中如何談到凡是有益的：***現在我把你們交託給上帝和他恩惠的道；這道能建立你們，***

Truth is never something we believe for its own sake.
真理從來不是我們為了得到真理而相信的東西。

Truth should never lead us to a position of pride where we communicate, behave, think, that we are better than other people.

真理永遠不應該讓我們感到驕傲，使我們表露出、或認為我們比其他人更好。

Truth is a means to an end. Truth is food for your heart, soul and character. All lack of health in our hearts, souls and character is because the truth is not dwelling in us richly.

真理是達到目的的手段。真理是你的心、靈魂和品格的食糧。我們內心、靈魂和品格的所有缺乏健康都是因為真理沒有豐富地住在我們裡面。

If we lack courage, love, joy, peace, hope, patience, it is because we are not thinking about the truth.
如果我們缺乏勇氣、愛心、喜樂、和平、希望、耐心，那是因為我們沒有思考真理。

We are not driving it down into our hearts. How do we do that? We do it together.
我們並沒有將其深入自己的心。我們可怎麼做到？我們要一起做。

Paul preaches and teaches, without hesitation and helpfully, but also ***publicly and from house to house.***

凡是有益的，保羅沒有隱瞞的去傳講和教導，但同時***或在公眾面前，或在每一個人的家裏。***

The truth is not just to be proclaimed and conveyed and protected and guarded like I am doing now, but also in small groups and personal relationships.

真理不僅僅是像我現在所做的那樣被宣揚、傳達、保護和守護，而且在小團體和個人關係中也要如此。

I want to push something very important here. Just turning up to a livestream and listening to a sermon once a week is not enough truth for it to produce health in your heart and soul.

我想重申一個非常重要的重點。僅僅每週一次的看直播並聽講道並不足以使您的身心靈健康。

Sometimes our sermons are ok, sometimes they are great, sometimes they miss the mark, but even if they were blisteringly good every Sunday, it still wouldn't be enough.

有時我們的講道剛好，有時很棒，有時沒有達標，但即使每個星期天都非常好，仍然不夠。

Where truth really gets applied and gets driven down into our heart, is study, conversations, accountability.

真理的真正應用並深入到我們的內心是藉著學習、對話和彼此問責。

It takes close relationships in a Christian community where we discover and apply truth to one another.

它需要在一個基督徒社群中建立的密切關係，在那裡我們發現真理並將其彼此應用。

A crucial part of that community are leaders who take us on that journey and keep us accountable to it. Paul has a word for the leaders in v28:

該社群的一個關鍵部分是帶領我們踏上旅程並讓我們對其負責的領導者。保羅在 28 節中對領導者說：

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

聖靈立你們作全群的監督，你們就當為自己謹慎，也為全群謹慎，牧養上帝的教會，就是他用自己血所買來的。

In each church community, some people are appointed as shepherds.

在每個教會社群，有些人被任命為牧者。

Shepherds have authority as overseers of the flock. They oversee the flock by preaching and teaching God's word.

牧羊人有權作羊群的監督。他們通過傳講和教導上帝的話語來監督羊群。

Way too many people who identify as Christian prefer to do their own work of biblical interpretation and application, and therefore create their own faith journey. They do it by themselves.

太多自認為是基督徒的人更願意做自己的聖經解釋和應用工作，因此創建自己的信仰之旅。他們都是自己一人在做。

This is not God's design. He gives us shepherds, and he gives us each other.

這不是上帝的設計。他給了我們牧者，他也給了我們彼此。

For truth to make a difference in your life it must be disseminated in community. It must be pushed into our hearts in community.

為了讓真理改變你的生命，它必須在社群中傳播。它必須在社群中深入到我們的心中。

If you have not joined a community group, then it is not too late to do so. Contact the office and we'll get it sorted.

如果您還沒有加入社群小組，那麼現在加入還為時不晚。聯繫辦公室，我們與你一起安排好。

Also, have you had the opportunity to share what God is teaching you in your bible reading with someone else yet? Why not do that as a community group this week.

另外，你有沒有機會與其他人分享上帝在你的聖經閱讀中教你的東西？為什麼不在本週在社群中去做呢？

Humbly Authentic 真誠謙卑

The shepherd is to not just bring the word of God to the flock, they are to live it out.
牧羊人不僅要將上帝的話語帶給羊群，他們還要在生命中實踐。

The shepherd's own life is to display that they themselves are under the Chief Shepherd.
牧羊人自己的生活，就是去顯明他們自己的生命是在大牧者之下。

Primarily, the shepherd leads with humility, passion, grace, compassion, integrity.
首先，牧羊人以謙卑、熱情、恩典、同情和正直來帶領。

In verse 24 we see his vision for his life since he met Jesus:
在第 24 節中，我們看到自從他遇見耶穌以來，他對自己生命的異象：

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

24 我卻不以性命為念，只要走完我的路程，完成我從主耶穌所領受的職分，為上帝恩典的福音作見證。

Paul was given the task of testifying to God's grace because he had experienced it.
保羅受命見證神的恩典，因為他經歷過。

He once described himself as the chief of all sinners.
他曾稱自己為罪魁之首。

A blasphemer. A persecutor of the Lord Jesus and his church. He consented to murder and beatings and false imprisonments.

是一個褻瀆者。迫害主耶穌和他的教會。他同意贊成謀殺、毆打和非法監禁。

The gospel of God's grace helped him see that he was off the spectrum more wicked and sinful than he imagined.

上帝恩典的福音幫助他看到自己比想像中更邪惡、更有罪。

He was covered in shame and guilt. The good news tells us the worst possible news about ourselves.
他滿臉羞愧和愧疚。福音告訴我們關於我們自己的最壞消息。

Oh, but when we grasp that and believe that, and do what v21 says and ***turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus***, then we receive the best possible news.

哦，但是當我們抓住並相信這一點，並按照第 21 節所說的去做，**當在上帝面前悔改，信靠我們的主耶穌**，我們就會收到最好的消息。

Because of what Jesus has done for us in dying on the cross we have God's love, God's regard, God's life. It is in no way subject to our own performance in life.

因為耶穌在十字架上為我們死和付上生命，我們得到了上帝的愛、上帝的尊重、上帝的生命。絕不是跟據受制於我們自己在生活中的表現。

In Jesus, God loves us as much now as he will in a billion years from now.

在耶穌裡，神現在對我們的愛與十億年後是一樣的。

In Jesus we can finally take the mask off. We don't need to pretend any more. We don't need to hide our failing and flaws.

在耶穌裡，我們終於可以摘下面具。我們不需再假裝了。我們不需要隱藏我們的失敗和缺陷。

We don't need to be anxious about people noticing that we are anxious. We don't need to pretend that 'we've got this' lockdown all sorted.

我們不需要擔心他人注意到我們很焦慮。不需要假裝“我們已經把這次的封城問題處理好”。

Our social media posts can reveal the 'bad hair days', and the 'I'm just an ordinary parent' moments.

我們的社交媒體帖子可以揭示“頭髮亂七八糟的日子”和“我只是一個普通的父母”的時刻。

That is so counter-cultural for us in Sydney. Our society values power, success, competence, progress, strength. Very rarely do we ever feel like we measure up...we are always insecure.

這對我們生活在悉尼的人來說太反文化了。我們的社會重視權力、成功、能力、進步和力量。我們很少覺得自己符合標準……我們總是缺乏自信心。

But in the gospel, we have the praise of the praiseworthy. We can be real. Authentic. The gospel brings us low and fills us up. It changes us.

但在福音裡，我們有來自配得稱頌那位的讚美。我們可以以真面見示人。真正的。福音使我們卑微，然後充滿我們。它改變了我們。

Paul reveals his authentic gospel shaped life in v18: ***You know how I lived the whole time I was with you... I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.***

保羅在第 18 節揭示了他被真實的福音所塑造的生命：***你們自己知道，……我怎樣跟你們相處，怎樣凡事謙卑，以眼淚服侍主，又因猶太人的謀害經歷試煉。***

His life was on display, and that display revealed a life cleared shaped by the gospel of the Lord Jesus. 他的生命被展示出來，而且展示了一種真正被主耶穌的福音所塑造的生活。

All parts of his life were on display. Humility, honesty, industry, hard work, meeting needs, and generosity characterised his life.

他生活的方方面面都在展出。謙遜、誠實、勤奮、滿足需求和慷慨是他生命的特徵。

Biblical saturation must show itself in a gospel transformed life. Biblical truth must lead to authentic humility!

聖經的浸透必須體現在福音轉變的生命中。聖經真理必須導致真正的謙卑！

This is so crucial for us as we reflect on God's agenda for the gospel to go out to all the world in Acts, and Mission Month.

這對我們在《使徒行傳》和宣教月反思上帝要讓福音傳遍全世界的議程是非常重要的。

Paul often talked of his weakness and hardship in ministry. As he does here.

保羅經常談到他在事工上的軟弱和困難。正如他在這裡所做的那樣。

Paul was often overwhelmed. He often had tears. But in Paul's weakness, others experienced the power of God at work.

保羅常常不知所措。他經常流淚。但在保羅的軟弱中，其他人體驗到了神的大能在作工。

A pastor, a preacher, a counsellor, a friend, a youth leader who is weak and not all together, but who has been humbled and moved by the gospel, will authentically reveal a crucified Saviour.

一位牧師、傳道人、輔導員、朋友、青年領袖，雖然軟弱，不頭頭是道，但被福音謙卑和感動，會真實地揭示一位被釘十字架的救主。

A person who is trembling and feeling inadequate, but filled with love and humility, will show a crucified Saviour to another better than a polished, all-together biblical and theological scholar.

一個顫抖和感覺到自己的不足，但充滿愛和謙卑的人，會向另一個人展示一個被釘十字架的救主，而不是一個光彩奪目的、明瞭一切的聖經和神學學者。

Unless the gospel transforms our identity and humbles us, then, and only then, will people want to come into this community and embrace the truth.

唯有當福音改變我們的身分並使我們謙卑，其他人才會想要進入這個社群並接受真理。

We want to be a church that doesn't shrink back from the truth, is sure about the truth, is growing in the truth, keen to proclaim the truth, and yet the doubter and the sceptic and the unbeliever experiences grace and humility and warmth amongst us.

我們要成為一個不從真理退縮、對真理有把握、在真理中成長、熱衷於宣講真理的教會，而同時有懷疑者、懷疑者和不信者在我們中間都可經歷恩典、謙卑和溫暖。

Treasures Jesus Together 一起珍愛耶穌

I'm convinced that when we have biblical truth with real change that we will also get deep relational ties.

我相信，當我們擁有聖經真理和真正的改變時，我們也會獲得深厚的關係。

One of the things that builds friendships and community is common beliefs and convictions.

其中一件建立友誼和社群的事是共同的理念和信念。

But you also can't have genuine friendships and community without humility and vulnerability and transparency and sharing of the real you.

但如果沒有謙遜、脆弱、透明和分享真實的你，你也無法擁有真正的友誼和社群。

No community can be built if everyone is just revealing the ‘air-brushed’ versions of themselves.
如果每個人都只是展示自己“已修飾好”的版本，那麼就無法建立社群。

When we have truth and humility then you have the ingredients for authentic, deep relationships.
當我們擁有真理和謙卑時，您就有了建立真實、深厚關係的要素。

The end of this chapter, and the beginning of the next is quite moving. Look at v36:
這一章的結尾和下一章的開始，是挺感人的場面。看看 36 節：

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him...After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea.
保羅說完了這些話，就和大家跪下來禱告。37 眾人痛哭，抱著保羅的頸項跟他親吻……我們離別了眾人，就開船

That is genuine, deep relationship. They had to tear themselves away. These are not acquaintances and associates.

那是真正的、深厚的關係。他們是生離死別的撕裂。他們不只是點頭之交或同事。

They prayed, they wept, they embraced, they kissed, they had to tear each other away. This is deep relationship that is based on a truth that has changed them all.

他們一起祈禱，抱頭痛哭，他們擁抱，他們親吻，他們不得不撕開離別。這是建立在改變他們所有人的真理基礎上的深厚關係。

Notice they knelt down and prayed. They have God in common.

注意他們大家跪下來禱告。他們有共同的一個上帝。

CS Lewis writes in his book *The Four Loves* that friendship is not absorbed in the other person like romantic love is.

劉易斯在他的書《四愛》中寫道，友誼不像浪漫愛情那樣被對方吸引著。

Friendship is focussed on a common point of interest. The same thing awes them, attracts them, grips them, motivates them.

友誼集中在共同的興趣點上。同樣的事情讓他們敬畏，吸引他們，抓住他們，激勵他們。

These guys kneel and pray to their common fixed point – Jesus. They are *treasuring Jesus together*.

這些人跪下向他們共同的固定點…耶穌…祈禱。他們一起珍愛耶穌。

Any two people who kneel to Jesus, who have experienced his grace, any two people can be deep friends.

任何兩個跪在耶穌面前，經歷過他恩典的人，任何兩個人都可以成為親密的朋友。

He who binds us together is greater than anything that separates us.

把我們連在一起的人，比任何把我們分開的東西都大。

This is reflected in the spread of the Christian faith across the globe over the past 2000 years.
這反映在過去 2000 年基督教信仰在全球的傳播中。

The Christian faith is the most culturally and racial diverse religion by far. It changes people and unities people like no other religion or philosophy of life.
基督教信仰是迄今為止文化和種族最多樣化的宗教。它改變人和團結人們，是其他宗教或生活哲學所不能相提並論的。

Most people hang out with people that are like them. Developing deep relationships across cultural barriers is extremely difficult.
大多數人都和像他們一樣的人一起出去玩。跨越文化障礙建立深厚的關係極其困難。

What is so unique about the gospel is it exposes who you are, it changes you, it humbles you in such a way that you can build deep relationships with people who you would never normally be able to.
福音的獨特之處在於它揭示了你是誰，它改變了你，它讓你謙卑下來，讓你可以與通常無法建立關係的人建立深厚的關係。

Nothing else has the power to do that for us. Jesus Christ has destroyed the dividing barriers of hostility and binds us together into deep unity.
沒有其他任何力量可以為我們做到這一點。耶穌基督已經摧毀了敵對的分裂障礙，將我們緊密地團結在一起。

Not just a truce between people. More than just getting along...deep friendship. Of course, we must work at it.
不僅是人與人之間的休戰。不僅是能共處……是一個深厚的友誼。當然，我們必須為此努力。

We must choose to do and keep looking to the gospel.
我們必須選擇去做並繼續仰望福音。

In Luke 9 we are told Jesus resolutely set his face to go to Jerusalem.
《路加福音》9 章告訴我們，耶穌毅然決定面向耶路撒冷走去。

Likewise, Paul is now called to go to Jerusalem by the Holy Spirit. He knows that he too may die there.
同樣，保羅現在被聖靈呼召去耶路撒冷。他知道自己也可能死在那裡。

Paul is walking in Jesus' footsteps. And yet, he is not Jesus. Unlike Jesus, Paul is surrounded by friends.
保羅正在走耶穌的腳踪。然而，他不是耶穌。與耶穌不同，保羅周圍都是朋友。

Everywhere Paul goes on his way to Jerusalem he has support and friends. That is the opposite of Jesus Christ.
保羅在前往耶路撒冷的途中所到之處，都有支持和朋友。那是與耶穌基督相反的一面。

On the night of his arrest, he was deeply distressed in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his friends were there.

被捕當晚，他在客西馬尼園深感悲痛，他的朋友們也在那裡。

They went to sleep in his hour of deepest need. They couldn't even kneel and pray with him for 10 minutes.

他們在他最需要的時候入睡。他們甚至不能跪下和他一起祈禱 10 分鐘。

Jesus Christ was abandoned by his friends, but the ultimate blow came when he cries out from the cross, *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

耶穌基督被他的朋友拋棄了，而最終的打擊是當他從十字架上呼喊，*我的上帝，我的上帝，你為什麼拋棄我？*

Jesus was all alone. A cosmic loneliness. He did that so you and I can be friends, not only with God, but also each other.

耶穌獨自一人。巨大的孤獨。他這樣做，所以你我可以成為朋友，不僅與上帝，而且彼此。

He took all the barriers away. This kind of deep relationship with God and each other is what we all need.

他帶走了所有的障礙。這種與上帝和彼此的深厚關係是我們都需要的。

We should be feeling it more and more in this lockdown. Yet, we can still have it.

在這次禁足封城中，我們應該越來越感受到。然而，我們仍然可以擁有它。

Its why digital church is a blessing for this season, but its only an emergency measure. Face to face gathering is so precious.

這就是為什麼網上數碼教會是這個季節的祝福，但它只是一個緊急措施。面對面的聚會是如此珍貴。

But still can build these relationships. What is stopping you jumping in straight after the service for morning tea over Zoom?

但仍然可以建立這些關係。是什麼阻止你在崇拜後立即跳去 Zoom 喝早茶？

Are you too busy? Got somewhere you need to be? Or are you too afraid of the lack of privacy or the accountability?

你太忙了嗎？你有需要去的地方嗎？還是您太害怕缺乏隱私或問責？

Jesus died alone so that we can live together. We have something wonderful to offer this world, a gospel message of hope and change, and a gospel message that draws us together.

耶穌獨自死去，好讓我們可以一起生活。我們可以為這個世界提供一些美妙的東西，一個有希望和帶來改變的福音信息，以及一個將我們團結在一起的福音信息。