

Sermon 講道信息

May 五月 7, 2023

The Emptiness of The False and The Fulness of The Truth

虛假的空洞和真理的豐滿

2 Peter 彼得後書 2:17-22

When I was a kid, one of my favourite chocolates came carefully wrapped in folded foil with a paper band around it.

當我還是個小孩子的時候，我最喜歡包裹在摺疊箔紙中的那種巧克力，周圍係著一條紙帶。I could unwrap the chocolate, eat the chocolate, and then fold back the wrapper to look as if I'd not eaten the chocolate.

我打開巧克力的包裝，吃掉巧克力，然後再把包裝紙摺疊好，那樣子看起來好像巧克力並沒有被我吃掉一樣。

Of course, this provided any number of opportunities to deceive my sister.

因此，這為我提供了許多欺騙妹妹的機會。

I'd get the chocolate and she'd get an empty wrapper. It was trickery and deception.

我享用了巧克力，而她只得到一個空的包裝紙。這是詭計和欺騙。

In 2 Peter 2, Peter is angry with the false teachers and their false teaching.

在彼得後書 2 中，彼得對假教師和他們的錯誤教導感到憤怒。

He doesn't mince his words – he's blunt, to the point. He sees the damage these false teachers do. 他毫不客氣——他直言不諱，切中要害。他實在是看到了這些假教師造成的傷害。

They are like young boys who deceive their sisters with the promise of chocolate, but only give them an empty wrapper.

他們就像小男孩一樣，用巧克力作誘餌欺騙姐妹，最後給她們的卻是一個空的包裝紙。

Of course, the false teachers are much worse. They are playing with people's lives.

當然，假教師的殺傷力更大。他們在玩弄人們的生命。

They deceive people into believing what is ultimately empty.

他們騙取人們的信任，最終卻不能兌現承諾。

In today's passage, it looks like Peter repeats what he's said already.

從今天的經文中看出，彼得似乎在重複他曾經說過的話。

But Peter knows that false teaching is so dangerous that he must make his point very, very clearly.

因此，彼得知道錯誤的教導是如此危險，以至於他必須非常、非常清楚地表明自己的觀點。

So, having said that false teachers exist, having explained that they face judgement,

於是，他強調指出了假教師的客觀存在，他闡釋了他們將面臨審判，

and having shown how arrogant they are, now, he exposes their spiritual emptiness.

他展示了他們是多麼的傲慢，而現在，他更揭露出他們靈性上的虛空。

They have empty lives. 他們的生活充滿了虛空

They are "springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them."

他們「是無水的泉源，是狂風催逼的霧氣，有漆黑的幽暗為他們存留。」

Friends of ours in Penticton bought land outside city limits to build their home.

我們的朋友在彭蒂克頓市的地界外購買了土地來建造他們的家。

It was in the forested hills overlooking Okanagan Lake.

它位於森林覆蓋的山丘上，俯瞰著奧肯那根湖。

Because they built outside city limits, there was no city water supply.

因為他們所建的房子在地界外，所以沒有城市供水。

A well had to be drilled and a pump fitted to provide the home with fresh water.

於是，他們必須鑽一口井，安裝一個泵，為家庭提供淡水。

Land surveyors identify where best to drill.

土地測量員確定了最佳的鑽探地點。

But sometimes you drill and drill and drill before you find water.

但是有時你必須在找到水源之前要不停地鑽井勘探，一次又一次。

It can be nerve-wracking. No water, no home.

這種情形令人大傷腦筋。沒有水，就沒有家。

Peter says these false teachers are spiritually dry.

彼得說這些假教師在靈裡是乾涸的。

They offer spiritual truth, but the more you drill into their teaching, the more you realize they have nothing.

他們貌似在提供屬靈的真理，但你越深入探究他們的教導，你就會愈發意識到他們言之無物。

I'm reminded of Jeremiah 2:11. 這使我想起了耶利米書 2: 11。

Jeremiah condemns the people of Jerusalem because they "have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols."

耶利米譴責耶路撒冷人，因為他們「將他們的榮耀換了那無益的東西。」

They've gone after what looks good, sounds good, even seems good— but cannot bring life.

他們追求的是看起來不錯，聽起來不錯，甚至似乎相當不錯的東西——但它不能帶來生命

Remember the YouTube video I told you about:

還記得之前我告訴過你的 YouTube 視頻嗎：

the pastor who preached on John 3:16 but said we only need the opening words:

牧師在講約翰福音 3: 16，他竟然說我們只需要開場白：

"For God so loved the world" 「神愛世人」

— we don't need to know that this love is shown by God sending his Son to die for us.

— 我們不需要知道這種愛是通過神差遣祂的兒子為我們捨身而來彰顯的。

But without the rest of the verse, saying "For God so loved the world" is empty.

但是如果沒有這節經文的其餘部分，單單說「神愛世人」，它就是空洞的。

Jeremiah's words in 2:13 describe the tragic consequences:

耶利米在 2: 13 中的話描述了其悲慘的後果：

“My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

「因為我的百姓做了兩件惡事：離棄我這活水的泉源；又為自己鑿出水池，卻是破裂不能儲水的池子。」

False teachers cannot point us to the living God. They are empty.

假教師不能把我們指向永生的神。他們空無一物，什麼都不是。

Such emptiness means these false teachers are spiritually impotent.

這種空虛意味著這些假教師在靈性上是蒼白無能的。

They are mists driven by a storm. 它們是暴風雨引起的薄霧。

Jude 12 says, “They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind.”

猶大書 12 節說：「是沒有雨的雲彩，被風飄蕩。」

I think of summers in the Okanagan – weeks of scorching weather.

我想起了奧肯那根的夏天——一連數周的炎熱天氣。

Lake levels drop. Ground dries as hard as rock. Lawns turn brown.

湖泊水位下降。地面乾燥得像岩石一樣堅硬草坪變得焦黃。

And everyone longs for rain to replenish city reservoirs.

人們渴望雨水來填充城市水庫。

The point is this: seeing a cloud or a mist fills you with hope. Rain is on the way.

關鍵是：這時看到雲或霧總會伴隨著滿滿的希望。馬上就會下雨。

But what if the cloud is blown away or the mist disappears?

但是，如果雲被吹散，霧也消失了又該怎麼辦？

It’s the same with false teachers. Perhaps this TV preacher can nourish us.

假教師也是如此。也許這位屏幕裡的傳道人可以滋養我們。

Perhaps that YouTube video or “self-help” book can show us the truth.

也許 YouTube 視頻或「自助」書籍可以向我們展示真相。

Perhaps religion or philosophy can answer our needs.

也許宗教或哲學可以滿足我們的需求。

But reality hits: these are impotent, powerless to bring change.

但是，在嚴酷的現實面前：這一切都灰飛煙滅，不可能帶來任何改變。

Why? 為什麼？

Because each is swept along by our culture; each echoes our culture’s values and beliefs.

因為每個人都被我們的文化所衝擊；大家都無一例外響應我們文化的價值觀和信念。

Just think about “tolerance”. 想一想關於「寬容」。

We’re taught to be tolerant of different beliefs, values, expressions.

我們被教導要擁抱接納不同的信仰、價值觀和表達方式。

But this tolerance ceases to be tolerant when faced with anything that challenges it.

但是，當面對種種挑戰時，這種寬容就不再是寬容了。

Just look at the comment sections of media reports to see this.

只需要看看媒體報導的評論就知道了。

We seem unable to have rational debate.

我們幾乎無法進行理性的辯論。

It's not long the accusations come: right wing, leftist, uneducated, homophobic, out-of-touch, intolerant.

很快，各種指控就接踵而來：右翼、左派、未受過教育、恐同、脫節、不寬容。

Such a culture cannot meet our deepest spiritual need.

這樣的文化怎麼能夠滿足我們最深層次的屬靈需求。

It's a cloud without rain, a mist without permanence. It's impotent.

這是沒有雨的雲，一團不能恆定的霧。這是無能為力的。

Blackest darkness is all it can offer.

所能提供的只是最漆黑的幽暗。

How different is the living God! Listen to Jesus in John 4:14. He says,

永生的神是多麼的不同啊！聽約翰福音 4: 14 中的耶穌。祂說，

"...whoever gives the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

「人若喝我所賜的水就永遠不渴。我所賜的水要在他裡頭成為泉源，直湧到永生。」

The false teachers have nothing because they are nothing. They have empty lives.

假教師一無所有，因為他們什麼都不是。他們的生命空虛。

But Jesus is the very source of life, the very answer to our spiritual thirst.

但耶穌是生命的源泉，是我們屬靈乾渴的答案。

So don't look to empty song lyrics, shallow TV shows, self-help books, social media influencers, celebrity, and so on. They are empty.

所以不要沈迷空洞的歌詞、膚淺的電視節目、自助書籍、社交媒體大咖、網紅名人等等。他們腹中空空，言之無物。

Look instead to what lifts you eyes to Jesus. Only Jesus can fill the void.

反之，仔細看一下是什麼讓你定睛耶穌。只有耶穌才能填補空虛。

What else does Peter say? Verses 18 says false teachers mouth empty, boastful words.

彼得還說了什麼？第 18 節說假教師嘴裏說虛妄誇大的話。

The false teachers speak empty words. What does this mean? Look verses 18 and 19.

假教師說虛妄的話。這是什麼意思？請看第 18 和 19 節。

They entice people by appealing to lustful desires.

他們通過肉體的私慾和邪蕩的事來吸引人們。

They promise freedom but are themselves slaves.

他們應許給人自由，但他們自己仍是奴隸。

Now, let's be clear, freedom lies at the heart of the Gospel.

現在，讓我們明確一點，自由是福音的核心。

We are free from the law of sin and death, as Romans 8:2 says.

正如羅馬書 8: 2 所說，我們脫離了罪和死亡的律。

Christ's death and resurrection have won this.

基督的死和復活戰勝了一切。

But false teaching promises a different freedom.

但虛假的教導承諾的是不同的自由。

Take the famous Disney song, "Let It Go", from the movie "Frozen".

以著名的迪士尼電影《冰雪奇緣》中的歌曲「Let It Go」為例。

It's a song about being free to express who you are.

這是一首關於自由表達自己的歌曲。

It says: "No right, no wrong, no rules for me. I'm free."

它說：「沒有對，沒有錯，對我來說沒有規則。我是自由的。」

But don't these words make a fundamental mistake?

但是，難道這些話不是犯了原則性的錯誤嗎？

The only obligation I have, this says, is to myself.

從本質上說，我唯一在乎的就是我自己。

Freedom is the freedom to find your true self, to be authentic, to follow your heart.

自由是找到真正的自我，真實的，跟隨內心的自由。

As we said last week, this is the sin of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3.

正如我們上周所講到的那樣，這是亞當和夏娃所犯的罪，記載在創世紀 3 章中。

It's called "autonomy" – I become my own god!

那就是所謂的「自主」 – 我成了我自己的神！

But this forgets what Jesus says in John 8:34

竟然忘記了耶穌在約翰福音 8: 34 中所說的話。

– "everyone who sins is a slave to sin" – and what Paul says in Romans 6:16

– 「凡犯罪的人都是罪的奴僕」 – 以及保羅在羅馬書 6: 16 中所說的話

– "you are slaves to the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness."

-- 「難道你們不知道，你們獻自己作奴僕，順從誰就作誰的奴僕嗎？或作罪的奴隸，以至於死；或作順服的奴僕，以至於成義。」

Peter puts it simply: "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them".

彼得簡單地說：「人給誰制伏了，就作誰的奴僕」。

The irony is, autonomy will imprison us!

具有諷刺意味的是，自主將囚禁我們！

When we search for being true to ourselves, being authentic, following our heart

當我們尋求忠於自己，真實，跟隨自己的心時

– not matter how attractive this sounds – we become slaves to our brokenness;

– 無論這聽起來多麼吸引人 – 我們成了破碎的奴隸；

all we do is pursue our lustful desires, says Peter.

彼得說，我們所做的只是追求我們的淫慾。

And that leads to a world where sin doesn't matter and where constraints don't exist.

這導致了一個罪無關緊要、沒有約束的世界。

Promises of this kind of freedom are empty. So where do we turn?

這種承諾的自由是空頭支票。那麼我們該轉向哪裡呢？

Not to a philosophy or a cultural value or an inward journey of self-discovery.

不是哲學或文化價值或自我發現的內在旅程。

We turn to a person – Jesus. Listen to Jesus in John 8:31-32:

我們轉向一個人——耶穌。聽耶穌在約翰福音 8: 31-32 裡的教導：

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

「你們若繼續遵守我的道，就真是我的門徒了。你們將認識真理，真理會使你們自由。」

What’s more, he is this truth.

更何況，祂本身就是真理。

In John 14:6, he says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

在約翰福音 14: 6 中，祂說：「我就是道路、真理和生命。」

Jesus is the relationship that answers our longing for freedom.

與耶穌建立關係就是我們對自由的渴望的答案。

But the false teachers of our culture speak empty words.

但是我們文化中的假教師說空洞的話。

They cannot bring us to Jesus. False teachers have empty lives. False teachers speak empty words.

他們不能把我們帶到耶穌面前。假教師的生命是虛空的。假教師言之無物。

Finally, false teachers follow an empty faith – they don’t know Jesus.

最後，假教師遵循一種空洞的信心——他們不認識耶穌。

Verses 20-21 say that if they ever knew Jesus, they have turned away from him and are now worse off than ever.

第 20-21 節說，倘若他們因認識我們的主和救主耶穌基督，後來又被污穢纏住，被制伏，他們末後的景況就比先前更不好了。

Now, we need to be careful with these verses.

現在，我們需要小心查考這些經文。

They can raise questions about the eternal state of those who gave their lives to Christ but no longer follow him.

他們可以對那些將生命獻給基督但不再跟隨他的人的永恆狀態提出質疑。

Let’s remember that Jesus said, “I shall lose none of all those he [the Father] has given me.” (John 6:39).

讓我們記住耶穌說過，「祂（天父）所賜給我的，叫我一個也不失落。」（約翰福音 6: 39）。

Let’s remember that our good deeds cannot save us; we are only saved by grace (Ephesians 2:9).

讓我們記住，我們的善行不能拯救我們；我們只有靠恩典得救（以弗所書 2: 9）。

So, we trust daily the power of the cross and we look daily to the love of Jesus shown on the cross.

因此，我們每天都相信十字架的大能，我們每天都仰望耶穌在十字架上彰顯的愛。

This is goldy perseverance.

這就是金子般的毅力。

And, we have full confidence: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39).

而且，我們有充分的信心：沒有什麼能使我們與神在基督耶穌里的愛隔絕（羅馬書 8：39）。

But there is such a thing as apostasy– the conscious rejection of Jesus by those who knew Jesus.

但是叛教這樣的事情時有發生。– 那些認識耶穌的人有意識地拒絕耶穌。

Hebrews 6:4-6 makes this clear. 希伯來書 6：4-6 清楚地表明這一點。

It's a warning – and warnings are not warnings if they are not real.

這是一個警告——如果警告不是真實的，它們就不是警告。

The point in these verses is that these false teachers have made their choice:

這些經文的要點是，這些假教師已經做出了他們的選擇：

they are entangled in the corruption of the world.

他們深陷在世界的腐敗中。

Their own faith is empty, a chocolate wrapper with nothing in it.

他們自己的信仰是空的，一個沒有巧克力的包裝紙而已。

They don't know Jesus so they can't lead people to Jesus.

他們不認識耶穌，所以他們不能帶領人們歸向耶穌。

This becomes important for us to recognize the truth:

這對於我們認識真相變得至關重要：

if teaching draws us to Jesus Christ, as Lord and Saviour, fully God, fully human;

如果教導吸引我們歸向耶穌基督，作為主和救主，完全的神，完全的人；

if teaching proclaims the cross and bodily resurrection of Jesus;

如果教導宣告耶穌的十字架和身體復活；

if teaching speaks candidly about the sinfulness of humanity;

如果教導坦率地談論人類的罪惡；

if teaching tells us that we are saved only by the grace of God in Christ;

如果教導告訴我們，我們只有靠著神在基督里的恩典才能得救；

if teaching honours the Scriptures as the Word of God;

如果教導尊重聖經是神的話語；

if teaching calls us to obedience and discipleship; then we have a solid foundation.

如果教導呼召我們順服並且接受門徒訓練；只有這樣，我們才有堅實的基礎。

If it compromises on these, be warned.

如果在這些方面妥協綏靖的話，請注意。

Tina Kolniak was devoted to “free thinking”.

蒂娜·科爾尼亞克致力於「自由思想」。

She wanted inner peace and thought it was found in beliefs that told her to live life as she pleased.

她想要內心的平靜，並認為這是在告訴她的生活信條中找到的。

One night she was overcome with fear.

一天晚上，她被恐懼所征服。

Her body froze. She could not move. She was in agony – spiritual agony.

她的身體僵住了。她動彈不得。她處於痛苦之中——屬靈的痛苦。

She called out to Jesus. Suddenly, the fear and agony left.

她呼求耶穌。突然，恐懼和痛苦離開了。

Jesus had rescued her from spiritual darkness.

耶穌把她從屬靈的黑暗中拯救出來。

Over the next three years she discovered who Jesus really was.

在接下來的三年裡，她發現了耶穌是誰。

She learned that we're sinners and that redemption comes through Jesus alone.

她學到了我們都是罪人，救贖只有透過耶穌才能夠達成。

This is what she said: 她是這麼說的：

"I have shared the gospel despite ridicule by self-professed 'free thinkers' and educated intellectuals who believe they are beyond faith. I was once there, and my empathy runs deep for those who are lost in the same worldly delusions. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit would help them realize that New Age spirituality, with its egoistic focus and false promises of peace, is a dangerous replacement for our true Saviour, Jesus Christ."

「儘管自稱「自由思想家」和受過教育的知識份子嘲笑他們，並認為自己已超越了信仰，但我還是分享了福音。我曾經歷過那一切，我對那些迷失在同樣世俗妄想中的人有著深深的同情。我的禱告是，聖靈會幫助他們認識到，新紀元的所謂靈性，以其精緻的利己主義為焦點和對和平的虛假應許，才是真正的妄圖替代耶穌基督的危險品。」

False teachers – whether New Age or so-called "free thinkers"

假教師——無論是新紀元還是所謂的「自由思想家」

– have empty lives; they speak empty words; they have empty faith.

– 擁有虛空的生命;他們言之無物;他們的信仰空洞荒謬。

Only Jesus quenches our thirst, is the truth, and meets our desperate need for fullness. Amen.

只有耶穌能解生命之飢渴，是真理，滿足我們對豐盛的迫切需求和渴慕。阿門。