

引言 INTRODUCTION

We have spent half a year studying 1 Corinthians, and we will return to that book in September. For this month and the next, we will look at a few key topics of the Christian faith. I call this series “That Is Why I Believe.” For brothers and sisters, this is a refresher course. It will strengthen your confidence in the basic truths of your faith and help you give clear answers when people ask what you believe. For our seeker friends, I hope these messages will give you a simple and clear picture of Christianity. God gave us minds to think. We can engage in an objective debate based on the Bible. We look at the facts, check the sources, then draw a reasonable conclusion. Christianity is not blind faith, and it is not brain-washing. We should not believe in anything superstitiously without fact-checking. However, we should not reject the truth superstitiously either when the evidence is convincing. With that in mind, we begin our first topic: “The Only Word.” The Bible is the foundation of our faith. It is God’s ultimate truth. ChatGPT defines truth this way: “Truth is that which corresponds to reality—what is actually the case, regardless of what anyone believes, feels, or prefers.” Truth remains real even when people do not accept it. For example, the United States exists even though some remote tribes in the Amazon have never heard of it. But the Bible is not random information that has nothing to do with us. It is God’s blueprint for life. But before we follow what it says, we need to be sure that the Bible really is God’s true and only Word. To do that, we will ask three simple questions: Where does the Bible come from? How can we trust its content? Why does it matter to me?

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 聖經的由來 Where Does It Come From?

First, where does the Bible come from? The ultimate source of everything in Scripture is God. But how did God’s message become the printed book we hold today? Think of the simple flow: God → Bible writers → editors → translators. God placed His truth into the minds of the Bible writers, and they wrote it down. This process is called inspiration. Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16: **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.** The phrase “breathed out by God” comes from a Greek compound word that literally means “God’s breath.” It is similar to how artists get inspiration from what they see or think—paintings, music, and films all begin with ideas. Bible writers experienced something like that, except their inspiration came from God Himself. But inspiration does not mean God dictated every word. He allowed each writer to use his own style and vocabulary. For example, John was a fisherman—his writing is simple and direct. Paul was a scholar—he articulates complicated theological concepts with precision. Sometimes the writers made it clear that God was speaking directly. Phrases like “Thus says the Lord” appear more than 400 times in the Old Testament. Jeremiah alone uses it about 150 times. Besides inspiration, investigation was another way biblical authors

gathered information. For example, Luke begins his gospel in 1:1-3 by saying: **1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus.**

Luke and Mark were not disciples of Jesus. They did not walk with Him personally. Instead, they collected evidence from eyewitnesses—much like detectives examining a case. Through God's inspiration and human investigation, each author produced his book. The next step involved Bible editors. They gathered these individual books into the Bible we have today. The Old Testament was compiled over centuries within the Jewish community. Their Scriptures were arranged in three sections: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. It contains the same 39 books as our Old Testament today, though in a different order. The New Testament went through a similar process. In order to counter false teachings, the early church realized the need to standardize the Bible. Church leaders used three main criteria: Was the author an eyewitness of Jesus or closely connected to one? Was the teaching consistent with church doctrine? Was the book widely accepted among churches? By the 4th century AD, the church confirmed the 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books as the biblical canon. They declared that the Bible was complete—there will no future additions and no subtractions. To make God's Word accessible to the world, translators played a crucial role. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew (with some Aramaic), and the New Testament in Greek. From there, the Bible has been translated into modern languages. The first complete English Bible was translated from Latin by John Wycliffe in the 1380s. Chinese Bible translation began as early as 635 AD during the Tang Dynasty. The Chinese Union Version, widely used today, was completed in 1919. Today, at least 4,000 languages have some portion of the Bible, and over 700 languages have a complete translation. The Batista couple—whom our church helps support—is translating the Bible into a tribal language in Brazil. We thank God for these faithful servants. Through their work, God's spoken Word became written Word, and His truth became accessible to people across cultures and generations.

2. 聖經的真實 How Can We Trust It?

We have learned that the Bible comes from God. Now we need to ask a second question: How can we trust that it is true? Let us look at three areas. First, the consistency of the Bible. The Bible was written by more than 40 authors over 1,500 years. Imagine asking random people from different cultures and eras to write about God. Would their descriptions match? Probably not. But the Bible is different. We can compare some samples from the Old and New Testament. Proverbs 3:34 says: **Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.** Compare that to James 4:6: **But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."** Also, Isaiah 49:6 tells us God's desire for people to know Him: **"...I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."** Compare that to Matthew 28:19: **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."** Different authors, different centuries, no internet, no communication—yet they talked about the same God. Across all 66 books, the Bible presents

one God with the same character, standards, purposes, and expectations for humanity. Such unity is not human invention. It points to one divine Author behind all Scripture. Other than consistency, another strong evidence is the fulfillment of prophecy. The Old Testament is full of prophecies. Anyone can make predictions—but how do we know they come from God? Deuteronomy 18:22 gives us a litmus test: **“When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.”** If what a person says does not come true, then it did not come from God. We can use the prophecies about Jesus as an illustration. There are over 300 of them in the Old Testament. For example: He was a descendant of king David (2 Samuel 7:12-16), He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16), people would cast lot for His robe (Psalm 22:18), His burial (Isaiah 53:9) and His resurrection (Psalm 16:10). All of them fulfilled precisely. To show how impossible this is, in 1958 mathematician Peter Stoner calculated the odds of one person fulfilling just eight prophecies by chance. The result is 1 in 10^{17} — one in one hundred quadrillion. He illustrated it like this: Cover the entire state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep. Mark one coin with an X. Blindfold a person and let him pick one coin at random. The chance of picking the marked coin is the same as fulfilling eight prophecies by accident. Jesus fulfilled three hundred! The only reasonable conclusion is that these prophecies came from the sovereign God. Thirdly, accuracy of the Bible. The Bible records many events, people and places. Critics often question whether these accounts are real. Archaeology repeatedly confirms the Bible’s accuracy. Let us look at some examples. The Bible says King Hezekiah prepared for an Assyrian invasion by securing Jerusalem’s water supply. The aqua-duct was discovered in 1880. For a long time, scholars doubted the existence of the Pool of Bethesda recorded in John 5 where Jesus healed a man crippled for 38 years. The pool was excavated in the 19th century. It has five porches just like the Scripture describes. Another fascinating archaeological discovery is the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947. It contains over 900 manuscripts, including every Old Testament book except Esther. These scrolls are more than 1,000 years older than previously available Bible copies. When compared with modern Bibles, scholars found very few differences, showing that Scripture has been preserved with remarkable accuracy. No other ancient book has anywhere near this number of copies or this level of consistency. This gives us confidence that the Bible we read today is very close to what the original authors wrote. God has faithfully protected His Word and made it available to us.

3. 聖經的價值 Why Does It Matter to Me?

Now that we know where the Bible comes from and why we can trust it as God’s Word, we come to the million-dollar question: Why does it matter to me? The Bible is not just a history book about ancient stories. It is more than a set of moral rules for building a better society. The Bible is a family letter from our Heavenly Father. It tells us who He is and what He desires for our lives. God wants us to know Him, receive Him and obey Him. If you are not a believer, John 20:30-31 tells you the proper response to the Bible: **30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by**

believing you may have life in his name. The Bible confirms the identity of Jesus. He is the Christ, the Savior promised in the Old Testament. He is also the Son of God—not just a great teacher, but God Himself. His death on the cross is not only an example of great love. Jesus died to pay for your sins and mine. John says that if you profess Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God, you will receive eternal life. Your sins are forgiven, and God begins an eternal relationship with you. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved. But knowledge alone cannot save you. Jesus did not come to train scholars—He came to call followers. Salvation is not simply knowing about God; it is knowing Him personally. Information should lead to transformation. You must admit you are a sinner and that you need Jesus. God welcomes you back into His family. Why wait? Confess your sins and receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord by faith today. For fellow believers: It is wonderful that you are saved. But are you actively growing in your faith? If you truly believe the Bible is good for your life, then you should obey what it says. Look again at 2 Timothy 3:16–17: **16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.** The Bible shows us how to grow and where we need adjustment. Reading Scripture is like getting a physical checkup. After the exam, the doctor may tell you to change your diet, exercise more or take certain medicine. If you trust him, you follow his instructions—and your health will improve. The same is true for your spiritual health. You cannot benefit from the Bible unless you do what God says. But the Bible is not a cold law book. It is a personal letter from God. John says in 1 John 5:2–3: **2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.** If we truly love God, we will love to obey Him. Parents hope their children listen out of love, not fear. God desires the same from us. Here is the key: You must spend time reading the Bible before you can know what God expects of you. The hardest part is simply getting started. But once you build the habit, it becomes natural. Read a section or a chapter each day. Here is a simple 4-R Bible reading method: (1) Read; (2) Record (pay attention to things like truths about God, His commands, key words, etc.); (3) Reflect (understand what the passage means) and (4) Respond (apply the principles to your life). Use a paper Bible or a Bible app. Start tomorrow.

CONCLUSION 結論

In summary, we mention that the Bible is truthful because God is the ultimate source of information. God is true and in Him there is no lie. Therefore, the Bible is trustworthy. We are confident that God carried over the messages from the original authors to us. Moreover, the Bible is transformational. It points us to Jesus, the only Savior. It also guides us in the way God wants us to be. If we believe that the Bible is true, receive Jesus as Lord, maintain a habit of reading His Word and practice truths in life, then we will truly be blessed by God.

引言 INTRODUCTION

我們已經花了半年時間研讀哥林多前書。我們會在九月回到那卷書。在這個月和下個月，我們要一起思考幾個基督信仰的重要主題。我把這個系列稱為「如此我信」。對弟兄姐妹來說，我們一起來重溫一些基要真理，以堅固我們的信仰。當別人問你相信什麼的時候，你也能給出清楚的回答。對福音朋友，我盼望這些信息能讓你更簡單、更清楚地了解基督信仰。神賜給我們頭腦用來思考。我們可以根據聖經進行客觀的辯論：我們針對事實、追查來源、再做出合理的結論。基督信仰不是盲目的，也不是宗教洗腦。我們不應該對任何事情迷信；但當證據清楚時，我們也不應該迷不信地拒絕真理。現在就讓我們開始第一個主題：「唯一聖言」。聖經是我們信仰的根基，是神所啟示的終極真理。人工智能 (ChatGPT) 這樣定義「真理」：「真理就是與現實相符的事物——不論人怎麼想、怎麼感覺或有何喜好，它都是真實存在的。」真理縱然不被人接受，仍然是真理。例如，美國確實存在，就算亞馬遜森林中某些偏遠部落從來沒聽過這個地方。然而，聖經不是與我們生活無關重要的信息，而是神給我們的人生藍圖。但在我們遵行聖經之前，我們必須確定聖經是神唯一、真實的聖言。為了確認這一點，我們會問三個簡單的問題：聖經從哪裡來？我們為什麼能相信它的內容？它與我有什麼關係？

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 聖經的由來 Where Does It Come From?

首先，我們探討聖經的由來。聖經所有內容的最終來自神。但神的信息是如何成為今天我們手中這本書呢？你可以想像一個簡單的流程：神 → 聖經作者 → 編輯者 → 翻譯者。神把祂的真理放在聖經作者的心中，然後他們把信息寫下來。這個過程稱為默示。保羅在提摩太後書 3:16 說：「**聖經都是神所默示的，於教訓、督責、使人歸正、教導人學義都是有益的。**」 「神所默示」這個詞來自一個希臘複合字，字面意思就是「神的吹氣」。這有點像藝術家從所見所想得到靈感，然後創作出畫、音樂或電影。聖經作者也經歷了類似的過程，只是他們的靈感是直接來自神。然而，默示並不代表神逐字逐句口述。祂讓每位作者用自己的風格和詞彙來表達。例如，約翰原本是漁夫，他的文字簡單直接；保羅是學者，他能精準地表達複雜的神學思想。有時候，聖經作者會清楚表明神是直接信息的來源。像「耶和華如此說」這類的句子在舊約中出現超過 400 次，光

是耶利米就用了大約 150 次。除了默示之外，調查也是聖經作者收集資料的另一種方式。例如，路加在他的福音書 1:1-3 說：1-2 提阿非羅大人哪，有好些人提筆作書，述說在我們中間所成就的事，是照傳道的人從起初親眼看見又傳給我們的。3 這些事我既從起頭都詳細考察了，就定意要按著次序寫給你。路加和馬可都不是耶穌的門徒，他們沒有親身跟隨過主。他們像偵探調查案件一樣，從目擊證人那裡收集證據，再整理成書。藉著神的默示和人的調查，每位作者完成了自己的書卷。接下來的工作由聖經編輯者完成。他們把這些獨立的書卷合成今天的聖經。舊約是在猶太群體中經過數百年逐漸編成的。他們把經文分成三大部分：律法、先知書、聖卷。內容與今天的舊約 39 卷書相同，只是排列方式不同。新約也經歷了類似的認證過程。為了抵擋錯誤的教導，早期教會需要確定信仰標準。教會領袖主要根據三個準則：它的作者是否是耶穌的目擊見證人，或是與見證人有密切關係？其中的教導是否與教會的信仰一致？這些書卷是否被各地教會普遍接納？到了公元後第四世紀，教會確認了 39 卷舊約和 27 卷新約為正典，並宣告聖經已經完整，不再增加或減少其內容。為了讓更多人能明白神的話語，翻譯者扮演了極其重要的角色。舊約原文是希伯來文（部分是亞蘭文），新約原文是希臘文。從這些原文開始，聖經被翻譯成現代語言。第一本完整的英文聖經是在 1380 年代由威克里夫從拉丁文翻譯而成。中文聖經的翻譯早在 635 年唐朝的時期就開始了。我們今天使用的和合本則在 1919 年完成。至今，全世界至少有 4,000 種語言擁有部分聖經，其中超過 700 種語言有整本聖經。我們教會支持的巴蒂斯塔 (Batista) 夫婦正在把聖經翻譯成巴西某個部落的語言。我們為著這許多忠心的僕人感謝神。藉著他們的努力，神的話語被記錄下來，祂的真理也因此能跨越世代與文化。

2. 聖經的真實 How Can We Trust It?

我們知道聖經是從神而來的。接下來要問第二個問題：我們怎麼知道聖經是真實的？讓我們從三個方面來看。首先是聖經的一致性。聖經是由 40 多位作者在 1,500 年的時間裡寫成的。想像一下，你請不同年代、不同文化背景的人來寫關於神的事情，他們的描述會一致嗎？大概不會。但聖經卻不同。我們可以比較一些舊約和新約的例子：箴言 3:34 說：他譏謔那好譏謔的人，賜恩給謙卑的人。雅各書 4:6 說：但他賜更多的恩典，所以經上說：神阻擋驕傲的人，賜恩給謙卑的人。再看另一組：以賽亞書 49:6：…我還要使你作外邦人的光，叫你施行我的救恩，直到地極。比較馬太福音 28:19：「所以，你們要去，使萬民作我的門徒…」不同作者、不同年代、沒有網路、沒有通訊——卻都在講同一位神。整本聖經 66 卷書形容同一位神：祂的性情、標準、對人的目的和要求完全一致。這種一致性不可能是人為的，而是指向聖經背後有一位最終的作者。除了一致性之外，另一個有力的證據是預言的應驗。舊約充滿預言。任何人都

可以隨便預測未來——但我們怎麼知道某些預言是來自神？申命記 18:22 給了我們一個試金石：「先知託耶和華的名說話，所說的若不成就，也無效驗，這就是耶和華所未曾吩咐的，是那先知擅自說的，你不要怕他。」意思很清楚：若預言沒有應驗，就不是從神來的。我們可以用關於耶穌的預言來說明。舊約裡有三百多項與彌賽亞有關的預言，例如：祂是大衛的後裔 (撒母耳記下 7:12-16)、祂由童女所生 (以賽亞書 7:14)、祂出生在伯利恆 (彌迦書 5:2)、祂的手腳被刺透 (詩篇 22:16)、人們為祂的衣服抽籤 (詩篇 22:18)、祂的埋葬 (以賽亞書 53:9) 與祂的復活 (詩篇 16:10)。全部都準確地應驗了。為了說明這有多不可能，數學家彼得·史托納 (Peter Stoner) 在 1958 年計算：一個人「碰巧」應驗 8 個彌賽亞預言的機率是： $1 / 10^{17}$ (十萬兆分之一)！他用這樣的比喻：把整個德州用一元硬幣鋪滿，厚度兩英尺。其中一枚硬幣畫上 X 做記號。然後蒙住一個人的眼睛，讓他隨便走到任何地方，隨機撿起一枚硬幣。他第一次就撿到那枚畫 X 的硬幣的機率，就是一個人碰巧應驗八個預言的機率。而耶穌應驗了三百多個！唯一合理的結論是：這些預言只能來自掌管一切的神。第三：聖經的準確性。聖經記載許多事件、人物和地點。許多人一直懷疑這些是否真實。但考古學一再證實聖經的準確性。我們看幾個例子。聖經記載希西家王為了防禦亞述人，在耶路撒冷修築水道。這條隧道在 1880 年被發現了。學者曾長期懷疑約翰福音 5 章所記載的畢士大池是否存在。經文說耶穌在那裡醫好一個癱瘓了 38 年的人。考古學家在 19 世紀的發現了一個有五個廊子的池子，完全符合聖經的描述。另一個令人驚嘆的是於 1947 年出土的死海古卷。當中包含 900 多份文獻，除了以斯帖記外，所有舊約書卷都在其中。這些文獻比之前找到的聖經抄本早一千多年。學者把它們與現代聖經比較，發現差異極少，顯示聖經文內容在兩千多年中被忠實地保存。沒有任何古代文獻擁有如此大量的抄本或如此高的準確性。這讓我們相信，今天我們所讀的聖經非常接近原作者所寫的內容。神保守祂的話，使我們能接觸到真理。

3. 聖經的價值 Why Does It Matter to Me?

既然我們已經知道聖經的由來，也確認了聖經的真實性，現在就要思考一件最關鍵的事情：聖經的價值。聖經不只是一本記載古代故事的歷史書，也不只是一些能改善社會的道德規範。聖經是天父寫給祂兒女的家書。它告訴我們誰是神，也告訴我們祂對我們的心意。神希望我們認識祂、接受祂、並順服祂。如果你是一位非信徒，約翰福音 20:30-31 告訴你應該如何回應聖經：**30 耶穌在門徒面前另外行了許多神蹟，沒有記在這書上。31 但記這些事要叫你們信耶穌是基督，是神的兒子，並且叫你們信了他，就可以因他的名得生命。**聖經確認了耶穌的身份：祂是基督，就是舊約所預言的救主。祂也是神的兒子，祂不只是一位偉大的老師，祂就是神自己。祂在十字架上的死，不只是崇高的愛的榜

樣。耶穌是為了你我的罪而死。約翰說，只要你承認耶穌是基督、是神的兒子，你就能得著永生。你的罪會被赦免，神與你建立永恆的關係。聖經教導我們：耶穌基督是唯一的拯救方法。但光有知識不能救你。耶穌來不是要培養學者，而是要呼召跟隨者。得救不是知道一些關於神的事，而是親自認識祂。真理應該帶來生命的改變。你必須承認自己是罪人，需要耶穌。神歡迎你回到祂的家。不需要等待。今天就向祂認罪，憑信心接受耶穌作你的救主和生命的主宰。至於弟兄姐妹們，你已經得救了，這真是美好的事。但你是否在積極成長？如果你真的相信聖經對你的生命有益處，你就必須遵行它的教導。再看一次提摩太後書 3:16-17：**16 聖經都是神所默示的，於教訓、督責、使人歸正、教導人學義都是有益的，17 叫屬神的人得以完全，預備行各樣的善事。**聖經告訴我們如何成長，也指出我們需要調整的地方。讀聖經就像做身體檢查。檢查之後，醫生可能會給你一些建議：例如改善飲食習慣、多運動，甚至開一些藥物給你。如果你相信他，你就會照做，結果你的身體會更健康。屬靈生命的健康也是如此。除非你照著神的話去做，否則你得不到聖經的益處。但聖經不是冷冰冰的法律書。它是神寫給我們的個人信件。約翰在約翰一書 5:2-3 說：**2 我們若愛神，又遵守他的誡命，從此就知道我們愛神的兒女。3 我們遵守神的誡命，這就是愛他了，並且他的誡命不是難守的。**如果我們真的愛神，就會喜歡遵行祂的命令。父母希望孩子因為愛而聽話，而不是因為害怕被處罰。神也希望我們這樣對待祂。關鍵是你必須花時間讀聖經，才能知道神對你的要求。最難的也許是開始，但一旦養成習慣，讀聖經就會變得自然。你可以考慮每天讀一段或一章。讓我介紹一個簡單的 4-R 聖經閱讀法：(1) Read (閱讀)；(2) Record (記錄) —— 注意神的屬性、祂的命令、經文中重複出現的詞語等；(3) Reflect (反思) —— 了解經文的意思；(4) Respond (回應) —— 把聖經的原則應用在生活中。你可以用紙本聖經或聖經 App。明天就開始吧！

CONCLUSION 結論

總結來說，聖經是真實的，因為它來自神。神本身就是真理，在祂裡面沒有虛假。因此聖經也是可靠的。我們有把握，神已經妥善地把原文作者的訊息保存並傳遞到我們今天所讀的經文。另外，聖經具有改變生命的力量。它把我們指向唯一的救主——耶穌基督；它也教導我們如何成為神所喜悅的人。如果我們相信聖經是真理，接受耶穌為主，養成讀祂話語的習慣，並在生活中實踐真理，我們就必定會蒙神祝福。