

Sermon 講道信息
April 四月 16, 2023
Recognizing the False, Revering the True
認出虛假，敬畏真理
2 Peter 彼得後書 2:1-3

Today, we return to 2 Peter.

今天，我們回到彼得後書。

Remember, this is a letter written just before the Apostle Peter was crucified by the Roman emperor Nero.

還記得，這是在使徒彼得被羅馬皇帝尼祿釘在十字架上之前寫的一封信。

It's Peter's last word – his final testimony.

這是彼得的遺言——他最後的見證。

And as we've seen in the opening chapter, Peter's passion, desire, and urgency are to fulfill Christ's call on his life in John 21 to care for the church right up to his last breath.

正如我們在第一章看到的，彼得的熱情、渴望和緊迫性是要履行基督在約翰福音 21 章中對彼得生命的呼召，就是照顧教會直到他還有最後一口氣。

In this letter, he urges us to stand firm in our Christian faith, stand firm against false teaching, and stand firm in our hope of Christ's coming.

在這封信中，他敦促我們要堅定我們的基督信仰，堅定地反對錯誤的教導，堅定地盼望基督的再來。

Today, we begin chapter 2.

今天，我們開始第二章。

And as we do, we come to the topic that will dominate the rest of this letter:

與此同時，我們將會討論信中剩餘部分的核心主題：

the condemnation of false teachers.

對假教師的譴責。

"False" is a word we hear a lot of in our world.

「虛假」是我們在這個世界上經常聽到的一個詞。

I'm sure all of us have fallen for false advertising.

我相信我們所有人都陷入了虛假廣告。

Extravagant promises are made by manufactures and marketing departments.

製造和行銷部門做出了奢侈的承諾。

This toothpaste guarantees white teeth.

這種牙膏保證牙齒潔白。

This washing powder guarantees cleaner clothes.

這種洗衣粉保證衣服更乾淨。

This kitchen cleaner guarantees quick removal of all stains.

這款廚房清潔劑可確保快速去除所有污漬。

On our bathroom countertops are several hair products.

在我們的浴室檯面上有幾種美髮產品。

These make some staggering claims.

上面是一些聳人聽聞的說明。

One says, "Intense repair."

一個說，「深度修復」。

Another says, "Volumizing Shampoo."

另一個說，「豐盈洗髮水」。

And another, "Grow Long."

還有的說，「頭髮會長長」。

To someone like me, it's false advertising

對於像我這樣的人來說，這一概是虛假廣告

– I've tried them and no, they don't repair, don't give more volume, and don't grow long.

– 我試過它們，不，它們不能修復，也不提供豐盈的頭髮，更不會讓頭髮長得更長。

False advertising.

都是虛假廣告。

When I came to faith in Jesus in the early 1980s, I remember a joke printed in a bulletin.

我記得在 1980 年代初信耶穌時，在一份週報上看到一則笑話。

It said, “If you find the perfect church, don’t join it – you’ll only make it imperfect.”

它說：「如果你找到完美的教會，不要加入她——你只會讓她變得不完美。」

All of us are sinners.

我們都是罪人。

But throughout church history, there are those who not only make the church imperfect because of sin,

但縱觀教會歷史，有些人不僅因為罪而使教會不完美，

they distort the church and the Gospel by their false teaching.

更有甚者，他們通過錯誤的教導歪曲教會和福音。

We might laugh at some false advertising but let us never forget that there is a grave danger of following false teaching, especially when it concerns our faith and beliefs.

我們可能會嘲笑一些虛假的廣告，但千萬不要忘記，遵循錯誤的教導是極其危險的，特別是當它涉及我們的信心和信仰時。

We put our eternal destiny in danger.

我們把我們永恆的命運置於危險之中。

This is why Peter tells us to “make every effort to confirm your calling and election” (2 Peter 1:10).

這就是為什麼彼得告訴我們「要更加努力，使你們的蒙召和被選堅定不移。」（彼得後書 1：10）。

It’s why he spends the rest of his letter exposing false teachers and warning against false teaching.

這就是為什麼他用剩下的書信揭露假教師，並警告不要進行虛假的教導。

Today, in the first three verses of 2 Peter 2, Peter will remind us that false teachers exist, what false teachers do, and what false teachers will face.

今天，在彼得後書 2 的前三節中，彼得不斷提醒我們假教師的存在，假教師的所作所為，以及假教師將要面對的。

2 Peter 2:1 says, “There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you.”

彼得後書 2：1 說：「從前在民間有假先知起來；同樣，將來在你們中間也會有假教師。」

The existence of false teachers is a fact of life.

假教師的存在是生活中的事實。

It was so in the Old Testament:

在舊約中也是這樣：

Jeremiah 23:13-14 describes prophets leading Israel astray, living adulterous and wicked lives.

耶利米書 23：13-14 描述了先知將以色列引入歧途，過著淫亂和邪惡的生活。

It was so in the early church.

早期教會也是這樣。

In Galatians 1:7, Paul says, “Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

在加拉太書 1：7 中，保羅說：「其實並沒有另一個福音，不過有些人騷擾你們，要把基督的福音更改了。」

John reminds us that “many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

約翰提醒我們，「有許多假先知已經來到世上。」（約翰一書 4：1）。

Jude warns: “certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you.”

猶大警告說：「因為有些人偷著進來，就是自古被定受刑罰的，是不虔誠的，」

These people “pervert the grace of our God.” (Jude 4).

這些人「將我們神的恩變放縱情慾的機會」（猶大書 4）

This should not surprise us.

這其實並不應該讓我們感到驚訝。

Jesus warned us about false teachers.

關於假教師，耶穌也警告過我們。

In Matthew 7:15, he says, “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”

在馬太福音 7: 15 中，他說：「你們要防備假先知。他們到你們這裏來，外面披着羊皮，裏面卻是殘暴的狼。」

This side of eternity, there is no such thing as a congregation completely free of the possibility of false teaching.

在人世間，沒有一個教會群體能完全避免錯誤教導的可能性。

Jesus told the story in Matthew 13 of a farmer sowing wheat only to discover an enemy later sowed weeds among the wheat.

耶穌在馬太福音 13 章講述了一個農夫播種麥子的故事，後來發現敵人把稗子撒在麥子中。

We need only think of Jehovah’s Witnesses or Mormons or other heretical groups.

我們只需要想到耶和華見證人或摩門教徒或其他異端團體。

They start when someone has a vision or claims to have discovered new spiritual insight or believes they are specially chosen by God.

他們常常以某人有異象或聲稱發現了新的屬靈洞察力來開始，或自詡自己是上帝特別揀選的。

Each time it’s a distortion of the truth.

他們總是這樣歪曲事實。

And it can happen today, here.

這一切可能發生在當下，就在這裡。

We cannot prevent false teachers and false teaching, but we can learn to spot false teachers and false teaching.

我們不能阻止假教師和假教導，但我們可以學會分辨假教師和假教導。

How? Let’s answer that question with our second point.

如何分辨呢？我們可以用第二點來回答這個問題。

What do false teachers do?

假教師是做什麼的？

Peter says, “They will **secretly introduce** destructive heresies...”

彼得說：「他們會 **偷偷地引進** 使人滅亡的異端……」

Their false teaching is not instantly detected.

他們的錯誤教導不會立即被發現。

Some years ago, Japanese zoologists attempted to encourage endangered albatrosses to breed.

幾年前，日本動物學家試圖鼓勵瀕臨滅絕的信天翁繁殖。

So, they set up one hundred decoys

於是，他們設置了一百個木製的信天翁

– wooden mimics of albatrosses to force real albatrosses to find a partner.

作為誘餌來促使真正的信天翁有動力尋找伴侶。

For more than two years, a 5-year-old albatross named Deko tried to woo a wooden decoy.

兩年多來，一隻名叫 Deko 的 5 歲信天翁試圖吸引一個木製的假信天翁。

He built fancy nests and fought off rival suitors.

牠建造了花哨的巢穴，並擊退了眾多的競爭對手。

He spent his days faithfully standing beside a wooden copy of a female albatross.

牠忠實地站在一隻雌性的木製信天翁的模型旁邊，一天又一天。

One Japanese researcher said, “He seems to have no desire to date real birds.”

一位日本的研究人員說：「牠似乎並不想和真正的鳥類約會。」

False teaching is like the wooden decoys.

錯誤的教導就像木製誘餌。

It seems so credible.

它看上去似乎很逼真。

But the teaching slowly infects and eventually destroys

但虛假的教導終會慢慢腐爛並最終煙消雲散

– there’s no desire to seek the real truth.

– 因為沒有對真理的渴慕。

Take, for example, the prosperity gospel.

就以成功神學為例。

Preachers of the prosperity gospel say that if you trust God, you will receive financial blessing.

成功神學的傳道人說，如果你信靠上帝，你就會得到金錢上的祝福。

They highlight verses such as Luke 6:38:

他們強調了路加福音 6: 38 等經文：

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into our lap.”

「你們要給人，就必有給你們的，並且用十足的升斗，連搖帶按，上尖下流地倒在你們懷裏。」

And it sounds good.

聽起來很誘人。

What’s more, this teaching appeals to our desire for wealth and health.

重要的是，這個教導激發了我們對財富和健康的慾望。

The problem, of course, is that these verses are taken out of context

可是，問題在於他們對這些經文的引用是斷章取義的。

– they don’t say what the prosperity teachers say they say!

– 這些經文並非如成功學教師所解讀的那樣！

The context of Luke 6:38 is Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness, not wealth.

在路加福音 6: 38 耶穌教導的是關於饒恕，而並非財富。

In fact, a few verses earlier, in Luke 6:24, Jesus condemns those who pursue riches.

事實上，在前面的幾節經文中「路加福音 6: 24」，耶穌譴責那些只追求財富的人。Now, the Bible is clear:

God does bless.

可見，聖經的教導十分清楚：神確實會祝福。

But there’s no guarantee in this life that being a Christian means we will be wealthy and healthy.

但是，在今生，成為基督徒並不意味著我們會變得富有和健康。

Only when Christ comes again will the fullness of God’s blessing be known.

只有當基督再來時，神的豐盛的祝福才會被人領受。

The reality is the prosperity gospel destroys us

在現實生活中成功神學摧毀了我們

– it takes our eyes off following Jesus and puts them on becoming wealthy instead.

– 它使我們不再注目跟隨耶穌，而是去看財富。

It leads to greed – a sin the false teachers are known for, as 2 Peter 2:3 says.

它導致貪婪—假教師眾所周知的罪，正如彼得後書 2: 3 所說。

No wonder, Peter says false teachers teach “destructive heresies”.

難怪，彼得說假教師教導「滅亡的異端」。

Let’s be clear what heresy is and what it isn’t.

在這裡，讓我們弄清楚什麼是異端？什麼不是？

Heresy is not honest error – an honest mistake that, once we realize it is wrong, we can correct.

異端不是無心之過—一個誠實的錯誤，一旦我們意識到它是錯誤的，我們就可以糾正。

An honest error might be saying that just because the Apostle Paul only mentions the Lord’s Supper once in all his letters (1 Corinthians 11),

一個誠實的錯誤可能是這樣的，因為使徒保羅在他的所有書信中只提到一次主餐（哥林多前書 11），

therefore other churches Paul planted didn’t celebrate it.

因此，保羅建立的其他教會沒有守主餐。

This is a mistake of understanding.

這是理解上的錯誤。

It’s not a heresy.

這不是異端邪說。

Or saying that only the King James Bible is truly inspired.

或者說只有欽定版的聖經才是真正默示的。

This is an error of historical understanding and how the Scriptures are translated.

這是關於對歷史理解上的偏差和聖經要翻譯中的錯誤。

But it's not heresy.

但這不是異端邪說。

In 1 Corinthians 8-10, Paul talks about whether it's right to eat food offered to idols.

在哥林多前書 8-10 章，保羅談到是否可以吃獻給偶像的食物。

Some Christians will, some won't.

有些基督徒會，有些不會。

But he doesn't say one group is orthodox and the other heretical.

但他並沒有說一個群體是正統的，而另一個是異端。

So, what is heresy?

那麼，什麼是異端邪說呢？

Heresy is a perversion of God's truth.

異端是歪曲神的真理。

The word is used in the New Testament to mean, "making your own choice."

這個詞在新約中的意思是「做出自己的選擇」。

So, rather than listening to what God says, heresy promotes opinion above God's truth.

因此，異端不是聽神說什麼，而是將自己的意見強加到神的真理之上。

Heresy takes a biblical truth and then makes it say more than it does.

異端用聖經的真理來誇張其意思。

Take God's love.

比如說，關於神的愛。

Many say God is love.

許多人說神就是愛。

And he is – 1 John 4:8 says so!

說得沒錯！祂是——約翰一書 4: 8 是這樣描述的！

But dig deeper and what they mean is because God is love, he accepts every belief

但歸根究底，他們的意思是因為神是愛，所以祂接受每一個信仰

– it doesn't matter what religion you follow;

– 你信奉什麼宗教並不重要；

God will accept you because God is love.

神都會接受你，因為神就是愛。

This is not Biblical truth; it's not orthodox Christianity.

顯然，這不是聖經的真理；這不是正統的基督教。

Once again, context matters.

再三強調，背景很重要。

In context, 1 John 4:8 is very clear that God's love is God sending his Son Jesus as an atoning sacrifice for our sin.

在上下文中，約翰一書 4: 8 非常清楚地表明，神的愛是神差遣他的兒子耶穌為我們的罪作贖罪祭。

Do you see the distortion that is happening?

你看到正在發生的扭曲了嗎？

One verse is taken out of context and other verses are conveniently forgotten.

一旦對某一節經文斷章取義，其他相關的經文內容就會很容易被遺忘。

So, only Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour;

所以，只有耶穌基督是主和救主；

only Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection means sin is judged and forgiven;

只有耶穌在十字架上的死和祂的復活意味著罪被審判並赦免了；

only Jesus is the way to know God

只有耶穌是認識神的方式

– as John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 make absolutely clear.

– 約翰福音 14: 6 和使徒行傳 4: 12 的表述再清楚不過了。

This reveals another detail about the false teachers:

這揭示了關於假教師的另一個細節：

they deny “the sovereign Lord who bought them,” who saved them.

他們否認「買他們的主人」 是祂拯救了他們。

They deny who Jesus is and what he’s done.

他們否認耶穌的身分和他所行的一切。

Here is the chief error of all heresy.

這是所有異端的主要特徵。

At some point, the message of genuine repentance and submission to the Lordship of Jesus is diluted, even lost.

在某些時候，真正悔改和順服耶穌主權的訊息被忽略甚至丟失了。

I watched a short YouTube sermon two weeks ago.

兩周前，我在 YouTube 上看了一篇簡短的講道。

The preacher spoke on John 3:16, the most famous verse in the Bible:

傳道人在講約翰福音 3: 16，那是聖經中最著名的經文：

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

「神愛世人，甚至將他獨一的兒子賜給他們，叫一切信他的人不致滅亡，反得永生。」

The preacher then said, “We only need the first part of this verse:

傳道人接著說：「我們只需要這節經文的第一部分：

‘For God so loved the world’, we don’t need the rest.”

‘神愛世人’，我們不需要其餘的。」

And his was a church that wanted to affirm anybody’s beliefs.

他所在的教會想要肯定任何人的信仰。

It reminds me of the Unitarian Church.

這讓我想起了一神論教會。

The motto of the Unitarian Church is:

一神論教會的座右銘是：

“Diverse beliefs, shared values.”

「不同的信仰，共同的價值觀。」

The problem is the truth of who Jesus is and what he’s done is perverted.

耶穌是誰？祂成就了什麼？問題在於，真理被歪曲了。

Jesus becomes a great example to follow, but not Lord.

耶穌可以成為人們效法的好榜樣，但祂不是主。

Jesus becomes a teacher of love and acceptance, but not the revelation of God’s grace and truth.

耶穌成為愛和接納的老師，但不是神恩典和真理的啟示。

Jesus becomes someone to meet our needs, but not the sacrifice for our sins before a holy God.

耶穌成為滿足我們需要的人，而不是在聖潔的神面前作我們的贖罪祭。

Jesus becomes someone who welcomes sinners, but not the judge of all creation at the end of time.

耶穌成為歡迎罪人的人，但在世界的終結不是所有受造物的審判者。

At Trinity we preach Jesus and the Gospel of God’s salvation.

在三一教會，我們傳講耶穌和神救恩的福音。

We can give sermons on other topics – they are important

我們可以就其他主題進行講道—這一切都很重要

– but fundamentally, we fix our eyes on Jesus.

– 但從根本上說，我們應注目看耶穌。

Jesus is the centre of our worship,

耶穌是我們敬拜的中心，

the name in whom we pray,

我們的禱告是奉耶穌之名，

the heartbeat of our fellowship,
是我們團契的心跳，
the joy of our devotion,
是我們委身的喜樂，
the hope that compels us,
是激勵我們的盼望，
the guide for our discipleship,
是我們門徒訓練的嚮導，
the theme of our mission,
是我們使命的主題，
the core of our faith.
是我們信仰的核心。

The moment we step away from who Jesus is and what Jesus has done,

當我們離開耶穌是誰和耶穌所做的事的那一刻，

we open the door to less savoury things that will, over time, lead us astray.

我們為不那麼美味的事物打開了大門，隨著時間的推移，這些東西會把我們引入歧途。

Finally, Peter is clear that the false teachers will face consequences:

最後，彼得清楚描述假教師將面臨的結局：

“Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.”

「他們的懲罰，自古以來並不遲延；他們的滅亡也必迅速來到。」

I did some stupid things when I was a child.

我小時候做過一些蠢事。

I was not always honest.

我並不總是誠實的。

I was not always sensible.

我並不總是理智的。

But I figured I could get away with some things because my dad, who was a professional cellist, often had concerts to perform late into the evening in London.

但我想我可以僥倖逃脫一些事情，因為我的父親是一名專業的大提琴手，經常在夜晚的倫敦舉辦音樂會。

By the time he got home, I was fast asleep and my mum

當他回到家時，我和媽媽已經快睡著了，

– usually the more lenient of my parents

– 我父母通常是寬容的

– might tell my dad what I had done, but downplay it.

- 可能會告訴我父親我都做了什麼，不過是輕描淡寫的。

I got a good night's sleep and I expected my parents to do so too.

我通常都睡得很好，我希望父母也能這樣。

But one time, I messed up badly.

但有一次，我搞砸了。

I had taken something belonging to someone else.

我拿走了屬於別人的東西。

Mum was upset.

媽媽很不高興。

Dad was at work.

爸爸在工作。

I thought if I went to bed, there'd be no real consequences.

我想如果我上床睡覺，就應該不會有什麼後果。

But when dad arrived home after a concert, he did not go to bed.

但是當爸爸結束演出回到家時，他並沒有像往常一樣上床睡覺。

He woke me up and I discovered just how upset he was with me.

他叫醒了，我發現他是多麼生我的氣。

In the same way, 2 Peter 2:3 says God has not nodded off.

同樣，彼得後書 2: 3 說神沒有打盹鬆懈。

His judgement will come.

祂的審判終將到來。

He has not forgotten the false teachers or their false teaching.

祂沒有忘記假教師或他們的錯誤教導。

He will not compromise his holiness, his truth, his love, his justice, his Gospel.

神會堅持祂的聖潔，祂的真理，祂的愛，祂的公義和祂的福音，絕不會妥協。

Many find the idea of judgement difficult,

許多人覺得審判是很難接受的，

but as we'll see next week, God's judgement is because he takes his truth and his love very, very seriously.

但我們將在下周看到，神的審判是因為他非常、非常認真地對待他的真理和愛。

And, in the same way, we too must take seriously the reality of false teaching and the existence of false teachers.

同樣，我們也必須認真對待虛假教導的現實和假教師的存在。

But we do not need to fear them.

但我們不需要害怕他們。

We do not need to fall into the trap of being deluded by decoys.

我們不要被誘餌欺騙而跌入陷阱。

We keep our eyes on Jesus.

我們只要單單注目看耶穌。

My cousin and her husband live in Alberta.

我的表妹和她的丈夫住在亞省。

But when Catherine and I first visited Western Canada, in 1996, they lived on Capitol Hill, Burnaby.

1996 年當凱薩琳和我第一次來到加拿大西部，他們住在本拿比的國會山。

On warm nights, they invited us to climb onto the roof of their home and look west at the stunning views of downtown Vancouver, the airport in Richmond, and the spectacular coastal mountains on the North Shore.

溫暖的夜晚，他們邀請我們爬上他們家的屋頂，遠眺溫哥華市中心、列治文機場和北岸逶迤的沿海山脈，多麼壯麗的景色啊。

But next door to them, their neighbours had done something very odd.

但是就在他們的隔壁，鄰居做了一件非常奇怪的事情。

In their backyard, they had created a mountain scene with waterfalls, small pools mimicking lakes, and rocky outcrops – all out of fiberglass.

在他們的後院，有一個人造瀑布，模仿湖泊的小水池和露頭的岩石的山景—做成這一切的材料都是玻璃纖維。

It was the strangest sight.

這是多麼怪異的景觀。

The neighbours could look at their backyard to see fabricated mountain scene rather than turning 180 degrees and seeing the real thing!

鄰居們寧願看著後院虛構的山景，也不願意轉 180 度來觀賞真正的大山大海！

As we continue through 2 Peter, beneath everything that is said is this single truth:

當我們繼續看彼得後書時，所說的一切背後都指向這個真理：

don't fall for what is false, a counterfeit, a mimic.

不要上當，不要相信虛假的、假冒的和模仿的。

Look at the real – Jesus. Amen.

看那真實的—耶穌。阿門。