

2017-18 BSP#3 Group Time Discussion

I believe in order to understand; I understand and the better I believe (St. Augustine). 我信以求明白；我明白所以信得更好 (聖奧斯定)。

(A) 我們查考以求明白 We Study In Order To Understand(15 minutes)

1. 希伯來人書肯定「我們卻看見了...耶穌」(2:9)，這說法令人震驚。它與耶穌在若 20:29 向宗徒多默所說的成了強烈對比。但藉著信德，我們的確可以看見耶穌。聖教會給我們提供了甚麼特別方法，讓我們在信德中看見耶穌呢？答案：用聖像來默想，讀---，與他在---中傾談，在朝拜---中仰望他，在----中領受他。 Hebrews' confident assertion that “we do see Jesus” (2:9) is startling when contrasted with Jesus' words to the apostle Thomas in John 20:29. But it's true that through faith we can see Jesus. What are the privileged ways that the Church gives us to see Jesus through our faith? Answers: contemplating holy icons, reading -----, conversing with Him in -----, gazing on him in ----- adoration, receiving Him in the -----.
2. 按希伯來人書，古以色列第一代不能進入福地的原因是「背信的緣故」(3:19)。他們不信靠天主的詳情是甚麼？(提示：看戶 13:25-33。)他們和我們這世代有何共通處？

According to Hebrews, the first generation of ancient Israel was unable to enter the Promised Land “because of unbelief” (3:19). What was it exactly that they failed to believe or trust God? (Hint: Read Num 13:25-33.) What similarities do you see between them and our generation, i.e. the contemporary world?

(B) 我們明白所以活得更好 We Understand And the Better We Live (10 minutes)

希 2:15 嚴肅地審察了人的境況：我們是「那些因死亡的恐怖，一生當奴隸的人」。死亡是生命中最肯定的事。從原始我們已被死亡的恐懼操縱著，不但害怕肉身之死，也害怕任何損失和傷害，因它可以是死亡將臨的徵兆 - 身體不適，失去青春美貌，事業受挫，別人比自己強。很多破壞性的行為的出現，常是因為人不惜代價要避免這些「零碎的死亡」；這的確是奴役。但基督徒最核心的喜訊就是基督已戰勝了死亡。死亡失去了它的「刺」(格前 15:55)，成了進入新而榮耀的生命的門檻。作為基督徒，你的生命是否展示著從這根深蒂固的恐懼中續漸地被釋放出來的自由呢？在死亡的奴役之下，你自由嗎？

Hebrews 2:15 is a sober assessment of the human condition: we are “those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life”. Death is the one absolutely certain reality of human existence. We are gripped by a primordial fear not only of physical death but of every form of diminishment that is a sign of approaching death – bodily ailments, loss of youthful attractiveness, career failures, getting bested by others. The compulsion to avoid these “little deaths” at all costs is a hidden cause of much destructive behavior, a genuine “slavery”. But the core of the Christian good news is that Christ has defeated death. Death has lost its “sting” (1 Cor 15:55) and become a doorway to a new and glorious life. Does your life as a Christian exhibit the freedom that comes from having this deep-seated fear progressively lifted from you? How free are you from the slavery of death?