

2021-2022 BSP#5 Group Time Discussion

(A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (10 minutes)

1. Compare 1 John 1:1-5 with Gospel of John 1:1-14. Can you find at least 5 similarities?
比較約望一書 1:1-5 和約望福音 1:1-14。你能找到至少 5 個相似之處嗎？
2. In 1:9, why does John see God as “faithful and just” when he forgives our sins?
 - (a) It is because we have earned God’s forgiveness and are getting our “just” rewards.
 - (b) God is faithful to his merciful and just nature. When we acknowledge our sin, he must give us what we deserve – forgiveness.
 - (c) When God forgives those who acknowledge their sin, he is being faithful to his promise that he will forgive people who repent (Ex 34:6-7).
 - (d) All of the above.在 1:9 中，為什麼約望認為天主在赦免我們的罪時是「忠信正義的」？
 - (a) 這是因為我們已經贏得了天主的寬恕，並得到了我們「公正」的獎賞。
 - (b) 天主忠於他仁慈和公正的本性。當我們承認我們的罪時，他必須給我們我們應得的——寬恕。
 - (c) 當天主寬恕那些承認自己罪過的人時，他就是在信守他的諾言，即他會寬恕那些悔改的人（出 34:6-7）。
 - (d) 以上所有。

(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (15 minutes)

“If we say, ‘We have fellowship with him,’ while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth” (1:6). St. Augustine desperately wanted to have fellowship with God, but he was unable to abandon his lust and continued to walk in darkness. In his confession of this sin, he told us how painful his struggle was:

I longed to do the same, but I was held fast, not in fetters clamped me by another, but by my own will, which had the strength of iron chains...For my will was perverse and lust had grown from it, and when I gave in to lust habit was born, and when I did not resist the habit it became a necessity...But the new will which had come to life in me and made me wish to serve You was not yet strong enough to overcome the old, hardened as it was by the passage of time. So these two wills within me, one old, one new, one the servant of the flesh, the other of the spirit, were in conflict and between them they tore my soul apart...Instead of fearing, as I ought, to be held back by all that encumbered me, I was frightened to be free of it (Confessions, VIII.4).

Can you relate to St. Augustine’s painful experience?

「如果我們說我們與他相通，但仍在黑暗中行走，我們就是說謊，不履行真理」(1:6)。聖奧古斯丁非常想與天主相通，但他無法放棄自己的情慾，繼續在黑暗中行走。他在認罪時告訴我們他的掙扎是多麼痛苦：

我也想這樣做，但我被牢牢抓住，不是被別人束縛，而是被我自己的意志所束縛，意志有如鐵一般的力量枷鎖……因為我的意志是不正當的，情慾由此而生，當我屈服於情慾時，習慣就產生了，當我不抗拒這種習慣時，它就變成了一種必要……新的意志在我內，讓我希望為你服，但是還沒有強大到能克服舊的，因為舊的隨著時間的流逝而變得強硬。所以我內心的這兩個意志，一個舊的，一個新的，一個是肉體的僕人，另一個是精神的僕人，在它們之間發生了衝突，它們撕裂了我的靈魂……而我不是像我應該的那樣，害怕被這些阻礙所制衡，我反而害怕擺脫它們（Confessions, VIII.4）。

你可曾有聖奧古斯丁的痛苦經歷？