

Group Time Sharing Questions

(A) Questions on the Text (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

1. Read 1:7-8. In whom do we have redemption? What is redemption? How do we enter into the forgiveness of sins? What has the Son done to win that forgiveness? If we do not earn forgiveness then how do we gain it? Apart from forgiveness, what else do we gain that is even more important (see 1:13-14)? What is our “inheritance” in 1:14 (see 1:5 and 2 Peter 1:4)?

Ephesians 厄弗所書 1:7-8	⁷ In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight,	⁷ 我們就是全憑天主豐厚的恩寵，在祂的愛子內，藉祂愛子的血，獲得了救贖，罪過的赦免。 ⁸ 的確，天主豐厚地把這恩寵傾注在我們身上，賜與我們各種智慧和明達，
Ephesians 厄弗所書 1:13-14	¹³ In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, ¹⁴ which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.	¹³ 在基督內，你們一聽到了真理的話，即你們得救的福音，便信從了，且在祂內受了恩許聖神的印證； ¹⁴ 這聖神就是我們得嗣業的保證，為使天主所置為嗣業的子民，蒙受完全的救贖，為頌揚祂的光榮。
Ephesians 厄弗所書 1:5	⁵ he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will,	⁵ 又由於愛，按照自己旨意的決定，預定了我們藉著耶穌基督獲得義子的名分，而歸於祂，
2 Peter 伯多祿後 書 1:4	⁴ Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.	⁴ 並藉著自己的光榮和德能，將最大和寶貴的恩許賞給了我們，為使你們藉著這些恩許，在逃脫世界上所有敗壞的貪慾之後，能成為有分於天主性體的人。

2. Read 1:21. Paul speaks of “rule and authority and power and dominion”. What are these “powers and dominions”? Are they exclusively (or even primarily) human? (See Ephesians 6:12 and 1 Peter 3:22). What is Paul referring to when he speaks of the “age” that is “to come” (see Matthew 12:32, Luke 20-34-36)?

Ephesians 厄弗所書 1:21	²¹ far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come.	²¹ 超乎一切率領者、掌權者、異能者、宰制者，以及一切現世及來世的可稱呼的名號以上；
Ephesians 厄弗所書 6:12	¹² For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.	¹² 因為我們戰鬥不是對抗血和肉，而是對抗率領者，對抗掌權者，對抗這黑暗世界的霸主，對抗天界裏邪惡的鬼神。
1 Peter 伯多祿前 書 3:22	²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.	²² 至於耶穌基督，他升了天，坐在天主的右邊，眾天使、掌權者和異能者都屈伏在他權下。
Matthew 瑪竇福音 12:32	³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.	³² 凡出言干犯人子的，可得赦免；但出言干犯聖神的，在今世及來世，都不得赦免。」
Luke 路加福音 20:34-36	³⁴ Jesus said to them, "The children of this age marry and remarry; ³⁵ but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise.	³⁴ 耶穌對他們說：「今世之子也娶也嫁； ³⁵ 但那堪得來世，及堪當由死者中復活的人，他們也不娶，也不嫁； ³⁶ 甚至他們也不能再死，因為他們相似天使，他們既是復活之子，也就是天主之子。

(B) Session Review (Suggested time: 20 minutes)

Review today's session outline for the Navigator's Time, particularly the summary (item H). What is the most important point you learned from today's session? Why? Are there any issues discussed in today's Navigator's Time that you don't understand? Discuss them with your group members and see if they can help you. If satisfactory answers are not readily available, put the issues or questions on paper. Either bring them up during Q&A or submit them to the navigator for post-session response.

(C) Optional

Paul begins his discussion of the "mystery" of the Church with a prayer of praise to the Blessed Trinity. How does the knowledge that the Church participates in the life of the Blessed Trinity change the way you look at your world?

BSP #6 SPECIAL NOTES

(A) The Rosary does indeed 'mark the rhythm of human life', bringing it into harmony with the 'rhythm' of God's own life, in the joyful communion of the Holy Trinity, our life's destiny and deepest longing.

- JP II, *On the Most Holy Rosary*, #25

(B) The religion which originates in the mystery of the Redemptive Incarnation, is the religion of 'dwelling in the heart of God,' of sharing in God's very life.

- JP II, *On Preparation for the Jubilee of the Year 2000*, #8

(C) "Our God in his deepest mystery is not a solitude, but a family, since he has in himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love." (JP II) Ephesians is about our incorporation into and participation in the life of the ultimate family, the Trinitarian life of the Holy Church.

Web links

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM

<http://www.catholic.org.tw/bible/index.htm>

<http://www.cathlinks.org/ccc-toc.htm>

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html>