

2023-2024 BSP#2 Group Time Discussion

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

1. 在 1:5 中，耶穌被稱為「死者中的首生者」。為什麼他被授予這個稱號？（提示：請閱讀哥林多前書 15:20。）長子的概念在梅瑟律法中非常重要（例如出谷記 11:5、13:2）。這個舊約觀念與耶穌作為「死者中的首生者」的身份有何關係？

In 1:5, Jesus is called "the firstborn of the dead". Why is he given this title? (Hint: Read 1 Cor 15:20.) The concept of the first-born male is of great importance in the Torah (e.g. Ex 11:5, 13:2). How is this OT concept related to Jesus' title as "the firstborn of the dead"?

2. 在 1:11 中，若望被要求「將你所聽見的寫在書上，送到厄弗所、斯米納、培爾加摩、提雅提辣、撒爾德、非拉德非雅和勞狄刻雅七個教會。」七個教會按這個次序列出可有什麼原因？
 - a. 沒有，它是隨便列出的。
 - b. 次序是根據教會的大小，從最大到最小。
 - c. 是按照持信人攜帶信的次序列出的，從厄弗所開始，然後順時針方向繞一圈。
 - d. 是按照若望與這些教會的個人關係順序列出的。所以從若望生活和去世的厄弗所 (按照教會傳統所說) 開始。
 - e. 以上都不是。

In 1:11, John is asked to "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." Is there a reason why the seven churches are listed in this order?

- a. No, it's done randomly.
- b. The order is based on the sizes of the churches, from the largest to the smallest.
- c. They are listed in the order that the bearer of the letter would carry them, starting with Ephesus, then making a circuit in a clockwise direction.
- d. They are listed in the order John's personal relationship with the churches, starting from Ephesus where John lived and died according to Church tradition.
- e. None of the above.

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

讀 1:9。如果你發現自己因基督信仰而被放逐到一個偏遠的島嶼或被監禁在一個極權國家裡，你會認為自己是「在耶穌內與你們共患難，同王權和同忍耐的」伙伴嗎？當你面對困難時，你會終日自嘆自憐嗎？你會否記得這並不全是關於你，而是關於天主和他的國度，並相應地祈禱和行動嗎？請與小組成員坦誠分享。

Read 1:9. If you found yourself exiled to a remote island or imprisoned in a totalitarian country for your Christian faith, would you consider yourself a partner in “the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus”? When you face hardships, would you spend all your time feeling sorry for yourself? Would you remember that it is not all about you, but about God and his kingdom, and pray and act accordingly? Please have a candid sharing with your group members.