

2022-2023 BSP#6 Group Time Discussion

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

1. 閱讀 4:13。這經文讓很多人相信保祿教導得撒洛尼人不應為亡者憂傷。你認為這樣去解釋這經文是否正確？
 - a. 正確，因為按經文，保祿清楚地說，為亡者憂傷的人就「像其他沒有望德的人一樣」。
 - b. 正確。在羅 7:24，保祿說：「誰能救我脫離這該死的肉身呢？」死亡是個釋放，讓靈魂離開肉身的纏繞。所以無需為亡者憂傷。
 - c. 不正確，因為耶穌也為拉匝祿憂傷(若 11:35)，保祿不會評擊耶穌。
 - d. 不正確，因為初期教會「虔誠的人」也為斯德望被害而「大哭了一場」(宗 8:2)。
 - e. 不正確，因為按 St. Ambrose 自然的哀傷是人性，與因絕望而一蹶不振的哀傷不同。

Read 4:13. This verse has led many to believe that Paul taught the Thessalonians not to mourn for the dead. Do you think this is the right way to interpret this scriptural passage?

- a. Correct, because according to the scriptures, Paul clearly said that those who mourn for the dead are "like the rest, who have no hope."
 - b. Correct. In Romans 7:24, Paul said, "Who will deliver me from this mortal body?" Death is a release, letting the soul out of the entanglement of the body. So there is no need to grieve for the dead.
 - c. Incorrect, because Jesus also grieved for Lazarus (John 11:35), Paul would not criticize Jesus.
 - d. Incorrect, because the "devout men" of the early church also "made a loud lament " over Stephen's murder (Acts 8:2).
 - e. Incorrect, because according to St. Ambrose natural mourning is human nature, as opposed to mourning triggered by despair.
2. 為甚麼在保祿教導中，他從不寄望「要進入天堂」，反而熱切期待復活和主的再來？
 - a. 因保祿曾迫害教會，自知自己不屬天堂。
 - b. 對基督徒，復活和主的再來遠比自己進天堂重要：「假如死人復活是沒有的事，基督也就沒有復活，假如基督沒有復活，那麼，我們的宣講便是空的，你們的信仰也是空的。」(格前 15:13-14)
 - c. 那些只顧自己要進天堂的人是自私的。
 - d. 復活和主的再來發生於公審判，是基督王國全面得勝和落實，新天新地全面出現，人的身體和靈魂終於回復和諧，人性達到完滿的時候，與只決定個人功過命運的私審判不能同日而語。

- e. 聖經完結於教會期望主再來的呼喊中：「阿們。主耶穌，你來罷！」(默 22:20) 主的再來在基督徒信仰的重要性，於此可見。

Why is that in Paul's teaching, he never hoped to "go to heaven"? Instead, he eagerly looked forward to resurrection and the return of the Lord.

- a. Because Paul had persecuted the church, he knew he would never make it to heaven.
- b. For Christians, the resurrection and the Lord's return are far more important than going to heaven: "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith" (1 Cor 15:13-14).
- c. Those who only care about securing their own way to heaven are selfish.
- d. Resurrection and the return of the Lord occur in the Last Judgment. It is the full victory and realization of the kingdom of Christ, the new heaven and the new earth appear in an all-round way, and the harmony of human body and soul is finally restored. The Particular Judgment is for the determination of one person's failures and merits and his fate. It's far less important than the Last Judgment.
- e. The Bible ends with the church crying out for the Lord's return: "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20) This shows the importance of the Lord's return in the Christian faith.

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

你的隔壁鄰居是一位活躍的福音派基督徒。由於他預計「大提升」(Rapture)很快就會發生，所以他沒有好好照顧他的房屋。他後院的野生草叢密麻麻地長到你的後院，吸引了動物、飛鳥甚至蛇。作為基督徒，你會怎麼做才能讓他相信他對聖經的理解是被誤導了？

Your next-door neighbor is an active evangelical Christian. Since he expects the "Rapture" to happen very soon, he doesn't take care of his house. Wild bushes from his backyard are growing into yours, attracting animals, birds and even snakes. As a fellow Christian, what would you do to convince him he is misinformed on his understanding of the Bible?