

PRIORITY RESET

重設優先定位



RESET

2023 講道系列

Priority Reset: for the Church and for You 重設優先定位: 為教會以及為您

所以，你們行事為人要謹慎，不要像愚昧人，卻要像聰明人。要把握時機，因為這時代邪惡。(弗 5:15-16)



Priority management teaches us to distinguish between the urgent and the important. Some things are neither urgent nor vital, so we can dismiss them. Some things are urgent but not vital (such as searching the best fare for our next holiday before tickets are sold out), yet we often spend most of our time attending to them instead of the things that are both urgent and vital. But strangely enough, the things which we do not categorize as urgent but are vital should often be of the highest priority, such as pleasing God or having the presence of God in our midst; because only then can lives be transformed, can souls be saved, and can we truly live a life as God's creation and people. This year we are going to learn to reset and focus our priorities on the vital – our relationship with God living as his people in his kingdom.

The 2023 theme – Priority Reset: for the Church and for You – will be framed by five books selected carefully from the Old and the New Testament, viz. Genesis (focusing on the life of Abraham)¹, the book of Psalms (selection), the book of Malachi, the gospel of Matthew (selection), and Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. These texts cover the sweep of biblical covenant and salvation stories beginning with Abraham when God unilaterally covenanted with him in order to bless "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:1-3). The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, then underscores Yahweh as the covenant-keeping God who expects the same of his people. Sadly, the Jews at the time were characterized by apathy and moral decline, having an outward religious appearance but not a living

¹ The series on the life of Abraham complements and continues the 2022 series on Genesis. 亞伯拉罕的生命系列是 2022 年《創世記》系列的延續。

relationship with God. Against such background, the gospel of Matthew brings good news and depicts Jesus as the Son of God the messianic King of the Jews, who ushers in the kingdom of heaven to the here and now (Matt. 6:10). His people can now live in an unprecedented intimacy with God (hence Jesus' name as "Immanuel," Matt. 1:23) until Jesus returns. Before then, the apostle Paul was anxious to ground the young church in Thessalonica in the truths of the Christian faith, especially in relation to Christ's return such that their priorities would be set right amidst severe persecution and the uncertainties of the end times – a time of temptation to give in to discouragement and to compromise. Our approach this year, therefore, is to let the biblical books speak for themselves and challenge our priorities as a church and as individuals. Additionally, a selection of Psalms is inserted mid-way in the year to affirm that humanity's ultimate priority is to worship our God our Creator:

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Ps. 95:6-8)

優先級管理教導我們如何區分緊急和重要。有些事情既不緊急也不重要，所以我們可以先把它們打發掉。有些事情很緊急但並不重要（比如在票沒賣光之前不停尋找下個假期最便宜的機票），但我們卻常常把大部分時間花在這些事情上，而不是花在那些既緊急又重要的事情上。但奇怪的是，那些我們並不認為是緊急的，但却是至關重要的事情，却往往是最要緊的，比如取悅上帝，或者讓上帝的同在常在我們中間；因為只有這樣，生命才能被轉化，靈魂才能被拯救，我們才能在生命中真正實現上帝創造我們的目的。今年我們要學習重新設定優先事項和專注於至關重要的事情上 – 我們與上帝的關係，和在他的國度裏生活。

2023 年的主題 – 重設優先定位: 為教會以及為您 – 將依賴從舊約到新約中精心挑選的五本書定位，即《創世紀》(專注於亞伯拉罕的一生)、《詩篇》(選段)、《瑪拉基書》、《馬太福音》(選段)和保羅寫給帖撒羅尼迦人的第一封信。這些文本涵蓋了從亞伯拉罕開始的立約以及救贖故事: 當時上帝單方面與亞伯拉罕立約，要透過他祝福“地上的萬族”(創 12:1-3)。舊約的最後一卷書《瑪拉基書》，同樣強調耶和華是守約的神，並對他的子民有同樣的期望。可悲的是，當時的猶太人以冷漠和道德淪喪為特徵，擁有宗教的外表，但卻沒與上帝有實際的關係。在這樣的背景下，馬太福音帶來了「好消息」，講述上帝的兒子、猶太人的彌賽亞、君王耶穌如何把天國引進到此時此地(太 6:10)。他的子民現在就可以前所未

有地與上帝親密地相處 (因此耶穌被稱為“以馬內利”，太 1:23)，直到耶穌再來。在此之前，使徒保羅急切地希望把在帖撒羅尼迦那年輕教會建立在基督信仰的真理基礎上，特別是有關於主再來的真理，以便他們在受迫害中以及在末世的不確定中，能够把優先考慮的事情擺正，因末世是一個誘惑人向挫折屈服和妥協的時代。因此，我們今年的做法是讓聖經書卷為自己說話，挑戰我們作為教會和個人的優先定位。此外，我們將在年中插入詩篇的選集，以肯定人類最終的優先事項是敬拜我們的上帝、我們的創造者：

“來吧，我們來俯伏敬拜，在造我們的耶和華面前跪下。因為他是我們的上帝，我們是他草場上的子民，是他手下的羊群。如果你們今天聽從他的聲音，就不要硬著心。” (詩 95:6-8)

Sermon Series: Priority reset: should I care?

重設優先定位: 我該關心嗎?

Worship and spirituality are the essence of Christian life. After their return from exile from Babylon to Jerusalem, the Israelites rebuilt the temple and the city, and life soon settled down into a routine pattern of worship and religious formalities. But old habits die hard. Hidden under their superficial worship and formalities lies deep issues of doubts, apathy, negligence, arrogance and indulgence. What about us? Some of us might have been a Christian for quite some time, but have we likewise lost our zeal for the Lord, for his Word and his work? Have we slowly slipped into the slippery slope of spiritual superficiality and apathy? Has our faith gradually moved away from the center to the peripheries of life? Now is the time to reflect, rethink, reset, refocus and rebuild our spiritual and worship life.



敬拜和靈命是基督徒生活的本質。以色列人從巴比倫流亡回到耶路撒冷後，重建了聖殿和聖城，生活很快就安定下來，變成了例行的崇拜和宗教儀式。但舊習難改。在他們表面的崇拜和形式之下，隱藏著深深的懷疑、冷漠、疏忽、傲慢和放縱等問題。那我們呢？我們又如何？我們中的一些人可能已經做了很長一段時間的基督徒，但我們是否同樣失去了對

主的熱心，尤其是對他的話語和對他的工作？我們是否慢慢在屬靈裏滑下了膚淺和冷漠的斜坡？我們的信仰是否漸漸從生活的中心移到了生活的邊緣？現在正是反思、反省、重設、重新聚焦以及重建我們屬靈和敬拜生活的時候。

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|------------|--|---------------------|------------|
| 2023-01-01 | Does God still love me – show it to me? * | 上帝還愛我嗎 – 請展示給我看？* | 瑪 1:1-1:5 |
| 2023-01-08 | Do I still love God – what have I offered to him? | 我還愛上帝嗎 – 我給了他什麼？ | 瑪 1:6-2:9 |
| 2023-01-15 | <i>Special Sunday</i> : Joint anniversary & vision casting | 特別主日: 聯合週年崇拜與異象分享 | 由講員決定 |
| 2023-01-22 | <i>Special Sunday</i> : Chinese new-year celebration | 特別主日: 春節慶祝 | 由講員決定 |
| 2023-01-29 | Do I still love her – the wife of my youth? | 我還愛她嗎 – 我年輕時的妻子？ | 瑪 2:10-16 |
| 2023-02-05 | Why bother to care – if God doesn't seem to care? | 為什麼要關心 – 若上帝好像不關心？ | 瑪 2:17-3:5 |
| 2023-02-12 | Why bother to tithe – if I don't have enough? | 為什麼要十一奉獻 – 若所需的也不夠？ | 瑪 3:6-12 |
| 2023-02-19 | Why bother to serve God – if it makes no difference? | 為什麼要事奉 – 若沒有區別的話？ | 瑪 3:13-4:6 |

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Sermon Series: **Priority reset: the kingdom of heaven on earth** 重設優先定位: 「地上的天國」



Christians often think of “going” to heaven, but Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer towards the opposite direction. He taught us to pray, “your kingdom come, your will be done ‘on earth’ as it is in heaven.” We have too many misconceptions about the “kingdom of heaven.” The kingdom of heaven is not just a place to which we will ascend when we die. The kingdom of heaven is about the here and now. The kingdom of heaven should not only be a future tense, but also a present tense. Disciples should not wait for a distant future event, but go and live out

the pattern of the citizens of the kingdom of heaven here and now, allowing the values of the kingdom of heaven to radically change the way we live on earth.

Jesus walked through the hills and villages of Galilee proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven is near! Repent (Matt. 4:17)! We should also repent of our superficial, lukewarm attitude to faith and take every teaching of Jesus seriously and strive to put it into practice. There are five major blocks of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's Gospel, corresponding to the Pentateuch of the Old Testament (the five books of Moses), to show that Jesus is more than Moses. If we take these teachings on the values of the Kingdom seriously and seek to put them into practice, we will find these teachings extremely radical and challenging. They will even bring us "troubles." But perhaps the challenge is good, because these teachings of Jesus are not meant for us to be comfortable and stay in the current status. Rather, they are meant to challenge us and inspire us to live out the values of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

So let the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel challenge us to live our faith. Let us put into practice the teachings of Jesus. Let us live out the values of the kingdom of heaven on earth, here and now, and let the kingdom of heaven come to us through our practice. May the will of the Father be done on earth, and in us, as it is in heaven.

基督徒想著要「上」天堂，但耶穌教導的主禱文却是相反的方向，祂教導我們要祈求，願你的國「降臨」，願你的旨意行在「地上」，如同行在天上。我們對天國有太多的誤解，天國不單是一個我們死了以後才會去的地方。天國更是關於此時和此刻。天國不應該只是未來式，天國也應該是現在進行式。門徒們不應該只等待一個遙遠的未來事件，而是在此時此刻去活出天國子民的樣式。讓天國的價值觀來激進地改變我們在地上的生活方式。

耶穌走遍加利利的各山頭各村莊，宣告：天國近了！你們應當悔改！（太 4:17）我們也當悔改，改變我們流於表面，不冷不熱的信仰態度，認真看待耶穌的每一個教導，並且竭力去實踐出來。在馬太福音中有五大塊耶穌的教導，對應舊約的摩西五經，以顯示出耶穌超越摩西的身份。如果我們認真對待這些關於天國價值觀的教導，並且尋求實踐出來，我們會發現這些教導極其激進和富有挑戰，甚至給我們帶來許多麻煩。但或許挑戰是好的，因耶穌的教導本不是要我們安逸，停留現狀，而是要挑戰我們，激發我們去活出天國裏的價值觀。

所以，讓馬太福音裏耶穌的教導，來挑戰我們的信仰生活吧，讓我們貫徹實踐耶穌的教導吧，讓我們在此時此刻，在地上活出天國子民的樣式吧，也讓天國藉著我們對天國原則的實踐，降臨在我們當中。願父的旨意行在地上，行在我們身上，如同行在天上。

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|------------|--|------------------|------------|
| 2023-02-26 | The calling * | 門徒的呼召 * | 太 4:17-22 |
| 2023-03-05 | The beatitudes | 天國的福氣 | 太 5:1-16 |
| 2023-03-12 | The law | 勝過法利賽人的義 | 太 5:17-48 |
| 2023-03-19 | <i>Special Sunday: Mother's day</i> | 特別主日: 母親節 | 由講員決定 |
| 2023-03-26 | The righteous deeds | 行在暗中的義 | 太 6:1-18 |
| 2023-04-02 | The treasure | 天上的財寶 | 太 6:19-34 |
| 2023-04-09 | <i>Special Sunday: Easter Sunday</i> | 特別主日: 復活節 | 由講員決定 |
| 2023-04-16 | The generous Father | 賜好東西的父 | 太 7:1-12 |
| 2023-04-23 | The two choices | 非此即彼的選擇 | 太 7:13-27 |
| 2023-04-30 | The apostles | 被差遣的門徒 | 太 10:1-42 |
| 2023-05-07 | The seed | 落在何處的種子 | 太 13:1-23 |
| 2023-05-14 | The parable of the kingdom of heaven | 天國的比喻 | 太 13:24-52 |
| 2023-05-21 | The little one | 不可輕視的小弟兄 | 太 18:1-20 |
| 2023-05-28 | The forgiveness | 饒恕的次數 | 太 18:21-35 |
| 2023-06-04 | The woes | 有禍的人 | 太 23:1-39 |
| 2023-06-11 | The signs | 這世代終結的徵兆 | 太 24:1-51 |
| 2023-06-18 | <i>Special Sunday: Father's day (TNG Sunday)</i> | 特別主日: 家庭門訓 / 父親節 | 由講員決定 |
| 2023-06-25 | The ten virgins | 聰明和愚拙的童女 | 太 25:1-13 |
| 2023-07-02 | The good and faithful servant | 忠心良善的僕人 | 太 25:14-30 |

2023-07-09 The commission

交給門徒的使命

太 28:16-20

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Sermon Series: Priority reset: how can I worship the Lord? 重設優先定位: 我該如何敬拜上帝?

By understanding and recognizing the psalms in their different genres, we can learn to reset our relationship with God under different circumstances, so that we can express our worship through poetry by pouring out our hearts to God, and thereby re-establish / re-build our relationship with God.

透過認識不同文體的詩篇，讓我們學習在不同處境也能重新調整我們與上帝的關係，好讓我們能藉著向上帝傾心吐意，以詩歌表達我們的敬拜及心聲，又藉此重新建立或調節我們與上帝的關係。



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|---|-------------|-------|
| 2023-07-16 Praise the King * | 讚美大君王 * | 詩 96 |
| 2023-07-23 The joy of forgiveness of sins | 赦罪的歡樂 | 詩 32 |
| 2023-07-30 Asking God for remembrance in lament | 哀嘆中求神記念 | 詩 137 |
| 2023-08-06 From sorrow to joy | 由愁苦轉為喜樂 | 詩 13 |
| 2023-08-13 What shall I return to the Lord? | 我拿甚麼來報答耶和華? | 詩 116 |
| 2023-08-20 Hope comes from the Lord | 盼望因祢而來 | 詩 62 |

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Sermon Series: **Abraham: Faith of our father, faithfulness of our Father** 亞伯拉罕:先祖的信心，天父的信實



Paul calls Abraham the father of all who are made righteous through faith. Abraham was not a perfect man nor a role model for good behaviour – the story of Genesis traces many sins and tragedies in his life and the life of his family. But God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham, and he believed. In this series, we will follow the story of this covenant and of faithful God who is true to his promises (and reflect on the priorities of our lives).

保羅稱亞伯拉罕為一切因信稱義之人的父。亞伯拉罕不是一個完美的人，也不是一個良好行為的榜樣 – 《創世記》的故事追溯了他和他的家庭生活中許多的罪惡和悲劇。但上帝與亞伯拉罕立了永遠的約，而他就信了。在這個系列中，我們將跟踪這個契約的故事，以及忠於他的承諾的、信實的上帝（並反思我們生命中的優先定位）。

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|------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2023-08-27 | Abram and Lot separate * | 亞伯蘭與羅得分開 * | 創 13 |
| 2023-09-03 | Abram rescues Lot | 亞伯蘭拯救羅得 | 創 14 |
| 2023-09-10 | God's covenant with Abraham | 上帝與亞伯拉罕立約 | 創 15 |
| 2023-09-17 | The covenant of circumcision | 割禮之約 | 創 17 |
| 2023-09-24 | The promise of a child | 得兒子的承諾 (中秋節 / 佈道) | 創 18:1-15 |
| 2023-10-01 | Sodom and Gomorrah | 所多瑪與蛾摩拉 | 創 18:16-19:38 |

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|------------|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 2023-10-08 | Sarah and the two kings | 撒拉與兩王 | 創 12:10-20, 20:1-18 |
| 2023-10-15 | Abraham tested | 亞伯拉罕的考驗 | 創 21:1-7, 22:1-19 |
| 2023-10-22 | Hagar and Ishmael | 夏甲與以實瑪利 | 創 16, 21:8-21 |
| 2023-10-29 | The death of Sarah | 撒拉之死 | 創 22:20-23:20 |

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Sermon Series: *Special Mission Series* 特別差傳講道系列 (from 由 2023-11-5 to 至 2023-11-26)

Sermon Series: Priority reset: church in end times

重設優先定位: 處於末世的教會

Paul, Silas, and Timothy travelled to Thessalonica² to proclaim the coming of the Messiah at the Jewish synagogue in that city (Acts 17:3). A “great many of the devout Greeks” and “leading women” believed (Acts 17:4), but the Jewish leaders of the synagogue became jealous (Acts 17:3), and Paul and his companions were kicked out of the city. After a few months they could “bear it no longer” (1 Thess. 3:1), and Timothy was sent to Thessalonica to encourage the young church. Although the text is rather brief, Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians is one of the most positive, and the message spans “all tenses of salvation” – after he reminds the Thessalonians of how they turned from the past to the present, the apostle admonishes them to live *in the present for the future* when Christ will definitively return. The consummate reminder of Christ’s return, however, is not just a piece of information for the future, but to transform their lives in the present. We are very much in need of such advice in order to make “best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16). In view of Jesus’ return, what should the priorities of our church and our lives be?

² In Paul’s second missionary journey. 在保羅的第二次傳教旅程中。

保羅、西拉和提摩太來到帖撒羅尼迦，在那裏的猶太會堂宣告彌賽亞的降臨(徒 17:3)。“一大群虔誠的希臘人”和“不少顯要的婦女”都信了(徒 17:4)，但卻導致猶太會堂首領的嫉妒(徒 17:5)，把保羅和他的同伴趕了出城。幾個月後，他們“不能再忍下去”(帖前 3:1)，於是派提摩太往帖撒羅尼迦去，勉勵那年輕的教會。雖然文本相當簡短，但保羅給帖撒羅尼迦人的第一封信是最積極的，信息跨越了救贖的“所有時態” – 在提醒帖撒羅尼迦人如何從過去轉向現在之後，使徒保羅告誡他們要「為未來活在現在」，準備迎接基督肯定再來的時候。留意保羅對基督再來的提醒，不僅是要給他們一個關於未來的信息而已，而是要改變他們現在的生活。我們也非常需要這樣的提醒，以致我們能“把握時機，因為這時代邪惡”(弗 5:15-16)。鑒於耶穌的再來，我們的教會以及我們的生活該優先考慮什麼呢？

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|------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 2023-12-03 | Priorities of church leaders * | 教會領袖的優先事項 * | 帖前 1:1-2:13 |
| 2023-12-10 | Expectations for the church: take a stand | 對教會的期望: 站穩立場 | 帖前 2:14-3:13 |
| 2023-12-17 | Straight talk about holiness | 直談聖潔 | 帖前 4:1-12 |
| 2023-12-24 | Straight talk about Jesus' return | 直談主再來 | 帖前 4:13-5:11 |
| 2023-12-31 | Straight talk about congregational conduct | 直談會眾行為 | 帖前 5:12-28 |

* Note: 備註: all these titles are tentative *for preachers' use only*; chairpersons should consult with the preacher in order to obtain the actual sermon title for the week. 所有標題均是暫時的，只供講道同工使用；崇拜主席應與當週講道同工聯繫，以獲得那週的實際講道標題。

