

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

We admit that there are many things in this world that we cannot explain. For example, someone escaped from a major disaster when others perished. Christians use the term “providence” to describe that God has a purpose we cannot comprehend for now. A few weeks ago, an aircraft crashed in Pakistan. Of the 97 people on board, only 2 persons survived. One of them crawled out from the wreckage on his own effort. He was then taken to a hospital. “I’m very thankful to Allah for granting me a second life,” he later commented. “It is a miracle.” He was convinced that the god he believes saved him. What about those who practiced the same religion but died? Others may attribute the result to fate or luck. The Bible tells us that there is no such thing as fate or luck. Our Almighty God is sovereign over all things. He allows everything to happen according to His timing to achieve His plan. God’s providence is the evidence of His promises. In our study today, we restrict the scope of providence to God’s salvation of His children. In God’s providential scheme, He chose us, He protects us and He loves us to the end.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 神的揀選 God’s Election (v. 28-30)

First of all, Paul tells us that God’s providence is evident in His election of His children. In this context, “election” is not about casting votes to pick government officials. Theologians use the term to apply to God’s choosing of those He intends to save. Let us look at **verse 30**: And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. We see a progression here: predestined, called, justified and glorified. Bible scholars describe the sequence as a “golden chain.” Those God predestined to save will eventually be admitted to His eternal glory. We encounter the question of fairness whenever we discuss the truth of predestination. If God only decides to save some people, then the rest will be condemned forever. We will address that in a moment. Notice that it is God who chose us, not we choose Him. The Bible never tells us based on what criteria God makes His decision. In Romans chapter 3, Paul quotes the psalms to illustrate that there is no righteous person and no one shows interest in God’s truth. We are all born-sinners who fall short of God’s glory. Then we ask: when did God decide who to save? **Ephesians 1:4-6** give us the answer: 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. God chose us before He created the universe! Yes, that was before we even existed. It is completely out of God’s desire. He did so for the sake of His own glory. I said it before and I will say it again: if the truth of predestination cannot humble us, then nothing will. God chose you not because you are smarter or richer. We can only praise God for His mercy. Coming back to Romans 8. With the topic of election still in our mind, we now look at **verses 28-29**: 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Many believers love verse 28. I do too.

It is comforting to know that God has His purpose in our circumstances to accomplish His plans for us. We see many examples of that in the Bible. Here, Paul zooms in to God's sovereign will in our salvation. God will use His means to lead those He had elected to the path of salvation. Some of you became believers when you came to this country. Perhaps God brought you to a Christian friend or classmate. As you look back, you can somehow see His hands guiding you. Then in verse 29, Paul tells us one reason why God saves us. It is for us to imitate after His Son. Through our life experience, God molds and trains us to be more like Christ. Even when we encounter adversities, God teaches us to be humble and patient, and to depend on Him like Christ did. Now let us examine this question about fairness in God's election. You may be disappointed to know that the Bible never teaches us about God's fairness. If we truly want to fight for equality, then we will all end up in hell. No one deserves God's grace. If God does not awaken our souls, no one can be saved. Many people reject God even when they clearly witnessed God's work. The Pharaoh in Exodus, those sinners Paul describes in Romans chapter 1 and some future people in Revelation belong to that category. The doctrine of election should not give Christians an excuse for not sharing the gospel. We cannot say: "Since God had determined who will be saved, then I do not need to tell people about Jesus." God accomplishes His plans through our participation. You still have to apply for jobs and prepare for interviews even though God has reserved a position somewhere for you. We simply do not know whom God had elected. Therefore, we should be diligent in our evangelistic effort. It is an utmost honor to be involved in God's work. God will reward our faithfulness. We do not sit idly to wait for God's plan to unfold. Life is an exciting exploration to discover God's will for us.

## 2. 神的保護 God's Protection (v. 31-34)

We are saved because of God's election. Paul then reassures us that those who are saved will continue to go under God's protection till we see Him. From verses 31 to 34, Paul uses legal terminology to explain this truth. Through a series of rhetorical questions, Paul affirms that God will vindicate those who belong to Him. Let us do a side-by-side comparison. In **verse 31**, we see "who can be against us?" Paul's response is "God is for us." In **verse 33**, Paul asks "who can bring any charge?" The answer is "it is God who justifies." Finally, in **verse 34**, Paul inquires "Who is he that condemns?" No one can because "Christ Jesus, died, was raised to life and is now at the right hand of God interceding for us." Paul echoes what he states in verse 1 that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. We have full confidence that we will not be judged. Jesus died for our sins. Those who are in Christ are justified the moment they receive Him. Jesus promised us in **John 10:27-28** – "27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." What an assurance we have in Christ! No greater power is able to steal the Lord's sheep from His hands. But here lie some direct proofs of those who belong to Jesus. Brothers and sisters: do you listen to the voice of the Great Shepherd? Do you follow His guidance? Do you treat the Bible as the only user manual for your life, or is it just one option among many? Jesus will be our defense attorney in the heavenly court. But who will be our prosecutor? We can think of Satan. The name means an adversary. Another name for Satan is the devil, which means a slanderer. That sums up the nature and work of Satan. He cannot wait to indict us when we stumble in sins: "How pathetic! You did the same thing again. You should be ashamed of yourself." Sometimes we may be confused between the voice of Satan and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Doesn't the Holy Spirit convict us too when we sin? A huge

difference is their intent. Satan wants to fool us into believing that we are hopeless. His goal is to defeat us and drag us away from God. However, the Holy Spirit brings us back to God. His conviction causes grief in our hearts and urges us to repent. If we cherish God's love for us, then we will not allow sins to hinder our fellowship with God. When we stand up again, we understand that we cannot win the spiritual warfare without God's empowerment. Therefore, Satan's purpose is to tear us down, while God's goal is to build us up. Jesus will protect us. He is on the right-hand side of God to plea for our case. If even Jesus will not condemn us, then no one can. Paul puts it this way in **verse 32**: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Paul is not saying that God will fulfill all of our wishes like Santa Claus. We have to interpret the “all things” in the right context. Since our Heavenly Father is not stingy to give us even His own Son to die for us, He will be generous to give us “all things” we need to protect us in our salvation. In fact, we have the Holy Spirit inside us to be our constant help. When Jesus saves us, He has given us all that we need to live a victorious life. We should feel secure in God's protection. Once we are saved, we will be forever saved. Nothing will change our destiny. Even when we commit sins, it is God's teaching moment to remind us that we cannot rely on our strength. However, God's protection should never be a license for our complacency. Some Christians may think that they have punched their tickets to heaven. They can just take it easy and wait in line. A common misconception is that our eternal life begins when we get to heaven. The Bible clearly tells us that our eternal life starts from the moment we receive Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells in us to take over the ownership. We should not lavish God's grace for ourselves. God will continue to bless us with many good things. But God intends to use us as a channel to bless others too.

### 3. 神的慈愛 God's Affection (v. 35-39)

God's providence is evident in His election and protection. Sometimes, we may not feel that God is as close when we face life challenges. But Paul assures us that God's providence is also evident in His affection toward us. We see similar expressions in verses 35 and 39. Paul posts a question in **verse 35**: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” He then concludes in **verse 39**: “(Nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God.” One usage for the verb “separate” is in a divorce. Paul uses such a strong word to tell us that there is no factor that can sever God's love from His children. Verses 35 and 39 serve as a pair of bookends to sandwich some possible causes that may separate God's love from us. Let us look at the second half of **verse 35**: ... Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Those are some adverse situations a believer may suffer for witnessing about Christ. Paul testifies in **2 Corinthians 11:26-27** that he experienced all of them: 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. God's love was with Paul even in those difficulties. God protected Paul until he finally faced the “sword” when he was martyred for his faith. Paul concludes in **verse 37** of the Roman passage that: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Paul does not say that we will barely survive through the storms. We will triumph. Have you seen people surfing in the sea on TV? I am not a competent swimmer. I would rather sit on the sand to enjoy the sun and breeze if I see big waves. Not the surfers! The greater the crashes the

bigger the fun. They overcome the water by riding on a board and gliding through the breakers. In Christ, God enables us to be conquerors when challenges come. Very often, we feel the affection of God when the heat is turned up. Most of us will never experience similar religious persecution Paul or Christians in other parts of the world encounter. We may think every person here in the south is a believer. We will face an antagonistic environment when we practice Biblical values in schools and in work-places. Satan will use every weapon to attack us. In **verses 38-39**, Paul continues to tell us the sources of the hostile force that Christians counteract: 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Satan is the prince of the dark kingdom. He influences the world through those who do not believe in God. He uses politicians, judges and lawyers to spread injustice and immorality. They label Christians as narrow-minded, intolerant and outdated. Satan uses the entertainment industry to advocate for ungodly values and behaviors. He destroys families, alienates human relationships and promotes various forms of indulgences. The world tells us that we only live once, and so why not enjoy ourselves when there are opportunities? Any secular influence ultimately comes from the same spiritual power source. Satan attacks our society, culture and family values. But he can never prevail over God's power in us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Any confrontation that we meet is a test of our love for God. Does your faith look like elegant plates in your china cabinet? They look nice, but you will never use them. Do you hide your relationship with Jesus in a safe-deposit box that no one can tell you have such a treasure in you? No! Christianity should be like utensils and tools for daily use. You will not feel bad if the pots and pans in your kitchen have scratches and dents. Our faith should be put to test regularly to show that it is true and relevant to our lives. Only by doing so, our faith will continue to grow.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

God's providence is the evidence of His promises. God is sovereign in His election, His protection and His affection. God's love lasts forever to those He had decided to love. Let me conclude with a true story. One day Arnold found a wallet by a side-walk. There was an old letter inside dated sixty years ago. It was written on an elegant paper. Someone named Hannah sent the letter to Michael explaining that her mom would not allow her to see him anymore. Arnold then called the phone company to see if someone could track down Hannah by the return address on the envelope. It turned out that Hannah had moved away thirty years ago. But the current home owner remembered that Hannah planned to move her mom to a local nursing home. That was where Arnold went to next. After so many years, Hannah actually became a tenant in the facility. Her memory came back instantly when she saw the letter. "I loved Michael very much. But I was only sixteen at the time and my mother felt I was too young." she said. "If you should find him, tell him I think of him often." Hannah continued, "Tell him I still love him. I never did marry." Arnold felt good that at least he found out the story behind the letter. As he left the building, a guard asked him how everything went. The man saw Arnold holding the wallet in his hands. "Wait a minute." The guard said, "That's Mr. Goldstein's wallet. He drops it all the time. I found it in the hallway at least three times." Michael and Hannah actually lived in the same building! Then Arnold went to Michael's room to return the wallet. He told Michael that he had read the letter and he actually knew where Hannah was. Michael asked shockingly: "Could you tell me where she is? I want to call her tomorrow. I was so in love with that girl that

when that letter came, my life literally ended. I never married. I guess I've always loved her." Arnold then took Michael to see Hannah. After such a long wait, these two lovers finally got married. But sixty years is nothing in God's time-table. He had planned before He created the world to bestow His love to His children. Those whom God loves; He will love them to the end.

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我們承認，這個世界上有很多事情是我們無法解釋的。例如，在重大災難中有許多人喪失，但是卻有部份人生還。基督徒使用「神的眷佑」來描述神的心意是我們暫停無法理解的。幾週前，一架飛機在巴基斯坦墜毀。在飛機上的 97 人中，只有 2 人倖存。其中一個人是靠自己的努力從殘骸中爬出來的。然後，他被送往醫院。事後他來分享說：「我非常感謝阿拉給我第二條生命。這是一個奇蹟。」他確信自己相信的神明救了他。那些信奉同樣宗教卻失去生命的人呢？其他人則可能將結果歸因於命運或運氣。聖經告訴我們，沒有命運或運氣。我們的全能神對萬事有祂的主權。祂允許一切事情按照祂的時間來發生以成就祂的計劃。神的眷佑是祂應許的證明。在今天的學習中，我們將神的眷佑的範圍限制於祂兒女的救恩。在神的眷佑中，祂揀選我們，保護我們，並且愛我們直到永遠。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 神的揀選 God's Election (v. 28-30)

首先，保羅告訴我們，神對祂子民的眷佑是顯明在祂的揀選。在我們的討論中，英文“election”這個字並不指投票選舉政府官員。神學家使用這個詞來表示神對祂打算拯救的人的選擇。讓我們看第 30 節：**預先所定下的人又召他們來；所召來的人又稱他們為義；所稱為義的人又叫他們得榮耀。**我們在這節經文看到一個進展：定下、呼召、稱義和得榮耀。聖經學者形容這個過程為「金鍊子」。那些神預定要拯救的人最終必然會進入永恆的榮耀裡。每當我們討論預定論的真理時，都會遇到公平這個問題。如果神只決定拯救一些人，那麼其餘的將永遠沉淪。我們稍後會處理這個疑問。請注意，是神選擇我們，而不是我們選擇祂。聖經從來沒有告訴我們神揀選的標準。保羅在羅馬書第 3 章中引用詩篇來說明世上沒有一個義人，也沒有人自然對神的真理產生興趣的。我們都是天生的罪人，虧缺神的榮耀。然後我們問：神什麼時候決定要救誰？以弗所書 1:4-6 給了我們答案：**4 就如神從創立世界以前，在基督裡揀選了我們，使我們在他面前成為聖潔，無有瑕疵；5 又因愛我們，就按著自己意旨所喜悅的，預定我們藉著耶穌基督得兒子的名分，6 使他榮耀的恩典得著稱讚；這恩典是他在愛子裡所賜給我們的。**神在創造宇宙之前就揀選了我們！是的，那是在我們還沒有存在之前。這完全出於神的心意。祂這樣做是為了自己的榮耀。我之前說過，我現在再說一遍：如果預定這個真理不能使我們謙卑下來，那麼什麼也不會。神揀選你不是因為你比別人更聰明或更富有。我們只能讚美神的憐憫。回到羅馬書第 8 章。我們仍然在揀選這個課題中，現在我們來看第 28-29 節：**28 我們曉得萬事都互相效力，叫愛神的人得益處，就是按他旨意被召的人。29 因為他預先所知道的人，就預先定下效法他兒子的模樣，使他兒子在許多弟兄中作長子。**許多信徒都喜歡第 28 節。我也是。神藉著我們的遭遇來完成祂對我們的計劃，這一點令人欣慰。我們在聖經中看到許多這樣的例子。在這裡，保羅集中來看神在救贖中的主權。神會透過祂的方法帶領那些祂所揀選的人得救。我們當中有些人是來到這個國家時成為信徒的。也許神安排一個基督徒朋友或同學帶你信主。當你回頭看時，你看到神的手以某種方式引導你。然後在第 29 節

中，保羅告訴我們神拯救我們的原因之一。祂要我們效法祂兒子的樣式。通過我們的生活經歷，神塑造和訓練我們更像基督。即使我們遇到逆境，神教導我們要謙卑有耐心，像基督一樣地依靠祂。現在，我們來探討一下有關神揀選的公平性質的問題。你可能會感到失望，因為聖經從未教導我們有關神的公平。如果我們真的想爭取平等的話，那麼我們所有人都應該下地獄。因為沒有人配得神的恩典。如果神不喚醒我們的靈魂，就沒有人能得救。許多人即使清楚地看到神的作為，也拒絕神。出埃及記中的法老，保羅在羅馬書第 1 章中描述的那些罪人，啟示錄中的一些未來的人都屬於這一類。揀選這個真理不應給基督徒藉口不去傳福音。我們不能說：「既然神早已定好誰會得救，那麼我就不必向人們介紹耶穌了。」神通過我們的參與來完成祂的計劃。即使你確信神已經為你保留了某個職位，你仍然必須申請工作並準備面試。我們無法知道神揀選了誰。因此，我們應該努力傳福音。參與神的工作是最大的榮幸。神會獎勵我們的忠心。我們不要袖手旁觀，等待神的計劃實現。生命是很精彩的探索旅程，發掘神對我們的心意。

## 2. 神的保護 God's Protection (v. 31-34)

我們因著神的揀選而得救。保羅然後向我們保證，那些已經得救的人將繼續受到神的保護，直到我們見主面的時候。從第 31 至 34 節，保羅使用法律術語來解釋這個真理。保羅通過一系列的反問句，肯定了神會為那些屬於祂的人辯護。讓我們進行並排比較。在第 31 節中，我們看到「誰能敵擋我們呢？」保羅的回應是「神若幫助我們」。在第 33 節中，保羅問：「誰能控告神所揀選的人呢？」答案是「有神稱他們為義了」。最後，在第 34 節中，保羅詢問「誰能定他們的罪呢？」沒有人能，因為「有基督耶穌已經死了，而且從死裡復活，現今在神的右邊，也替我們祈求」。保羅呼應他在第 1 節中所說的，那些在基督裡的人就不被定罪了。我們有確據不會面對審判。耶穌為我們的罪而死。我們接受基督的那一刻，那些在祂裡面的人就被稱義。耶穌在約翰福音 10:27-28 中應許我們 - 27 「我的羊聽我的聲音，我也認識他們，他們也跟著我。28 我又賜給他們永生；他們永不滅亡，誰也不能從我手裡把他們奪去。」我們在基督裡有那麼確實的保證！沒有更大的能力能夠從神的手中偷走祂的羊。但是，這裡有一些直接的證據證明那些人是屬於耶穌的。弟兄姐妹：你聽從大牧人的聲音嗎？你遵循祂的指引嗎？你是否將聖經視為唯一的人生指南，還是它只是其中的一種選擇而且？耶穌將是我們在天庭的辯護律師。但是誰是我們的檢察官？我們可以想到撒但。他名字的意思就是死對頭。撒但的另一個名字是魔鬼，意思是毀謗者。兩個名稱總結了撒但的本質和工作。當我們犯罪跌倒時，他迫不及待地控告我們：「看你這個可憐蟲！你又犯同樣的罪。你應該為自己感到羞恥。」有時，我們可能把撒但的聲音和聖靈的提醒弄混。當我們犯罪時，聖靈不也是責備我們嗎？但是他們兩者的目的有巨大的差異。撒但要愚弄我們，以為我們沒有希望。他的目標是打倒我們並使我們遠離神。但是，聖靈將我們帶回神面前。祂的責備使我們感到悲傷，並趨促我們悔改。如果我們珍惜神對我們的愛，那麼我們就不會讓罪阻礙我們與神的交誼。當我們再次站起來時，我們就會明白，如果沒有神的加力，我們是無法在屬靈戰爭中得勝。因此，撒但的目的是要拆毀我們，而神的目的是要建立我們。耶穌會保護我們。祂站在神的右邊，為我們辯護。如果連耶穌都不會定我們的罪，那麼沒有人可以。保羅在第 32 節中這樣說：神既不愛惜自己的兒子，為我們眾人捨了，豈不也把萬物和他一同白白的賜給我們嗎？保羅並不是說神會像聖誕老人一樣實現我們所有的願望。我們必須正確了解「萬物」的界線。既

然天父毫不吝嗇地讓祂的兒子為我們而死，祂豈不是會慷慨地給我們需要的「萬物」來保護我們的救恩嗎？實際上，我們內心深處有聖靈成為我們時刻的幫助。耶穌救了我們之後，祂就賜給我們過得勝生活所需的一切。我們應該對神的保護感到放心。我們一但得救，就永遠得救。沒有任何因素會改變我們的結局。即使我們犯罪，也是神的教導時刻，祂提醒我們不能靠自己。但是，我們不能把神的保護成為貪圖安逸的藉口。一些基督徒認為他們已經拿到了天堂的門票。他們可以放輕鬆排隊等候。一個普遍的誤解是，當我們到達天堂時，我們的永生才開始。但是聖經清楚地告訴我們，我們的永生是從接受基督的那一刻開始。聖靈住在我們裡面來接管生命的擁有權。我們不應該浪費神的恩典。神會繼續祝福我們許多美好的事物。但是神要使用我們成為祝福他人的管道。

### 3. 神的慈愛 God's Affection (v. 35-39)

神的眷佑在祂的揀選和保護中顯而易見。但有時，當我們面對生活挑戰時，我們可能不會感覺到神如此靠近。但是保羅向我們保證，神的眷佑也顯明在祂的慈愛中。我們在第 35 和 39 節中看到了類似的描述。保羅在第 35 節中提出了一個問題：「誰能使我們與基督的愛隔絕呢？」然後他在第 39 節中總結道：「(任何因素) 都不能叫我們與神的愛隔絕」。「隔絕」這個詞語的一個應用是離婚。保羅使用那麼強烈的形容來告訴我們，沒有任何因素可以割斷神對祂兒女的愛。第 35 和 39 節彷彿一對書夾，將可能使神的愛與我們分開的原因放在中間。讓我們看看第 35 節的後半部分：...難道是患難嗎？是困苦嗎？是逼迫嗎？是飢餓嗎？是赤身露體嗎？是危險嗎？是刀劍嗎？那是一些信徒因為見證基督可能會遭受的痛苦。保羅在哥林多後書 11:26-27 中作證說他經歷了所有這些情況：26 又屢次行遠路，遭江河的危險、盜賊的危險，同族的危險、外邦人的危險、城裡的危險、曠野的危險、海中的危險、假弟兄的危險。27 受勞碌、受困苦，多次不得睡，又飢又渴，多次不得食，受寒冷，赤身露體。就算在那些困難中，神的愛也與保羅同在。神保護了保羅，直到他因信仰最終面對「刀劍」而殉道。保羅在羅馬書經文的第 37 節中得出結論：然而，靠著愛我們的主，在這一切的事上已經得勝有餘了。保羅不是說我們在風浪中僅僅生存而已。我們乃是會得勝。你看過電視上人們滑浪的鏡頭嗎？我不太會游泳。如果看到大浪，我寧願坐在沙灘上享受陽光和微風。喜歡衝浪的人卻不是那樣！浪越大，樂趣就越大。他們踩在滑浪板上滑過波浪。在基督裡，當挑戰來臨時，神使我們成為得勝的人。很多時候，當壓力越大時，我們越會感受到神的愛。我們大多數人永遠不會遇到保羅或世界其他地方信徒所遭到的宗教迫害。我們可能以為在美國南部每個人都是信徒。當我們在學校和工作場所實踐聖經價值觀時，我們可能會碰到對立的情形。撒但會使用一切武器來攻擊我們。保羅繼續在第 38-39 節告訴我們基督徒敵對力量的來源：38 因為我深信無論是死，是生，是天使，是掌權的，是有能的，是現在的事，是將來的事，39 是高處的，是低處的，是別的受造之物，都不能叫我們與神的愛隔絕；這愛是在我們的主基督耶穌裡的。撒但是黑暗之王。他通過不信神的人影響世界。他利用政客、法官和律師來傳播不公正和不道德行為。他們稱基督徒為心胸狹窄、不寬容別人的思想和過時。撒但利用娛樂界來提倡不道德的價值觀和行為。他破壞家庭、疏遠人際關係並推動各種形式的放縱。這個世界告訴我們，我們只能活一次，為什麼不趁機會享受一下呢？任何世俗的影響最終都來自同一個屬靈力量。撒但攻擊我們的社會、文化和家庭價值觀。但是他永遠無法戰勝神在我們裡面的能力。沒有什麼能使我們與神的愛隔絕。我們遇到的各種對抗都考驗我們對神的愛。

你的信心看起來像櫃子裡精美的盤子嗎？它們看起來很漂亮，但是你永遠捨不得使用它們。你是否將你與耶穌的關係像寶貝一樣藏在保險箱中？這是不對的！基督信仰應該像日常使用的器具。如果廚房的鍋子刮到或撞到，你不會覺得心痛。我們的信仰應時刻接受考驗，以表明它是真實的，並且與我們的生活息息相關。只有這樣，我們的信心才能繼續增長。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

神的眷佑是祂應許的證明。神的主權顯明在祂的揀選、保護和慈愛中。神的愛永遠長存在祂決定愛的人身上。讓我以一個真實的故事作總結。有一天，阿諾 (Arnold) 在人行道上發現了一個錢包。裡面有一封六十年前的舊信，是寫在一張優雅的信紙上的。一位名叫哈拿 (Hannah) 的女孩寫信給邁克爾 (Michael)，她解釋說媽媽不再允許他們見面。然後，阿諾致電電話公司，看看是否可以通過信封上的寄信人地址追蹤哈拿。原來，哈拿三十年前已經搬走了。但是現在的屋主記得哈拿計劃將媽媽搬到當地的養老院。於是阿諾就去了那地方。這麼多年過後，哈拿實際上成為了該設施的住客。當她看到這封信時，她的記憶立刻恢復了。她說：「我非常愛邁克爾。但是當時我只有 16 歲，媽媽覺得我太年輕。如果你找到他，請告訴他我經常想到他。」哈拿繼續說：「告訴他，我仍然愛他。我從來沒有結婚。」阿諾感到很滿意，至少他明白這封信背後的故事。當他離開大樓時，一名警衛問他一切進展如何。然後他注意到阿諾手裡拿著錢包。警衛說：「等一下。那是戈德斯坦 (Goldstein) 先生的錢包。他常常把東西到處丟。我至少在走廊上發現了三遍。」邁克爾和哈拿實際上住在同一棟樓裡！阿諾便到邁克爾的房間歸還錢包。他告訴邁克爾，他讀過那封信，而且他知道哈拿在哪裡。邁克爾震驚地問：「你能告訴我她在哪裡嗎？我想明天打電話給她。我很愛那個女孩，因此我收到那封信之後，我感覺到生命從此結束了。我沒有結過婚。我想我一直愛她。」然後，阿諾帶邁克爾去看了哈拿。經過漫長的等待，這兩個戀人終於結婚了。但是六十年在神的時間表中算不上什麼。祂在創造世界之前就已計劃好去愛祂的兒女。神所愛的人，祂會愛他們到底。