

Year of Yes #1
Yes to Pilgrimage
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NianFu

Of all the places you could be today, you are here. Of all the times on the timeline you could have existed, you are here. This isn't the only place you've ever been and this isn't the only time you've ever been alive - but this place and this moment are the most important because you can't change what's happened and you can't jump ahead and fix the future. We are people on a pilgrimage - moving through the days of our lives, dealing with all the things coming at us, intersecting with other travelers along the way, trying to make a difference with the days we've been given. But today, we are right here. Always moving because we can't stop time, but also right here. (Pilgrimage is a long game.)

你今天本來可以去那麼多地方，但你卻在這裡。時間線上有那麼多時間你可以存在，你卻在這裡。這不是你唯一去過的地方，這不是你唯一活過的時間，但這個地方和這一刻是最重要的，因為你不能改變已經發生的事情，你不能跳過去並改變未來。我們是朝聖之旅的人——走過我們生命中的每一天，處理所有發生在我們身上的事情，與沿途的其他旅行者相交，試圖在我們被賦予的日子裡有所作為。但是今天，我們就在這裡。總是在變化，因為我們無法停止時間，也就在這裡。(朝聖是一個漫長的過程。)

To launch into a new year, I want to turn to an old letter. It's just small one, but I love it more than any of the other letters because it seems that every single sentence brims over with love and power and wisdom. (Colossae - a populous city, wealthy, famous for its wool trade. Smallest of three cities in the Lycus Valley - about 12 miles from Laodicea and Paul is writing to both churches. Church probably founded by Epaphras. Philemon was also a part of the church. Colossae was destroyed by an earthquake the early 60's AD - about two years after Paul's letter. Set to be excavated.) In Paul's letter to the Colossians, you can almost feel Paul's heart toward their pilgrimage flowing from his pen. He wants them to understand two things: Who Jesus is and who they are to Him and to their world.

新年伊始，我想翻閱一封舊信。這只是一封小信，但我比其他任何一封信都更喜歡它，因為似乎每一句話都充滿了愛、力量和智慧。(歌羅西- 一個人口稠密的城市，富裕，以羊毛貿易而聞名。利加斯山谷的三個城市中最小的一個- 距離老底嘉約12英里，保羅正在寫信給兩個教會。教會可能是由以巴弗建立的。腓利門也是歌羅西教堂在公元60年代初期被地震摧毀，大約在保羅寫信兩年後。即將被挖掘。)在保羅寫給歌羅西人的信中，你幾乎可以感受到保羅對他們朝聖的心從他的筆下流淌出來。他希望他們明白兩件事：耶穌是誰，以及他們對他和他們的世界是誰。

And the thing is: They KNOW who Jesus is. They are living within reach of his actual life. They know eye witnesses or were eye witnesses. They are no strangers to his

amazing story and they are truly impressed with it. I mean...aren't most people? The life of Jesus is so stunning that few people I've known have ever been able to hear the story and ..."meh. Not that impressive." Most people who hear the REAL story of Jesus know they are dealing with someone remarkably great. But often they line him up with others who seem equally great - buddha, Moses out of history and then probably a few they know personally who they consider to be stellar and self-sacrificial. It's easy to see Jesus as impressive but not see him as omnipotent. This is where we find Paul's audience in Colosse. They believe Jesus was great, but they have a pocketful of other cosmic forces that they see as also-great, also-powerful, also-divine.

Paul writes to them to encourage them to re-discover the singular message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that stands alone and uncontested and to help them see how that discovery could look in their lives and in their world as they make their way through the days they've been given in the places to which they are called.

Paul, I believe, writes to us as well today. To remind us: No one else died for you and no one else is coming for you. Listen to this verse out of the heart of this letter (read from the Message, because the language is so letter-like):

事實是：他們知道耶穌是誰。他們的生活觸手可及。他們認識目擊者或曾經是目擊者。他們對他的精彩故事並不陌生，並且給他們留下了深刻的印象。我的意思是.....大多數人不都是這樣嗎？耶穌的生命是如此令人驚嘆，以至於我認識的人很少能夠聽過這個故事...

「嗯。沒那麼令人印象深刻。」大多數聽過耶穌真實故事的人都知道他們面對的是一個非常偉大的人。但他們常常將他與其他看起來同樣偉大的人聯繫起來——佛陀、歷史上的摩西，然後可能還有一些他們認為自己認識的人傑出且具有自我犧牲精神。人們很容易認為耶穌令人印象深刻，但不認為祂是無所不能的。這就是我們在歌羅西找到保羅聽眾的地方。他們相信耶穌是偉大的，但他們也認為還有其他宇宙力量 -偉大的，也強大的，也神聖的。

保羅寫信給他們，鼓勵他們重新發現耶穌基督福音的獨特信息，這是獨一無二的、無可爭議的，並幫助他們了解這一發現在他們的生活和世界中如何看待他們的生活和世界。他們在被召喚到的地方得到的天數。我相信保羅今天也寫信給我們。提醒我們：沒有人為你而死，也沒有人為你而來。從這封信的核心中聆聽這節經文（從訊息中讀出，因為語言非常像信件）：

But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message, careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message - just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message. Colossians 1:22-23

但如今他藉著基督的肉身受死，叫你們與自己和好，都成了聖潔，沒有瑕疵，無可責備，把你們引到自己面前。應當穩固不離開福音的盼望 **23** 只要你們在所信的道上恆心，根基穩固，堅定不移，不致被引動失去福音的盼望。這福音就是你們所聽過的，也是傳於普天下萬人

聽的。我保羅也做了這福音的執事。
歌羅西書 1:22-23

There is no other message. Paul is working to root us in this truth throughout the letter of Colossians - he lays out a case for **Who Jesus is to us** and **Who we are to Him**. So understanding Paul's purpose, I want to back up to the very first few sentences of this letter. The introduction. (Be careful not to overlook the introductions - they set the tone for not just WHAT will be communicated, but also the WAY the writer wants it to be read.)

沒有其他消息了。保羅在歌羅西書信中努力讓我們紮根於這個真理——他闡述了耶穌對我們來說是誰以及我們對他來說是誰。因此，在了解保羅的目的後，我想支持這封信的前幾句話。簡介。（注意不要忽略引言——它們不僅為將要傳達的內容定下基調，還為作者希望的閱讀方式定下基調。）

Skye

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father. Colossians 1:1-2 (NIV)

I, Paul, have been sent on special assignment by Christ as part of God's master plan. Together with my friend Timothy, I greet the Christians and stalwart followers of Christ who live in Colosse. May everything good from God our Father be yours! Colossians 1:1-2

Paul launches with love. He's about to tell them about the power of God and some of the corrections they need to make in order to live whole and free lives in their world, but he starts with the love of God. Grace and peace to you. As people on a pilgrimage, we are such a gift when we lead with love. When we sow love like seeds along the roadside on our journey. That's how Paul leads us. That's how Jesus leads us. That's how we should move through life as well.

Paul gives them two labels - two distinct name tags - in this opening and they are really important. They are also our name tags as well, even though they'll read a bit differently.

He says, " I greet the Christians and stalwart followers..

**OF Christ
IN Colosse**

These four words distinctly mark the journey that they are on.

They are *of Christ* - they wear His name, they're bought by his blood, they subscribe to this One Message - but they also live *IN Colosse* - where there are many messages flying through every single day of their existence.

They are of Christ, where mercy flows and love is rich and hope is abundant. But they are in Colosse where people are mean and violence is common and work is hard.

They are of Christ, where love is the fuel of all action, but in Colosse where life is a zero sum game and only the strong survive.

And we are living in the same tension. Of Christ - within reach of His goodness and truth but in Beaverton or Lake Oswego or Tigard or Hillsboro - where homelessness and hatred and heartache roam our streets. **We live in the intersection of God's delight and the world's despair.**

We are *of Christ*, but *in Beaverton*. We are of Christ, but in Nike. Of Christ, but in Southridge High School. And this is a tension, yes, but it is also a remarkable privilege. It is our great joy to people who are both **Of and In**.

In order to be people who bring the substance of Christ into the places we are called, we have to know what that means. What does it mean to be OF Christ? Is it a decision I made or a prayer I prayed or a list of rules or desired behaviors?

1. We are people at peace with God

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation - if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. Colossians 1:19-21

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Colossians 3:15

This is not to say we don't face anxiety over bills or diagnoses or relationships - but we are at peace with God and we are resources by His spirit to live at peace with one another, even when it seems really difficult.

Xianglian

2. We are living into the gift of salvation

2. 我們正活在救恩的恩賜中

This whole letter teems with the gifts that are available to us as those who know and follow Jesus. It makes salvation feel almost like the gift within the gift within the gift - you just keep opening boxes, discovering what is available to you on the pilgrimage. 這整封信充滿了恩賜，我們認識並跟隨耶穌就能獲得恩賜。救贖的感覺幾乎就像是禮物中的禮物 — 你只需打開盒子，發現在朝聖之旅中你可以獲得什麼。

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of life. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9-14

因此，我們自從聽見的日子，也就為你們不住的禱告祈求，願你們在一切屬靈的智慧悟性上，滿心知道神的旨意；好叫你們行事為人對得起主，凡事蒙他喜悅，在一切善事上結果子，漸漸的多知道神；照他榮耀的權能，得以在各樣的力上加力，好叫你們凡事歡歡喜喜的忍耐寬容；又感謝父，叫我們能與眾聖徒在光明中同得基業。他救了我們脫離黑暗的權勢，把我們遷到他愛子的國裡；我們在愛子裡得蒙救贖，罪過得以赦免。歌羅西書 1:9-14

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives *in him*, rooted and built up *in him*, strengthen in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7

你們既然接受了主基督耶穌，就當遵他而行，在他裡面生根建造，信心堅固，正如你們所領的教訓，感謝的心也更增長了。歌羅西書 2:6-7

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3

要叫他們的心得安慰，因愛心互相聯絡，以致豐豐足足在悟性中有充足的信心，使他們真知神的奧秘，就是基督；所積蓄的一切智慧知識，都在他裡面藏著。歌羅西書 2:2-3

3. We are building paths of peace in our world

3. 我們正在為世界建立和平之路

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dear loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other

and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:12-15

所以，你們既是神的選民，聖潔蒙愛的人，就要存憐憫、恩慈、謙虛、溫柔、忍耐的心。倘若這人與那人有嫌隙，總要彼此包容，彼此饒恕；主怎樣饒恕了你們，你們也要怎樣饒恕人。在这一切之外，要存著愛心，愛心就是聯絡全德的。又要叫基督的平安在你們心裡作主；你們也為此蒙召，歸為一體；且要存感謝的心。歌羅西書 3:12-15

(EX: Going to Bend - someone cut these pathways here. Someone put these roads here. Someone went first and now we travel these roads without even thinking about it.). As they experience the life offered as one who is OF Christ, they receive the resources they need to live out being IN Colosse. To bring help and healing to their broken city. Rooted and grounded in Jesus, they begin to see His way become embedded in their way - with Him, with each other and with the world. They put on new clothes: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We bear with one another. We forgive. . We are people on pilgrimage but we are building as we go. All of these things make us people who carve new pathways for others to travel on behind us. (例如：前往本德 - 有人在這裡切斷了這些道路，有人把這些道路放在這裡。有人先走，現在我們在這些道路上行駛，甚至不假思索。) 當他們體驗基督所賜的生命時，他們就獲得了在歌羅西生活所需的資源。為他們破碎的城市帶來幫助和療癒。他們紮根於耶穌，開始看到耶穌的道路融入了他們的道路 — 與祂在一起，與彼此在一起，與世界在一起。他們穿上新衣：慈悲、仁慈、謙卑、溫柔、忍耐。我們互相忍耐，我們彼此原諒。我們是朝聖的人，但我們一邊走一邊建造。所有這些事情使我們成為為我們身後的其他人開闢新道路的人。

How are you doing with making peace in your world? I used to start my morning by checkin in on the news and it produced a discouragement almost immediately in my day and it followed me throughout. And not just discouragement - anger. Judgement. Sometimes I would say even hatred. And I realized this habit was not impacting anyone I was mad at - they didn't even know I was mad - it was keeping me locked in fear and anxiety and discouragement. The new rule for me is: If I can't read the news without filtering it through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience - then I don't read the news. Sometimes we need to make practical changes in our habits in order to become people who can be of Christ and in our world. Because how does it help my world if I say I'm of christ, but the path I'm building is one of anger and hatred and bitterness? If the words I'm speaking into the sorrow of our world are adding weight to the sorrow, how am I different from those who have no hope in Jesus at all?

您在維護世界和平方面做得怎麼樣？我過去常常透過查看新聞來開始新的一天，這幾乎立即讓我感到灰心喪氣，並且一直伴隨著我。不僅僅是沮喪 — 憤怒、判斷。有時我甚至會

說是仇恨。我意識到這個習慣並沒有影響任何我生氣的人 — 他們甚至不知道我生氣 — 它讓我陷入恐懼、焦慮和沮喪之中。對我來說，新的規則是：如果我不能在不透過同情、善良、謙遜、溫柔和耐心的過濾的情況下閱讀新聞 — 那麼我就不會閱讀新聞。有時，我們需要對自己的習慣做出實際的改變，才能成為屬於基督、屬於我們世界的人。因為如果我說我屬於基督，但我正在建造的道路是一條充滿憤怒、仇恨和苦澀的道路，這對我的世界有什麼幫助呢？如果我對這個世界的悲傷所說的話加重了悲傷，那麼我與那些對耶穌完全沒有希望的人有什麼不同呢？

People of Christ are people at peace with God, people living into their salvation and people building paths of peace in their world. The places to which they are called. They spread the good news of the gospel like confecting at a parade. They are filled with the joy of their salvation. They are filled with the peace of knowing their ultimate destination. They are strengthened in the faith and they endure with hope.

基督的子民是與神和好的人，是活在救恩中的人，是在世上建立和平之路的人。他們被呼召去的地方。他們傳播福音的好消息，就像在遊行中製作甜點一樣，他們充滿了得救的喜樂，他們充滿了知道自己最終目的地的平安，他們的信心得到加強，他們滿懷希望地忍耐。

We are people called to our place on the timeline. Certainly. We are called to fulfill a specific purpose in our world. But we are - more than any other thing - called to *know* God. To root ourselves in His presence. To practice living in His presence. This is not so much our duty as it is our delight.

我們被呼召到時間線上我們的位置。當然，我們被呼召去實現我們這個世界的特定目標。但我們 — 比任何其他事情更重要 — 被呼召去認識上帝。讓我們紮根於祂的面前，練習生存在祂的面前。這與其說是我們的責任，不如說是我們的樂趣。

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. -Westminster Shorter Catechism

人的主要目的是榮耀神並永遠以祂為樂。-威斯敏斯特小教義問答

Yes to pilgrimage. Yes to the long game. Yes to building pathways of peace. Yes to being of Christ, in Beaverton.

是的，去朝聖。是的，長期遊戲。是的，建設和平之路。在比佛頓，對基督的存在是肯定的。

Communion/Response: 交流/回應: