

引言 INTRODUCTION

There are two kinds of men in the world – those who follow instructions and those who do not. I told you before that I do not like to stop and ask for direction when I am lost on a road-trip. I feel embarrassed to ask for help. A device called GPS saves the faces of many men like me. Perhaps you are a guy who seldom read the user manual when you use a product. You end up spending more time to assemble an item and to figure out how to use it. Finally, you refer to the booklet out of frustration. Then you realize why you are stuck in certain steps. You see, a user manual is written for humble people. They are wise enough to follow the designer’s instructions. The same principle applies to our life. God our Creator gives us the Bible as a user manual. We will have problems when we deviate from His will. Sometimes we commit ignorant mistakes. Other times we sin intentionally. People often question why God does not bless them the way they expect. One possible reason is that they do not want to obey God. All they want are the stuff from Him. Our world becomes a mess when people go their own ways. The solution is not to revise God’s rules but to respect them. When we talk about Kingdom Living in this series, we need to explore how God wants us to live. Our life should be a true witness for Him. We show people that Biblical truths are not only good advice. They are God’s blueprints for us. Blessed are those who listen to Him and do as He says.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 信仰的果子 Fruits of Our Belief (v. 13-16)

First, our life can become a true witness for God when we display the fruits of our belief. Jesus uses two objects to illustrate those fruits – salt and light. He says in verse 13: “**You are the salt of the earth.**” At that time, salt performed a few functions. It is a simple seasoning like we use it today. Salt adds flavor, otherwise food will be bland. Secondly, salt is used as a preservative at a time when there was no refrigerator. It slows down decay. Think of the way your grandparents prepared salty fish or meat. Thirdly, salt in a small amount was used as a fertilizer in the Biblical times. Therefore, salt is a basic necessity in life. The Lord goes on and tells us that salt cannot perform its functions when it loses its saltiness. Edible salt is sodium chloride, which is a stable compound. How can it change its nature? In Jesus’ days, salt was derived from salt marshes rather than by evaporation of sea water. It has a lot of impurities. Sodium chloride is very soluble. When it is leached out, then salt will not be salty anymore. It will become useless when the most important ingredient is gone. Many people cannot survive the morning without a cup of coffee. I usually drink two cups every day. A decaf drink may not wake people up if the active ingredient, caffeine, is absent. Jesus says unusable salt is good for nothing. People would throw it away and trample it under their feet. At that time, people spread worthless salt on their roof top or on pavements, then they stomped on it to compact it. It will prevent the formation of cracks in mud. People would salvage something good from a waste. It is like most people will not throw away their shirts even if they are worn out. They wear them at home or use them as rags to mop the floor. In any case, those clothes lose their original purpose. Likewise, we will be ineffective witness for Jesus if we do not perform the functions God makes us for. For example, do we add

“flavors” to others’ lives? Do we often encourage or criticize people? Do we unite or break up a team through our comments and actions? We live in a fallen world. Are we acting as a preservative to slow down moral decay? Do we speak up against ungodly ideas and conducts? Please be gracious as you do so! You do not need to post your comments on social media or demonstrate on the street. But at least you should share your position based on the Bible when non-believers ask you. Or you can participate in a signature campaign or boycott against certain merchants. Jesus tells us that “You are the salt of the earth.” The present tense denotes a continuous action. Our Christian witness is an everyday practice. We are Jesus’ followers on Sundays as well as on weekdays, whether we are inside or outside of a church and whoever we mingle with. Besides being a witness like salt, Jesus mentions in verse 14 that: **“You are the light of the world.”** While salt can be an internal agent, light exerts external influence. Light fails to be light when it is hidden. A city on a hill is visible at night when people kindle their light. Travelers can tell from a distance that the city has inhabitants. At that time, people got illumination by burning oil. In any culture, light is considered as a positive element. Someone said it right that there is no such thing as darkness. It is only a result of the lack of light. The sinful world is dark without light. Jesus is our ultimate light source. He proclaims in John 8:12 that: ... **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** Jesus came into the world to shine His glorious light into dark corners. People in Jesus’ days could experience the effects of His light. Jesus rescued people from the oppression of sin. Through His work, Jesus pointed people to the Kingdom of Light. Those who follow Him will have a new life. Every believer has experienced that transition from darkness to light. Paul contrasts in Ephesians 5:8-9 that: **8 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).** Sin is done behind the scene, because exposure of it brings shame and guilt. Brothers and sisters: we need to examine if we still live in the dark. Do we often slander and make up rumors behind people’s back? Do we securely steal office supply from our work place? We need God’s help to clean up our hearts and our hands so that we be effective witness of light. Jesus is the light source, we are only reflectors of His goodness. Jesus says in verse 16 that people will give glory to God when they see our good behaviors. They may not know what we believe. But they may wonder why we are so kind to them. This will open a door for evangelism. You can share how God saved you and changed you. Even when some people skip salt in their food for health reasons, no one can maintain a normal life without light. Quite a lot of people lost power in recent storms. They had to suffer from the heat without an air-conditioner or a fan. Perishable food in their fridge gradually went bad. Besides, they had to live in the dark. Even a small flashlight or a few candles could make a difference. God gives you certain platforms to witness His light. You may not post YouTube videos to share your faith. But simple show your peace and joy can be an effective witness. Nowadays, a lot of people are juggling with their career, family and kids. They worry about crime and inflation. People may be curious to know why you are happy and content. They want to have a healthy marriage and obedient kids like you do. We can be a shining light similar to a candle. We display the way of life God intends us to be like. We can also be a guiding light like the illumination on an airport runway that directs landing airplanes. We lead people to Jesus, the eternal source of light.

2. 信仰的根源 Root of Our Belief (v. 17-20)

Jesus urges us to show the fruits of our belief. Then Jesus says that we should also witness the root of our belief. God's Word is the root. Jesus came to world to affirm it. He says in verse 17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." The Law and the Prophets, together with the Psalms are the three parts of the Jewish Old Testament. Jesus verified the authority of the Bible. Jesus' listeners sensed that His teaching was quite different from other rabbis'. For instance, the last verse of chapter 7 says that the audience felt Jesus' authority in His words. People might wonder if Jesus was giving some new lessons that superseded the Law. It is like a new CEO comes into the office. Employees expect that he will change some business practices and introduce new work culture. But Jesus stresses that He does not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. By fulfilling the Law, Jesus might mean three things. First, He corrected the **misuse** of the Law. In other words, Jesus restored the original purpose of the Law. God gave the Law to His people through Moses on Mount Sinai. God brought them out of Egypt. A group of slaves became His children. Then God proclaimed the Law to them. He told Moses in Exodus 19:5-6 – 5 "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." God made a covenant with them. The Law had the detail stipulations of the covenant. It is like the constitution of a country pronounces the formation of the nation. From it, laws elaborate what it means to be citizens. Similarly, the Old Testament Law maintains the life of the Israelites. There are three major parts in the Law. The ceremonial law tells people how to worship God. The civil law gives them instructions on building a godly society. The moral law defines God's standard of right and wrong. The Law is a tool for people to know God and to follow His instructions. However, the religious leaders of Jesus' time misused the Law. Instead of using it to regulate people's life, they misused it to restrict their life. For example, God set aside the sabbath for people to rest so that they could find time to worship Him. However, the religious teachers imposed a lot of restrictions about the sabbath. They even accused people when they broke those rules. In doing so, they burdened people with fear, while they should joyfully worship God. Jesus did not only correct the misuse of the Law. In addition, He also corrected the **misunderstanding** of the Law. Why did the religious leaders put so much attention on others' performance? It was because they misunderstood that people could be saved by obeying the Law. They realized that their ancestors were disciplined by God because they broke the Law. For example, they worshipped idols. If violating God's Law brings punishment, then abiding by the Law will mean rewards. God did promise blessings to His people if they followed His commands. But the problem is, God never said that we can achieve salvation by observing the Law. After all, no one can do so perfectly. The religious leaders put emphasis on conducts, but they neglected their character. Jesus condemns their hypocrisy by quoting prophet Isaiah in Matthew 15:8-9 – 8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Only God can see people's hearts. The Law is not a curriculum to study and to prepare for an exam. No one can score one-hundred points and win admission to heaven. The Law is a set of house-rules for people who have been adopted as God's children to follow. Jesus does not only correct the misuse and misunderstanding of the Law. Thirdly, He also corrected the **mission** of the Law. It prophesies about Jesus and it prepares for His coming. In other words, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law. The ceremonial law portrays the ultimate sin offering Jesus presented on the cross. The civil law speaks about the true righteousness that only Jesus can give people. The moral law mirrors the holy God. Jesus, not

Moses or the religious teachers, is the final authority of the Law. By upholding the Law, people affirm the authority of Jesus. What does all that mean to us modern and non-Jewish people? We wonder if we still have to follow those rules in the Old Testament. We live in a completely different culture compared to the Biblical times. More importantly, Jesus' salvation work gives new meanings to the Law. We no longer have to present animal sacrifice because Jesus died on the cross to redeem us. We worship on Sunday instead of the sabbath because Jesus rose on a Sunday. We can eat everything that is deemed unclean by the Law, since Jesus had bridged the gap between the secular and the holy. He is the Mediator between God and us. Since Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law, He gives us a richer meaning when we read the Old Testament. We must pay attention to how those stories were fulfilled in Jesus. For example, the temple worship portrayed Jesus' salvation work. He is the supreme High Priest who leads us to God. The three days prophet Jonah spent in the belly of the big fish symbolized the three days between Jesus' death and resurrection. The covenant God made with king David foretold the eternal covenant Jesus made with His followers. Jesus will establish an everlasting Kingdom in heaven. The whole Bible is centered on Jesus. He is the ultimate authority behind the writings. The Bible can change our lives because it is the Word of God. It does not only enrich our knowledge about God or give us insights on how to improve ourselves. It also empowers us to obey God.

結論 CONCLUSION

Our life should be a true witness for God. We show people that Biblical truths are not only good advice. They are God's blueprints for us. We must follow God's instructions if we want to overcome the struggles in the world. That reminds me of the plot of an old movie Firefox. Famous cowboy Clint Eastwood plays the main character. The backdrop is the former USSR. The Soviet develops an advanced fighter-jet, MiG-31, code name Firefox. It can fly at high speed, it is invisible to radar and its weapons are controlled by the pilot's mind. Eastwood is a U.S. Air Force general who tries to steal the plane. In the movie, he can speak Russian due to his family background. With the help of some dissidents, Eastwood successfully flies the aircraft out of the base. As you may expect, the Russians chase after him and try to shoot him down. In one scene, Eastwood tries to launch missiles at the enemies' planes. Nothing happens. He suddenly realizes that he is thinking in English. Then he quickly reorders his thoughts in Russian. Mission is completed. Eastwood safely made it home when he followed the instructions. Similarly, we can complete God's mission for us only if we obey His commands in the Bible.

引言 INTRODUCTION

世界上有兩種男人：聽從指示和不聽從指示的男人。我以前告訴過你，當我迷路時，我不願意停下來問路。我覺得尋求幫助很難為情。GPS 的發明挽救了許多像我這樣男人的面子。也許你在使用產品時很少看說明書。結果你花了很多時間來組裝產品並弄清楚如何使用它。最後，你逼不得已去看說明書。然後你才知道為何你不清楚某些步驟。用戶手冊是為謙卑的人寫的。他們樂意根據設計師的指示來做事。同樣的原則也適用於我們的生活。創造主給了我們聖經作為生活指南。當我們偏離祂的旨意時，我們就會有麻煩。有時我們犯無知的錯誤，有時我們會故意犯罪。人們常常質疑為什麼神沒有按照他們期望祝福他們。一個可能的原因是他們根本不想順服神。他們只想要從神那裡得到某些東西。當人們任意妄為時，我們的世界就會變得一團糟。解決辦法不是修改神的原則，而是去遵守。當我們在這個系列中談論天國生活時，我們需要了解神希望我們如何去生活。我們的生命應該成為神真正的見證。我們向世人展示聖經不僅是好的建議，真理是神為我們制定的藍圖。那些聽從神並遵守祂命令的人是福的。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 信仰的果子 Fruits of Our Belief (v. 13-16)

首先，當我們展示信仰的果子時，我們的生命就能成為神真正的見證人。耶穌用兩個物件來說明這些果子：鹽和光。祂在第 13 節中說：「你們是世上的鹽。」當時，鹽發揮一些功用。首先，和今天的用法一樣，鹽是簡單的調味料。鹽可以增加風味，否則食物就會淡而無味。其次，在沒有冰箱的時代，鹽被用作防腐劑，它可以防止食物變壞。你可以想像祖父母醃鹹魚或肉的方式。第三，在聖經時代，少量的鹽被用作肥料。因此，鹽是生活的必需品。主接著告訴我們，鹽失去了鹹味，就無法發揮它的功用。食用鹽是氯化鈉，它是一種穩定的化合物。那麼鹽怎樣會改變它的本質呢？在耶穌時代，鹽是從沼澤中提取的，而不是從海水蒸發而得到的。那種鹽有很多雜質。氯化鈉極易溶解。當它溶化後，鹽就不再鹹了。當最重要的成分消失後，它就會變得毫無用處。許多人早上必須喝咖啡。我通常每天喝兩杯。喝沒有咖啡因的咖啡可能無法讓人清醒。耶穌說不能用的鹹是沒有用的。人們會把它丟掉，然後踩在腳下。那時，人們把毫無價值的鹽撒在屋頂或人行道上，然後用腳踩壓實。這樣能防止

泥土裂開。人們會盡量廢物利用。就像一些人不會把舊衣服扔掉一樣。他們會繼續在家裡穿或將它們用作抹布擦地板。無論如何，那些衣服已經失去了原來的用途。同樣，如果我們不發揮神賜給我們的功用，我們就無法成為耶穌有效的見證。例如，我們是否給別人的生活增加「美味」？我們會經常鼓勵或是批評別人？我們的言論和行動會連結還是分裂一個團隊？我們生活在一個墮落的世界。我們有否扮演防腐劑的角色，減低社會的道德敗壞？我們有沒有表態反對不屬靈的思想和行為？當你發表意見時請保持恩慈！你也不需要在此類媒體上發表評論或上街示威。但至少當非信徒問你時，你應該根據聖經表達你的立場。或者你可以參加簽名運動或抵制某些商家。耶穌說：「你們是世上的鹽」。其中的動詞是現在時態，表示持續的動作。我們的基督徒見證是日常的操練。在任何時候，我們都是耶穌的跟隨者，無論在周日還是在平日，無論我們是在教會裡面還是外面，無論我們與誰接觸。耶穌說我們的見證除了像鹽一樣之外，祂還在第 14 節中補充：「**你們是世界的**光。」鹽在裡面起作用，而光是在外面發揮影響力。當光被隱藏時，它就不再是光。當人們在晚上點燃燈光時，山上的城市清晰可見。旅行的人從遠處就能看出這座城市有人居住。那時，人們通過燒油來照明。在任何文化中，光都被認為是正面的東西。有人說得對，世界上沒有黑暗這回事。黑暗只是缺乏光線的結果。罪惡的世界是暗淡無光的。耶穌是我們光的終極源頭。祂在約翰福音 8:12 中宣告：...「**我是世界的**光。跟從我的人，就不在黑暗裡走，必要得著生命的光。」耶穌來到世上，是要把祂榮耀的光照到黑暗的角落。耶穌時代的人們可以體驗到祂的光的益處。耶穌將人們從罪惡的壓迫下拯救出來。耶穌藉著祂的工作把人們帶進光明的國度。跟隨祂的人將獲得新的生命。每個信徒都經歷過從黑暗到光明的轉變。保羅在以弗所書 5:8-9 中作對比：8 **從前你們是暗昧的，但如今在主裡面是光明的，行事為人就當像光明的子女。**9 **光明所結的果子就是一切良善、公義、，誠實。**罪是在暗中發生的，因為曝光會帶來羞恥和內疚感。弟兄姐妹們，我們需要檢視一下自己，我們是否還生活在黑暗之中。我們是否經常在人的背後誹謗、講閒話？我們有沒有從工作場所偷取文具用品？我們需要神潔淨我們的心和我們的手，這樣我們才能成為光的有效見證。耶穌是光的來源，我們只是反射祂的良善。耶穌在第 16 節中說，人們看到我們的好行為便會將榮耀歸給神。他們不一定知道我們的信仰。但他們會問我們為什麼如此友善。這也許能打開傳福音的門。你可以趁機分享神如何拯救你並改變你。有些人就算基於健康原因不吃鹽，但是任何都需要光來維持正常的生活。不少人在最近的暴風雨中停電。他們在酷熱的天氣下沒有空調和風扇，冰箱裡裡的食物也逐漸變壞。此外，他們還必須生活在黑暗中。就算是一個小手電筒或幾支蠟燭也能幫補一下。神有時候給我們很小的平台來見證祂的光。你不一定在 YouTube 放視頻來分享你的信仰，只要很簡單地表現出你的平安和喜樂就可以成為有效的見證。

如今，很多人都要兼顧事業、家庭和孩子。他們擔心罪案和通貨膨脹。人們會好奇為什麼你感到快樂和滿足。他們也羨慕你擁有幸福的婚姻和聽話的孩子。我們可以成為類似於蠟燭的光，展示了神希望我們過的生活方式。我們也可以成為一盞指路明燈，就像機場跑道上的照明信號一樣，引導飛機降落。我們帶領人們歸向耶穌，那位永恆的光。

2. 信仰的根源 Root of Our Belief (v. 17-20)

耶穌鼓勵我們展示信仰的果子。然後耶穌說我們也應該見證我們信仰的根源。神的話就是那個根源。耶穌來到世上是為了證實這一點。祂在第 17 節說：「**莫想我來要廢掉律法和先知。我來不是要廢掉，乃是要成全。**」律法書、先知書和詩篇是猶太人舊約的三個部分。耶穌確認了聖經的權柄。耶穌的聽眾感覺到祂的教導與其他拉比的教導截然不同。例如，第七章的最後一節說，群眾從耶穌的話語中感受到祂的權柄。人們可能懷疑耶穌是否帶來一些新的道理，取代他們的律法。這就像一位新的總裁上任一樣。人們預期祂會改變一些生意方針並引入新的公司文化。但耶穌強調，祂來不是要廢掉律法，而是要成全律法。耶穌成全律法可能意味著三件事。首先，祂糾正了律法的**濫用**。換句話說，耶穌恢復了律法原來的目的。神在西奈山上透過摩西賜律法給祂的子民。神把他們帶出埃及。一群奴隸成為祂的兒女。然後神向他們頒布律法。祂在出埃及記 19:5-6-5 中對摩西說：5「**如今你們若實在聽從我的話，遵守我的約，就要在萬民中作屬我的子民，因為全地都是我的。6 你們要歸我作祭司的國度，為聖潔的國民。**」這些話你要告訴以色列人。」神與他們立約。律法進一步列出盟約的規定。就像憲法宣告了國家的誕生，然後法律闡述公民的義務。同樣，舊約律法維持以色列人的生活。律法分為三個主要部分。**禮儀**的律法告訴人們如何敬拜神。**民事**的律法指示他們如何建立公義的社會。**道德**的律法定義神對與錯的標準。律法是人們認識神並遵循祂指示的工具。然而，耶穌時代的宗教領袖濫用了律法。他們不是用它來規範人的生活，而是濫用它來限制人的生活。例如，神設立安息日讓人們休息，以便他們分出時間敬拜祂。但是，宗教老師為安息日增加了許多限制。當人們違反這些規則時，宗教領袖便指責他們。他們這樣做，使人們產生不必要的恐懼，卻剝奪他們敬拜神的喜樂。耶穌不僅糾正了人對律法的濫用。此外，祂還糾正了人們對律法的**誤解**。為什麼宗教領袖如此關注他人的表現？這是因為他們以為人們可以通過遵守律法而得救。他們明白自己的祖先因為觸犯了律法而受到神的管教。例如，他們崇拜偶像。如果違反神的律法會帶來懲罰，那麼遵守律法便能得到獎賞。神的確應許，如果祂的子民遵守命令，他們就會得到祝福。但問題是，神從來沒有說過我們可以藉著遵守律法而得救。畢竟沒有人能做到完美。宗教領袖重視人的行為，卻忽視了人的品格。耶穌在馬太福音 15:8-9 中引用先知以賽亞的話來責備他們的假冒偽

善：8「這百姓用嘴唇尊敬我，心卻遠離我；9 他們將人的吩咐當作道理教導人，所以拜我也是枉然。」唯有神能鑑察人心。律法不是學習和準備考試的教材。沒有人能夠拿到一百分並獲得進入天堂的資格。律法是一套家規，讓被領養為神兒女的人遵守。耶穌不僅糾正了對律法的濫用和誤解。第三，祂還糾正了律法的**使命**。它預言了關於耶穌的事，並為祂的到來做準備。換句話說，耶穌成就了律法。禮儀的律法形容耶穌是終極的贖罪祭，被獻在十字架上。民事的律法指出唯有耶穌才能給人真正的公義。道德的律法反映出聖潔的神。耶穌，不是摩西或宗教老師，才是律法的最終權威。通過遵守律法，人們確認了耶穌的權威。這對我們現代人和非猶太人有什麼含義？我們常常問我們到底是否仍然必須遵守舊約中的規條。與聖經時代相比，我們生活在完全不同的文化中。更重要的是，耶穌的救贖賦予了律法新的意義。我們不再需要獻上動物祭品，因為耶穌為了救贖我們而死在十字架上。我們在星期日而不是安息日敬拜，因為耶穌在星期日復活。我們可以吃一切被律法視為不潔淨的東西，因為耶穌已經跨越世俗和神聖之間的鴻溝。祂是神與我們之間的中保。由於耶穌已經成全了律法，當我們閱讀舊約時，祂給了我們更豐富的意義。我們必須理解那些故事如何應驗在耶穌身上。例如，聖殿的敬拜描述耶穌的救贖工作。祂是終極的大祭司，引領我們歸向神。先知約拿在大魚腹中度過的三天象徵著耶穌死後三天復活。神與大衛王所立的約預表耶穌與祂的跟隨者所立的永恆之約。耶穌將在天上建立一個永恆的國。整本聖經都是以耶穌為中心。祂是文字背後的最終權威。聖經可以改變我們的生命，因為它是神的話語。它不僅增加我們對神的認識，或是讓我們了解如何改善自己。它還給予我們能力順服神。

結論 CONCLUSION

我們的生命應該成為神真正的見證。我們向世人展示聖經不僅是好的建議，真理是神為我們制定的藍圖。如果我們想克服世上的困難，就必須遵照神的指示。這讓我想起了一部舊電影《火狐》的情節。著名牛仔克林特·伊斯特伍德 (Clint Eastwood) 飾演主角。故事的背景是前蘇聯。蘇聯開發了一部先進的戰鬥機米格 31，代號火狐。它可以高速飛行，躲避雷達的偵測，甚至它的武器是由飛行員的意念控制。伊斯特伍德是一名美國空軍將軍，他試圖偷取飛機。在電影中，由於家庭背景，他會說俄語。在一些蘇聯人的幫助下，伊斯特伍德成功地將飛機駕駛出基地。你也能想到劇情，蘇聯人追趕他並試圖將他擊落。在一個場景中，伊斯特伍德想要向敵人的飛機發射飛彈。但是卻不成功。他突然想到自己正在用英語思考。然後他馬上用俄語重新整理思想。於是任務達成。伊斯特伍德能夠安全回家，是因為他按照指示做事。同樣，唯有遵守聖經中神的吩咐，我們才能完成祂託付給我們的使命。