

信息：**十字架的建造**

MESSAGE: THE BUILDING UP OF THE CROSS

十字架的救恩不但使我們的罪得著了神的赦免，而能與神和好；更進一步，救恩的目的是要我們得著永遠的生命，好使基督成為我們的一切。十字架的道是釘十字架的基督將神發表出來。神的兒子從道成肉身開始，祂的生命就是釘十字架的生命，一路上祂所走的道路是十字架的道路。祂真是奇妙的人子，在十字架上為我們付了贖價，買來赦免；同時，十字架對祂也是最大的釋放，叫所有信祂的都能得著永遠的生命。

主耶穌在離世前曾告訴門徒說：『我去原是為了你們預備地方去』（約十四2）。今日，主獨一的工作就是建造祂的教會。保羅說他好像一個聰明的工頭，立好了根基，這已經立好的根基就是耶穌基督，此外沒有人能立別的根基（林前三11）。他在哥林多前書第二章說，他已經定了主意，在他們中間不知道別的，只知道耶穌基督，並祂釘十字架。保羅真是一位釘十字架的使者；以十字架的生命傳十字架的信息，以十字架的信息建造神的教會。『你們是神所建造的房屋』，他是指著整個教會說的。神是教會的建造者，而教會是祂的產業。今日，我們都在同一個建造工程中，我們是與神同工，也同被建造。釘十字架的基督如何彰顯神，經過十字架的建造，神也要得著教會來彰顯基督。

Our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled to God by salvation of the cross. Furthermore, we obtain the eternal life so that Christ becomes our all. The word of the cross is that God is manifested by the crucified Christ. The life of the son of God was the life of the cross. The word became flesh, all the way He trod on the way of the cross. He is indeed the wonderful Son of Man. He redeemed us and bought forgiveness for us. The cross also release the life of Christ. So that all that believe in Him may have eternal life.

The Lord told the disciples before He left the world, "I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2) The unique work of the Lord today is to build up His Church. Paul said he was like a skilled master builder who had laid a foundation. This foundation is Jesus Christ. Other than Him there is no other foundation (1 Cor. 3:11). In 1 Cor. chapter 1, he says he has already decided to know nothing else among them other than Christ and Him crucified. Paul is truly a messenger of the Cross. He spreads the message of the cross with the life of the cross, and through the message of the cross he builds up the church of God. "You are God's building", he is referring to the whole church. God is the builder of the church, and the church is His inheritance. Today we are all part of this construction. We are working with God and are being built up together. As the crucified Christ manifests God, so God obtains the church to manifest Christ through the working of the cross.

故事：**蓋自己的房子** STORY: **BUILDING YOUR OWN HOUSE**

有一個富人，有一天想作些好事。他看到一個生活條件很貧窮的木匠，就叫他來，委託他蓋一間漂亮的房子。「我希望它成為理想的居所，你只要選擇上好的材料，雇用最能幹的工人，不必為費用擔心。」接著他說他將要遠行，回來以前盼望房子能蓋好。

這木匠心想機會難得，處處偷工減料，所雇的工人也是技術較差的、工資便宜的。全部工程粗製濫造，又塗上厚厚的油漆試圖掩蓋各處的缺陷。當好心的富人回來後，木匠把鑰匙交給他說：「我已照你所吩咐的把房子蓋好了。」

「我很高興！」這富人接著就把鑰匙交回給木匠說：「這是你的鑰匙，是要給你的，我要你蓋這棟房子是要送給你及你的家人作為禮物的。」這木匠在往後的日子始終為他這次的偷工減料而後悔，不斷地對自己說：「早知道我是蓋自己的房子的話……」

『我照神所給我的恩，好像一個聰明的工頭，立好了根基，有別人在上面建造，只是各人要謹慎怎樣在上面建造。因為那已經立好的根基，就是耶穌基督，此外沒有人能立別的根基。』
(林前三：10-11)

Once upon a time there was a rich man who wanted to do some charitable deed, so he called to himself a poor carpenter and asked him to build a house. "I want to use the best materials and please hire the best workers to build this house. Cost is of no concern, so feel free to spend as much money as you like. I'm going away on a trip but please finish the house by the time I come back."

The carpenter thought this was a good chance to get rich quick, so instead of using the best materials, he used the cheapest materials and hired the cheapest contractors. After he finished the house he covered up all the defects with a thick coat of paint. When the rich man returned he told him, "the house is completely finished."

"That's great" said the rich man, he took the keys and handed them to the carpenter. "These are your keys, this is your house, I want to give this house to you." In the days following the carpenter deeply regretted that he had cut corners on the construction of the house. He deeply regretted having built a house with so many imperfections. As time went on, it was said that the carpenter went completely crazy, he walked through the city streets day and night, muttering to himself over and over again, "If only I had known....."

"According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:10-11)

