

忍耐到底，必然得勝

約 15:18 - 16:4



Pliny [普林尼] to the Emperor Trajan [圖拉真]

It is my practice, my lord, to refer to you all matters concerning which I am in doubt. For who can better give guidance to my hesitation or inform my ignorance? I have never participated in trials of Christians. I therefore do not know what offenses it is the practice to punish or investigate, and to what extent. And I have been not a little hesitant as to whether there should be any distinction on account of age or no difference between the very young and the more mature; whether pardon is to be granted for repentance, or, if a man has once been a Christian, it does him no good to have ceased to be one; whether the name itself, even without offenses, or only the offenses associated with the name are to be punished. Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished. There were others possessed of the same folly; but because they were Roman citizens, I signed an order for them to be transferred to Rome.

Soon accusations spread, as usually happens, because of the proceedings going on, and several incidents occurred. An anonymous document was published containing the names of many persons. Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ--none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do--these I thought should be discharged. Others named by the informer declared that they were Christians, but then denied it, asserting that they had been but had ceased to be, some three years before, others many years, some as much as twenty-five years. They all worshipped your image and the statues of the gods, and cursed Christ. They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food. Even this, they affirmed, they had ceased to do after my edict by which, in accordance with your instructions, I had forbidden political associations. Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition. I therefore postponed the investigation and hastened to consult you. For the matter seemed to me to warrant consulting you, especially because of the number involved. For many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms. But it seems possible to check and cure it. It is certainly quite clear that the temples, which had been almost deserted, have begun to be frequented, that the established religious rites, long neglected, are being resumed, and that from everywhere sacrificial animals are coming, for which until now very few purchasers could be found. Hence it is easy to imagine what a multitude of people can be reformed if an opportunity for repentance is afforded.

Trajan [圖拉真] to Pliny [普林尼]

You observed proper procedure, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those who had been denounced to you as Christians. For it is not possible to lay down any general rule to serve as a kind of fixed standard. They are not to be sought out; if they are denounced and proved guilty, they are to be punished, with this reservation, that whoever denies that he is a Christian and really proves it--that is, by worshiping our gods--even though he was under suspicion in the past, shall obtain pardon through repentance. But anonymously posted accusations ought to have no place in any prosecution. For this is both a dangerous kind of precedent and out of keeping with the spirit of our age.

1. 信徒被世界敵視 (約15:18-27)

「世人若恨你們，你們知道，恨你們以先已經恨我了。¹⁹ 你們若屬世界，世界必愛屬自己的；只因你們不屬世界，乃是我從世界中揀選了你們，所以世界就恨你們。」 約15:18-19

1. 信徒被世界敵視 (約15:18-27)

最少有三個原因：

- ① 我們是屬基督的
- ② 我們不屬世界
- ③ 世界在靈性上瞎了眼睛

1. 信徒被世界敵視 (約15:18-27)

① 我們是屬基督的

『.....僕人不能大於主人。』他們若逼迫了我，也要逼迫你們；若遵守了我的話，也要遵守你們的話。 v15:20

「我們知道，我們是屬上帝的，全世界都臥在那惡者手下。」 約一15:19

1. 信徒被世界敵視 (約15:18-27)

② 我們不屬世界

「這你們若屬世界，世界必愛屬自己的；只因你們不屬世界...」 v15:19

「你們也勝了那惡者。¹⁵ 不要愛世界和世界上的事。人若愛世界，愛父的心就不在他裏面了。¹⁶ 因爲，凡世界上的事，就像肉體的情慾、眼目的情慾，並今生的驕傲，都不是從父來的，乃是從世界來的。¹⁷ 這世界和其上的情慾都要過去，惟獨遵行上帝旨意的，是永遠常存。」約一2:15-17

1. 信徒被世界敵視 (約15:18-27)

③ 世界在靈性上瞎了眼睛

「但他們因我的名要向你們行這一切的事，因為他們不認識那差我來的。」

v15:21

「我爲審判到這世上来，叫不能看見的，可以看見；能看見的，反瞎了眼。」⁴⁰ 同他在那裏的法利賽人聽見這話，就說：「難道我們也瞎了眼嗎？」⁴¹ 耶穌對他們說：「你們若瞎了眼，就沒有罪了；但如今你們說『我們能看見』，所以你們的罪還在。」 約9:39-41

1. 信徒被世界敵視 (約15:18-27)

③ 世界在靈性上瞎了眼睛

「這要應驗他們律法上所寫的話，說：
『他們無故地恨我。』」 v15:25

「我若沒有在他們中間行過別人未曾
行的事，他們就沒有罪；但如今連我
與我的父，他們也看見也恨惡了。」
v15:24

2. 信徒受世界逼迫 (約16:2)

「人要把你們趕出會堂，並且時候將到，凡殺你們的就以為是事奉上帝。」 v16:2

猶太教禮儀之第12條祝福禱文

For the apostates let there be no hope

And let the arrogant government [= Rome] be speedily uprooted in our days.

Let the Nazarenes [Christians] and the Minim [= heretics] be destroyed in a moment.

And let them be blotted out of the Book of Life and not be inscribed with the righteous.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, who humbles the proud.

願那些叛教者不再有希望，
願這個傲慢的羅馬政府在今生滅亡，
願基督徒和異端份子在瞬間被消滅，在生命
冊上被塗抹，不得被稱爲義。

主啊，祢是賜福的主，祢要使傲慢變卑微。

(譯)

3. 信徒應該如何回應呢？

最少有三個提醒：

- ① 靠聖靈爲主作見證 (15:26-27)
- ② 不要跌倒 (16:1)
- ③ 繫記主話 (16:4)

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總結

「我將這些事告訴你們，是要叫你們在我裏面有平安。在世上，你們有苦難；但你們可以放心，我已經勝了世界。」 約16:33