

经节：因为有宽大又有功效的门为我开了，并且反对的人也多。

（哥林多前书十六章9节）

打开事奉大门的同时，反对的势力也会进入。保罗曾经有许多这种经历。当他从以弗所写信给哥林多人时，他正准备决定下一步要去哪里。他选择在以弗所多作停留，因为神已经为他打开事奉的门。保罗不管自己得面对多少敌人，当知道神已经打开事奉的门，他就不准备离开。我们可能会以为，保罗面对反对势力时会作相反的决定。以考虑反对势力的角度来看，保罗理当去敌意较少的地区传道。相反地，保罗的决定是基于神的作为，不是基于人的作为。

当你回应神的邀约时，不要因为遭遇敌人的阻挠而大感吃惊。如果专注于对手的身上，你会走岔了方向，拖延该做的事。不要让你的决定取决于人的作为上。他们不能阻拦你实践神的旨意（罗马书八：31）。有时候，最有成效的属灵工作，是在面对最严酷的迫害及反对势力时所达成的。当保罗待在以弗所的时候，他的事奉引起合城暴动。一群暴徒在戏园里整整叫嚣两小时之久，拥护他们的神说：「大哉！以弗所人的亚底米啊！」（使徒行传十九：23~41）尽管他们如此激烈地拒绝福音，以弗所仍然成为亚洲福音传播的主要城市。

要超越人的行动看到神的旨意，需要敏锐的属灵分辨能力。当你看到事奉所在，要超越人们的话语评论，找到神目前的作为。

Open Doors and Adversaries

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Corinthians 16:9

Open doors of service may also let in adversaries. Paul had many of both. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians from Ephesus, he was trying to determine where to go next. He chose to remain longer in Ephesus because of the open doors of service God granted him. Knowing that God had opened the doors of ministry, Paul was not going to leave, regardless of how many enemies he faced. We might assume that Paul would reach the opposite conclusion. In light of the opposition he faced, he could have concluded that it was best to serve in less hostile regions. Instead, Paul based his decisions on God's activity rather than on what *people* were doing.

As you respond to God's invitations, don't be caught by surprise when adversaries try to thwart what you are doing. If you concentrate on your opponents, you will be sidetracked from God's activity. Don't base your decisions on what people are doing. They cannot prevent you from carrying out God's will (Rom. 8:31). Many times the most rewarding spiritual work is done in the crucible of persecution and opposition. While Paul was in Ephesus, a riot broke out in reaction to his ministry. The city theater resounded with an angry mob who shouted for two hours in support of their god, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" (Acts 19:23-41). Despite this fierce rejection of the gospel, Ephesus became one of the chief cities from which the gospel spread throughout Asia. It takes spiritual discernment to see beyond human activity to God's will. As you seek places of service, look beyond what people are saying to find what God is doing.

8月29日（星期一）- 标题：**审判席**

经文：因为我们众人必要在基督台前显露出来，叫各人按着本身所行的，或善或恶受报。（哥林多后书五章10节）

基督徒行事背后有许多动机。其中一个动机是，觉悟到自己有一天会站在基督审判宝座前，为自己的一生交帐。虽然另一种较舒服的看法是，相信基督徒不会面对关于地上作为的任何询问，就被迎进天堂，但圣经上不是这样说的。

保罗告诫我们，在末日的审判时，每个基督徒将为自己一生的所作所为，交代得一清二楚。这件可预见的事令保罗很害怕，激励他在所做的每一件事情上，要努力讨神的喜悦（哥林多后书五：9~11）。保罗知道，自己在地上的日子有可能不理睬圣灵轻微的声音，然而，到那交帐的日子，他必须解释自己为什么不听从神的指示。保罗从不草率地假设，神会因着他为神国所立的功劳，而宽容他所犯的罪。他了解，多给谁就向谁多取的道理（路加福音十二：48）。

神并没有强逼我们遵行祂的旨意。我们对祂的回应方式，祂会要求我们交代清楚。基督徒因为耶稣的牺牲而罪得赦免，我们不被定罪。但是，因为神是绝对公义的，我们会被召唤，交代自己的所作所为。基督徒的生活有极大的自由，然而，对神与对自己周遭人的关系，我们有责任交代清楚。我们由保罗身上学习到，为自己的行为负责是健康的，它激励我们积极地讨神欢喜。

The Judgment Seat

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

There are many motivations in the Christian's life. One is our awareness that one day we will give an account of our lives to Christ, as He sits in judgment upon humanity. It is much more comforting to believe that Christians will be ushered into heaven with no questions asked about our faithfulness upon earth, but that is not what Scripture says will happen.

Paul cautioned that in the final day of judgment every Christian will give an account for his or her actions. This expectation terrified Paul and motivated him to strive to please God in everything he did (2 Cor. 5:9-11). Paul knew that although he might ignore the Spirit's quiet voice during His life on earth, a time of accounting would come when he would have to explain why he had rejected God's instructions. Paul never carelessly assumed that, because of all he had done for God's kingdom, God would overlook his sin. Instead, he understood that to whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48).

God does not force His will upon us. He will ask us to answer for the way we responded to Him. Christians have been pardoned by the sacrifice of Jesus. We are not condemned. But because God is absolutely just, we will be called on to give an account of our actions. The Christian life gives a tremendous freedom, but it also brings a pervasive sense of our accountability to God and to others. We can learn from Paul that accountability is healthy; it gives us a powerful motivation to please God.

9月3日（星期六）- 标题：**我绝不！**

经文：至于我，断不停止为你们祷告，以致得罪耶和華。我必以善道正路指教你们。（撒母耳记上十二章23节）

我们有时候很想放弃，不理神的百姓！他们是那么不完美，可能罪恶深重，然而，他们是祂的百姓。撒母耳清楚地警告以色列人立王的危险性，但他们仍执意要像邻国一样，有王治理他们，并且愿意付上任何代价来立王。这些百姓一立了王，就知道自己有罪，只不过一切都太迟了。那么撒母耳做了些什么呢？他们曾经漠视他的警告，现在却又要寻求他的帮助。撒母耳大可抛弃他们，任凭他们承受行为的后果。

撒母耳知道，诚如耶稣知道，神要祂的仆人去服事有病的，不是服事健康的（马太福音九：12）。撒母耳并没有把百姓的反应当做是他们的拒绝，他知道百姓的态度显示出他们与神的关系。撒母耳事奉的对象是神，不是以色列百姓。当神命令他要帮助他们，虽然他们拒绝他的信息，他还是帮助他们。

有时候，人们并没有照着应有的反应，回应神借着你说出的信息。不要因此而灰心，他们的态度反映出他们与神的关系。你是神的仆人。如果耶稣投注时间在那些灵性有需要的人身上，你可以预料，祂也要你做同样的事。不要对神的百姓失去耐心。要记得，神爱他们，诚如祂爱你一样。

Far Be It from Me!

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. 1 Samuel 12:23

It can be tempting at times to give up on God's people! They are so imperfect and can be so sinful, yet they are His people. Samuel had thoroughly warned the Israelites of the dangers in appointing a king over Israel. Yet they wanted to be like the nations around them, insisting that they were willing to pay any price. Almost as soon as the people were granted their desire, they recognized their sin. But it was too late. What was Samuel to do? They had ignored his warnings. Now they wanted him to continue to minister to them. It would seem appropriate for Samuel to abandon them and allow them to suffer the consequences of their actions.

Samuel knew, as Jesus knew, that God sends His servants to the sick, not the healthy (Matt. 9:12). Samuel did not take the people's response as a rejection of him but as an indication of their walk with God. Samuel was serving God, not the Israelites. When God commanded him to minister to them, he could do nothing else, despite their resistance to his message.

At times people will not respond as they should to the message God speaks through you. Don't become discouraged; it is a reflection of their relationship with God. You are God's servant; if Jesus spent His time with the spiritually needy, you can expect Him to ask you to do the same. Don't lose your patience with God's people. Keep in mind that God loves them as much as He loves you.

9月2日（星期五）- 标题：**单独工作**

经文：摩西的岳父看见他向百姓所作的一切事，就说：「你向百姓作的是什么事呢？你为什么独自坐着，众百姓从早到晚都站在你的左右呢？」（出埃及记十八章14节）

当我们热切地想讨好神及拓展祂的国度时，往往会负起神从未要我们去担的责任。基督徒生活最大的挑战之一，是决定神不要我们做什么！我们的本意是值得称许的：我们爱神，爱祂的百姓，并且在周围看到许多需要。然而，有时候我们的好意所造成的伤害，比我们能给予的好处还要多。

摩西知道，以色列百姓之间的争端需要有人仲裁。这些过去是奴隶的百姓，需要学习活出神百姓的样式，所以他当仁不让，负起这个重责。于是在摩西的面前，每天站了一大排不快乐的百姓，他们希望自己的案件能够陈明。日复一日地，摩西把解决同胞问题的重责，扛在肩头。他的岳父，一个外人，终于看到摩西的所作所为，并向摩西挑战如此作法是否有智慧。摩西负起超过他所能承担的重责，试图扛下非一人所能完成的工作，把自己搞得疲惫不堪。他独自挑起这个责任的同时，也剥夺了其他人服事主的机会。他帮了同胞的倒忙，否则他们的问题可以早一点被解决。

当你看到需求，不要自然而然地假设神要你去满足这个需求。开始执行一个事工的唯一理由，是神清楚告诉你这是祂的旨意。当你感到自己被手中的工作压得无法动弹，你可能做超过神要你做的工。要祷告直到清楚你手上的工是神的旨意，好叫你不致劫夺神在你及其他人身上最美的心意。

Working Alone

So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?" Exodus 18:14

In our zeal to please God and advance His kingdom, we Christians often take on responsibilities that God never intended us to have. One of the great challenges of the Christian life is determining what God does *not* want us to do! Our intentions are admirable: We love God, we love His people, and we see many needs around us. But sometimes our good intentions cause more harm than good.

Moses was aware of the need for someone to settle disputes among the Israelites. Someone had to help those former slaves learn how to live together as the people of God, so Moses took it upon himself to meet this need. Long lines of unhappy people, hoping to have their cases heard, stood before Moses each day. Moses spent day after day carrying the weight of his nation's problems on his shoulders. Finally his father-in-law, an outsider, witnessed what Moses was doing and challenged the wisdom of his actions. Moses was taking on more than he could handle. He was wearing himself out trying to do what was impossible for one person. In doing this service alone, Moses was robbing others of an opportunity to serve the Lord. He was also doing a disservice to his people, who otherwise could have had their issues resolved much sooner.

When you become aware of a need, do not automatically assume God wants you to meet it. The only reason to perform ministry is that God clearly tells you it is His will. If you are feeling overwhelmed by all that you are doing, you are probably doing more than God has asked. Pray carefully about the assignments you take on, so that you don't rob yourself and others of God's best.

8月30日（星期二）- 标题：**和好的职分**

经文：一切都是出于神；祂藉着基督使我们与祂和好，又将劝人与祂和好的职分赐给我们。（哥林多后书五章18节）

这个世界充满了许许多多的人，他们的罪使得他们与神隔绝。基督的牺牲恢复了基督徒与天父之间爱的关系。身为基督徒，我们被委派和好的职分。当基督住进我们的心里，我们成为祂的大使，恳求他人与祂和好（哥林多后书五：20）。我们是神的和平信使，要激励其他人转向神（马太福音五：9）。

罪破坏我们与神的关系，也使我们与人的关系破裂。破裂的人际关系，是这个时代的流行性传染病。罪离间家人、破坏友谊、分裂教会，并且毁坏婚姻关系。罪会制造疑心、嫉妒、仇恨、贪婪，和所有破败的关系。惟有基督能弥补罪在人际关系上的悲惨影响。身为神的大使，我们要把和好的信息带到破裂分离的世界。我们鼓励人要先与神和好，再与其他人和好。

神的和平信使们彼此对立不合，是多么悲痛的事！我们带着爱的信息，却又充满仇恨，这使我们的使命受到扭曲。如果你拒绝饶恕某人，你和解的信息只是假冒为善。作为耶稣门徒的证据，是去爱你的基督徒同伴（约翰福音十三：35）。在每一层人际关系上，要确定你的行动反映出你由神那儿得到的爱与饶恕。那么，你就不仅是传扬和平的信息，也同时活出和平的信息。

A Ministry of Reconciliation

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18

The world abounds with people whose sin has alienated them from God. Christ's sacrificial work has restored Christians to a love relationship with the heavenly Father. As Christians, we are appointed as ministers of reconciliation. Once Christ dwells within us, we become His ambassadors, and we entreat others to be reconciled to Him (2 Cor. 5:20). We are God's messengers of peace, urging others to return to God (Matt. 5:9).

Sin breaks our relationship with God; it severs relationships with others as well. Broken relationships are the epidemic of our day. Sin alienates family members, separates friends, divides churches, and destroys marriages. Sin creates mistrust, jealousy, hatred, and greed, all of which devastate relationships. Only Christ has the remedy for the disastrous effect of sin on human relationships. As His ambassadors, we are to take the message of reconciliation to a broken, divided world. We urge reconciliation first with God, and then with each other.

How tragic when God's messengers of peace harbor enmity toward each other. It is a travesty to carry a message of love and yet be filled with hatred. If there is someone whom you refuse to forgive, your message of reconciliation is hypocrisy. The evidence that you are a disciple of Jesus is that you love your fellow Christian (John 13:35). In each of your relationships, make certain that your actions share the love and forgiveness that reflect what you received from God. Then you will not only speak the message of reconciliation, but you will live it as well.

8月31日（星期三）- 标题：**动机**

经节：耶稣说：「要我为你做什么？」（马可福音十章51节上）

很难令人置信，主在反问我们，祂能够为我们做什么。然而，有时候这是我们非回答不可的问题。巴底买是个瞎子，他清楚知道自己需要耶稣为他做甚么：恢复视力。而他得到的，比肉体视力的复原更多！他得到救恩，因为耶稣知道巴底买的心是忠实的。巴底买立即使用他刚得到的礼物，成为救主的跟随者。

耶稣也曾经问过雅各和约翰，他们要祂为他们做什么。他们要求得到祂国度中最高位置。这回耶稣回答说，祂不能满足他们的索求。他们的要求是自私的，并且这个要求引起门徒之间的争闹（马可福音十：41）。

只有当我们根据神的旨意祈求时，祂会乐意赐下我们所求的（约翰福音十五：16）。神不会响应我们自私的祷告（雅各书四：3）。如果神抑制我们所求的事物，我们应当要评估自己的祷告。我们的动机是否自私？我们的要求是否远远少过神要给我们的一切（列王纪下十三：19；以弗所书三：20）？我们所求的事物是否配得上我们的神？我们是否缺乏信心，不确定神会满足我们所需（马太福音十七：20）？我们是否有尚未认的罪（以赛亚书一：15）？神喜爱回应我们的祈求（马太福音七：7），如果根据祂的旨意祈求，就像巴底买一样，我们会得到比自己料想的更多（耶利米书卅三：3）。

Motives

So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" Mark 10:51

It is hard to believe that the Lord would ask us what *He* could do for us. However, sometimes that is the question we must answer. Bartimaeus was blind, and he knew exactly what he wanted Jesus to do for him: restore his sight. Yet he received much more than physical sight! He received salvation, for Jesus knew Bartimaeus's heart was faithful. Bartimaeus immediately used his gift to become a follower of the Savior.

Jesus also asked James and John what they wanted Him to do for them. They requested the most prominent places in His kingdom. This time, Jesus answered that He could not give them what they asked. Their request was selfish, and it brought dissension among their fellow disciples (Mark 10:41).

Only when we pray according to God's will is He pleased to grant our requests (John 15:16). We will not see our prayers answered if we ask selfishly (James 4:3). If God refrains from giving us what we are asking, we should evaluate our prayers. Are our motives selfish? Are we asking for far less than God wants to give? (2 Kings 13:19; Eph. 3:20). Are our requests worthy of the God we approach? Do we lack the faith God requires to give us our desires? (Matt. 17:20). Is there unconfessed sin? (Isa. 1:15). God delights in responding to our requests (Matt. 7:7). If we will ask according to His will, we, like Bartimaeus, will receive far more than we anticipated! (Jer. 33:3).

9月1日（星期四）- 标题：**若寻求祂**

经节：你们若顺从耶和华，耶和华必与你们同在；你们若寻求祂，就必寻见；你们若离弃祂，祂必离弃你们。（历代志下十五章2节下）

神是否与我们同在，主要决定于我们对神的回应。如果我们全心全意寻求神，我们必寻见祂（耶利米书廿九：13~14）。主要与我们相交，然而，祂不会强逼我们与祂建立关系。我们不可能一面拒绝与祂相交，一面又期待祂就在附近。祂并不只是整日跟着我们，准备作我们随时帮助。如果一直远离祂，有一天我们会发现自己极度需要祂，而祂却不在身边（以赛亚书五十九：1~2）。

把那至高无上的真神当作仆人，颐指气使地指示祂，对神是公然的侮辱。神照着祂的主权和要求与我们相交，不是照着我们的要求。神渴望与我们亲密同行。如果渴望亲近祂，祂的同在会真实地临及每个渴慕祂的人。如果为罪悔改，并且照着神的定规寻求祂，就能与祂建立亲密的关系（雅各书四：8~10）。我们要不断地寻求祂，在每个新的早晨，若无神同行的确据就不满足。

你是否嘴上说要经历神的同在，但是行为又表现出另一码事？如果嘴上说要更认识神，却疏于读经，你是否真实地寻求祂？你是否时常疏懒于祷告？如果你的行动显露出你是真诚地寻求神，祂应许你会找到祂的（马太福音七：7）。

If You Seek Him

The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. 2 Chronicles 15:2

Our response to God greatly determines His presence in our lives. If we seek God with all of our hearts, then we will find Him (Jer. 29:13-14). The Lord wants to have fellowship with us, but He will not force a relationship upon us. We cannot reject fellowship with God and expect Him to remain near. He does not merely follow us throughout our day in case we need His assistance. If we continue to forsake Him, a time will come when we desperately need Him and He will not be near (Isa. 59:1-2).

It is an affront to sovereign God to treat Him like a servant who should wait upon us. God will relate to us on His terms, not ours. God desires a close walk with us. He will make His presence real and personal if that is our desire. If we repent of our sin and seek God on His terms, we can look forward to intimate fellowship with Him (James 4:8-10). We are to continually seek Him, not content to enter a new day without the assurance that God is walking beside us.

Do you say you want to experience God's presence while your actions reveal otherwise? If you say you want to know God better but neglect studying His word, are you truly seeking Him? Have you regularly forsaken the place of prayer? If your actions reveal that you are genuinely seeking God, then He promises that you will find Him (Matt. 7:7).