

聖神與福傳（六）

（摘自「神恩」第廿八期）

福傳與整體信仰

在向人傳福音之前，有幾個觀念需要加以澄清。不然，這些心理障礙和疑惑都會影響我們是否全力以赴。「不信耶穌的人會否得救？」「我們向有其他信仰的人傳福音，是否不尊重他人？」下面的討論將會較多採用梵二文獻來探討這些基本觀念。

福傳與「得救」觀念

基督教的兄弟姊妹比我們更熱烈地傳福音，這是一個公認的現象。信友的培訓固然是原因之一，但彼此對獲得永生的觀念不同，也影響著福傳的熱誠。

大部份的基督教會相信，祇有領了洗，「口裡承認，心裡相信」基督是主的人才可以得救。天主教的信理則認為，「那些非因自己的過失，而不知道基督的福音及其教會的人，卻誠心尋求天主，並按照良心的指示，實行天主的聖意，他們是可以得到永生的。還有一些人，非因自己的過失，尚未認識天主，卻……勉力度著正直的生活……任何真善的成分，教會都視之為接受福音的準備……」（17）。如此說來，人若非故意拒絕耶穌，而憑天主的恩寵和良心去正直過活，也有機會得永生，那麼，我們仍需要積極傳福音嗎？

我很相信天主教會那麼經得起考驗而健全的信理。可是，如果不信天主的人也有機會得救，那麼我們仍需努力傳福音嗎？其實答案很簡單，加入教會的人，祇要跟隨教會訓誨生活，就會獲得救恩，得

到永遠的生命，而祇憑良心生活的人，祇是「有機會」得救。若果我告訴你六個號碼，必然中六合彩的頭獎，跟我告訴你六個「可以有機會」中獎的號碼，中間是否有很大的分別？關鍵在於我們是否重視永生，認為它比六合彩頭獎的價值更高。

另外我們也要小心，憑良心生活有其尊嚴和神聖的地方，「不過，人對探求真理及為善不大注意，或者因犯罪習慣而良心變為盲目，則不可同日而語了」(18)。良心是可以被蒙蔽的，做「好人」不一定成為聖善而得救，因為「好人」也會同意或執行墮胎，「好人」也會看三級片……「好人」和「良心」有時實在太廣泛了，惟有在教會內——在基督的恩寵之源下，我們才有明確的保證，祇有基督是道路、真理和生命，除了通過祂之外，沒有人能到父那裡去。你想必中頭獎嗎？

* 請記下你對以上文章的任何感想或有任何信仰分享，投入我們設在聖堂反面的收集箱內。



Holy Spirit and Evangelization (VI) (Article from the 28th issue of God Grace magazine)

Evangelization and the Faith of the Body of Christ

Before we approach to people to spread the Gospel, we need to clarify a few concepts, for otherwise we'll be hindered by some uncertainty and psychological barriers that would prevent us from going all out for evangelization. "Could those who don't believe in Jesus Christ be saved?" "If we evangelize to the people who believe in other religions, does that mean we don't respect these people?" The following discussion will look into some basic concepts, applying the documents of the Vatican II Council as the reference.

Evangelization and the Concept of "Being Saved"

It is generally acknowledged that Our Protestant Christian brothers and sisters showed more enthusiasm in evangelization than we Catholics do. While the development of faith is one factor, the different viewpoints on eternal life have also been affecting the enthusiasm in evangelization.

Most Christian denominations believe that only those who have received baptism and accepted Christ as God with their words and heart can be saved. The Catholic faith believes that "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience -- those too may achieve eternal salvation." (*Lumen Gentium*, 16) Therefore, if people don't reject Jesus Christ and lead an honest life through God's grace and good conscience can have the opportunity of eternal salvation, then why do we need to ardently carry on evangelization?

In fact the answer is very simple: those who have been baptized into the body of Christ, as long as they follow the Church teaching, they will receive the grace of salvation and the eternal life, while those who don't know God but just live by the good conscience may have the opportunity of being saved. Isn't there a big difference between the six numbers I am telling you that are the numbers to win the first prize and another six numbers that "might have the chance" to win? The decisive point lays in our sincerity towards the eternal life, acknowledging that it is a lot more valuable than winning the first prize.

We need also to recognize that there is a certain dignity and holiness in striving to lead a good life through one's conscience. "But very often, deceived by the Evil, men have become vain in their reasonings, have exchanged the truth of God for a lie and served the world rather than the Creator. (cf. Rom 1:21-25) Or else, living and dying in this world without God, they are exposed to ultimate despair." (*Lumen Gentium*, 16) Conscience can be deceived; being a good person is not guaranteed to be saved by

merits, for a "good person" could fall into degeneration. Some times "good person" and "conscience" have a too general and vague connotation, but it is only within the Church and under the Grace of God that we have a definite promise: only Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and life; unless through Him, no one can go to the Father. Now do you want to win the first prize?

** If you have any reflection on this article or your faith sharing, please write it down and put it into the collection box located at the back of the church.*

Reflection on last article:

One Sunday in the supermarket there was a man who drew a large crowd, including me. He was demonstrating a new type of juicer that produces a heavenly green juice that he claimed to heal, cure or nurture various types of the syndromes we experience in our stressful life. There was an air of hope in the crowd.

Among the enthusiastic onlookers I happened to spot my former instructor of LSAT prep class, a dashing and confident young lawyer who is now noticeably skinny and reticent. After the exchange of greetings, I joyfully told him that I decided to go for the study of religion instead of law. "Where is the school? How is the subject of religion?" he asked with curiosity and interest.

I comfortably told him that now I am studying at the St. Joseph Seminary. For me religion is the most wonderful subject because it is about the most holy part of a human heart that longs to establish a contemplative and participating relationship with the divine. Our interactions with the loving God can only result in a true joy and happiness in us cannot be attained elsewhere.

I then asked, "Do you like your work as a lawyer?" "Do you think your constant exposure to the injustice, crimes and disputes are affecting the well-being of your person?"

At this point we both broke out a knowingly laugh: apparently these questions need no answer -- no matter how capable and successful we think we are, the fact that we are converging at this wonder juicer, which reminds me of the well in John's Gospel, for nourishment and restoration shows that we are broken, wounded and stressed out, but still hold the hope for a saving grace, like the Samaritan woman.

"I think we all need a spiritual food that is beyond what this juice could offer," I suggested sincerely. "It is very true, very true, and it is really very nice to meet you here," he reciprocated, his thin face lit up with the fresh ideas that he probably seldom heard of in the secular world. We parted with me saying "God bless you!"

I believe that the Holy Spirit is with us when we evangelize with sincerity, honesty and courage, and the successful people also have the capacity to receive the Gospel because it is meant for the salvation of the whole universe.