自序

筆者創作信仰反思漫畫,不知不覺已經進入第十四年。創作的過程有時候是思如泉湧,更多時候卻是半強迫狀態下完成。有些作品被網友廣泛點讚、轉貼和流傳,有一些則反應冷淡,甚至引起爭議、招來批評,其中包括一些我個人覺得較滿意的作品。無論如何,我持續創作到今天,且會繼續堅持下去。

為甚麼?回顧這些日子,我心底一直深信以下幾個事實。

真理是根基和泉源

很多人問我:「你的作品這麼多,靈感哪裏來?」我都會毫不猶豫地回答,我最重要的靈感泉源就是聖經,這一點沒有一絲懷疑。雖然漫畫是通俗藝術、平易近人,但這些畫面所傳達的信息,大都出自我的講章,而那些講章,都是經過嚴謹的原文釋經、深入的反思、用心撰寫出來的成果。可惜的是,為求精簡,本書未能對每一段所引用的經文作深入的解釋。當讀者對照所列出之經文時,甚至可能會有「斷章取義」的感覺。這是我所承認的。但我想說,有些信息不是根據特定的章節歸納出來,而是聖經整體帶出來的觀念或教導。然而,考慮到本書的性質、功用以及篇幅的限制,筆者也只能做到這樣。

結合經歷、觀察與反思

這幾年一直在教會圈子裏聽到一個詞——「接地氣」,強調基督信仰和神的子民不能彷彿空中樓閣,總是談發生在地球時空以外的事。沒錯。儘管神學有時候聽起來、討論起來很玄奥難明(前幾天,筆者在臉書收到一個網友留言:「神學是沒用的東西!」),但筆者一直深信且經歷到其對生活的貼切性,且努力嘗試拉近神學與生活在一般人理解中的距離。要做到這一點,就必須努力將真理落實,以致我們可以經歷,並且要不住觀察和反思周遭的現象。神不單藉着聖經在說話,也藉着

我們周遭的人、事、物,以及內住在我們裏面的聖靈持續向我們說話。

通俗藝術具有吸引力

筆者一直堅信漫畫的吸引力,尤其處身在這個閱讀風氣愈來愈 淡泊的時代。寫作的人不單要致力寫出好的作品,還要想辦法吸引讀 者,以致他們會想看這本書。這不僅僅是為了提升書的銷售量,更重 要的是讓讀者願意在真理上扎根,並讓神的話語因而可以更深刻地烙 印在他們的心裏,助他們在屬靈生命上成長。

讓作品富有啟發性

教育的目的,不是灌輸一套固化的知識使受教育者可以傳承,而是發揮啟蒙的作用,幫助讀者親自從神的話品嚐真理筵席的甜美。要做到這一點,漫畫是一個極佳的幫手。正如常有人在筆者臉書分享漫畫時留言說:「一圖勝千言」,這幾年筆者出版了「字少圖多」的作品,最期待達到的果效不是給信仰各種議題提供標準的答案,而是供讀者有一個反思空間,希望藉此開啟讀者自己的信仰探索之旅。本書亦然。

謝謝網友和讀者們多年來的支持、點讚、留言和分享,在我的作品表達不完全或引起誤解時,你們也忠實地給我評語。我會把它們看成神在我身上的作為,有時候用來推動我前行,有時候用來開啟我新的視角,或是當我出現差誤時,神用以責備和勸勉我,有時候那甚至像是考驗,叫我反思自己為了甚麼而堅持,並該如何創新、突破,好讓神託付我的使命得以持續。未來的路,也希望繼續有你們相伴。

蔡頌輝

2021年4月・於德國德累斯頓



Preface

These cartoons are my reflections on faith, and are quietly entering their fourteenth year since I first started to produce them. Sometimes the creative process wells up like a fountain, but more often than not, they are half forced. Some works have been popular and reposted and circulated by netizens, while others have been coldly received, or have even aroused controversy or critique (including some that I find much to my liking). In any case, even up to the present, I am still creating, and I insist to do so.

Why? Because, when I look back, these are truths I have always believed in from the bottom of my heart.

Truth Is the Foundation and the Source

Many people ask me: "You have created so many cartoons; where does your inspiration come from?" Without hesitation I answer that my most important source of inspiration is the Bible. There is no doubt about this. Although comics are a popular approachable art form, most of the messages conveyed by these pictures have come from my sermons, and those sermons are the result of a serious interpretation of the original text, in-depth reflection, and heartful writing. Although unfortunately for the sake of brevity, this book is unable to provide in-depth explanations of the verses quoted in each paragraph. When the reader compares the scriptures listed, he may even feel they are taken "out of context". This I admit. But I also want to say that some are not reflecting just the specific chapters/verses, but instead are reflecting the concepts or teachings of the Bible as a whole. However, regrettably, considering the nature, function, and length of this book, this is the only way to do so.

A Combination of Experience, Observation and Reflection

In the past few years, a phrase is being used in church circles, that is: "down to earth", emphasizing that Christians, as the people of God, cannot be "like castles in the sky", always talking about things out of time and space. That's right. Although theology sometimes sounds mysterious and difficult to discuss (for example, a few days ago, I received a message from a netizen on Facebook: "Theology is useless!"). Personally, I have always believed in and experienced its impact on life, and thus am trying hard to narrow this imaginary distance between theology and life in the understanding of ordinary people. To do this, we must work hard to implement these truths of the Bible, so that we can experience them, as well

as to constantly observe and reflect on the phenomena around us. God not only speaks through the Bible, but also through people and things that we encounter and through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Popular Art Is Attractive

I have always believed in the attractiveness of comics, especially in this generation which is increasingly indifferent to reading. But a writer must not only strive to write something good, but also has to find ways to attract readers to read their books. For me, this is not only to increase the sales of my book, but more importantly, to make my readers willing to be rooted in the truth, so that the word of God can be more deeply imprinted in their hearts and help them to grow spiritually.

Making the Work Inspiring

The purpose of education is not to instill a set of fixed truths so that those educated can pass them on, but to enlighten and help readers so that they themselves can taste the sweetness of these truths from the banquet which is the word of God. To do this, comics are an excellent help. People often leave this message on my Facebook page when they share the comics: "A picture says more than a thousand words." In the past few years, I have published works with "few words and many pictures". The most anticipated effect of this is not to provide standard answers to various topics of faith, but to provide readers with a space for reflection; hoping to inspire the readers to explore their own journey of faith. The same also goes for this book.

Thank you netizens and readers for your support, likes, comments, and sharing over the years. When my work is incomplete or misunderstood, you have faithfully criticized me. I see this as God working in me, sometimes to push me forward, sometimes to open me up to new perspectives; or when I make mistakes, God uses it to reprove and exhort me; sometimes it has even been like a test, asking me to reflect on what I had insisted on, or on how to innovate or to reach a breakthrough; to let God's mission which He has entrusted to me, to continue. I also hope that you will continue with me in this endeavor in the future.

Andrew Chai In Dresden, Germany, April 2021 信仰是/不是這樣的

100% 按神的形象造的 100% CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE



100% 按神的形象造的 100% CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE





我們一家都是人

We Are All Part of the Human Family

經上記着説:「要愛人如己。」你們若全守這至尊的律法才是好的。但你們若按外貌待人,便是犯罪,被律法定為犯法的。(雅二8~9)

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. (James 2:8-9)

十 禁止人把祂想象成任何一種具體的形象(出二十4~5),因為神本是靈(約四24),任何形象都無法表達祂的美。然而,聖經一開始就指出人是按照神的形象造的。注意,不是帥的人、聰明的人或特定膚色的人,而是人!換言之,敬畏神不但不要把祂局限在任何受造的形象裏;在積極的一面,我們要尊敬所有按祂形象被造的人。世人普遍按照外貌、成就、能力、財富、背景等外在因素來把人分門別類,神的子民卻當致力用正確的態度和行動表露自己對「神的形象」的尊重。

God forbids people to make an image of Him as any specific image (Exodus 20:4-5), because God is Spirit (John 4:24), and no image can express His beauty. However, from the very beginning, the Bible points out that people are created in the image of God. Note that it is not handsome people, smart people or people of a certain skin color, but people! In other words, when we fear God, we would not limit Him to some created image. On the positive side, it means that we must also respect all those created in His image. People generally classify others according to external factors such as appearance, achievement, ability, wealth, background, etc. God's people, however, should strive to show their respect for the "image of God" we are all created with by proper attitudes and actions.

思考問題 · Reflections

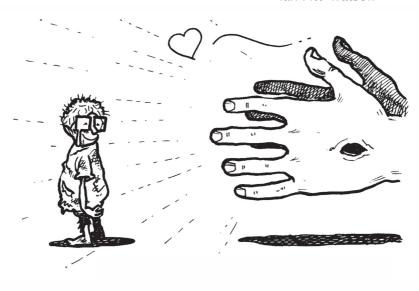
- 1. 你身邊是否有一些不知不覺被你排拒的人?
 Are there any people whom you unknowingly reject?
- 2. 有哪些行為可能顯示我們對人的「不尊重」?我們可以如何改變? What behaviors might show "disrespect" to others? How can we change?

信仰是/不是這樣的

有些東西因有價值所以被愛 SOME THINGS ARE LOVED BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHY



有些則因被愛所以有價值 SOME THINGS ARE WORTHY BECAUSE THEY ARE LOVED - lan Pitt-Watson





因被愛而珍貴

Precious Because We Are Loved

就如神從創立世界以前,在基督裏揀選了我們,使我們在他面前成為 聖潔,無有瑕疵;又因愛我們,就按着自己意旨所喜悦的,預定我們 藉着耶穌基督得兒子的名分。(弗一4~5)

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (Ephesians 1:4-5)

● 普遍用成就和貢獻來界定一個人存在的價值。按此,耶穌生平中 最常接觸和親近的人,就是被世人視為沒有價值的人──窮人、妓 女、稅吏、被鬼附的,或因患病而在禮儀上不潔淨的人。顯然,耶穌看 人的價值和世人決然不同,祂看的不是外在條件,而是人的本質。祂愛每 一個人到底,為他們而死,顯示他們在祂心中有無比的價值,而被愛的 人更因祂救贖的恩典而找到價值。我們因犯罪原是「死」的,因着耶穌的 救贖,我們與祂一同「坐在天上」(弗二5~6)。死囚從此變成了王子。

Generally, people use achievements and contributions to define the value of a person's life. The people whom Jesus mostly mixed with, and was close to, were the people regarded as worthless by the world — the poor, the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the demon possessed, or those who were ritually unclean because of disease. Obviously, Jesus saw the value of human beings in a completely different way than the world does. What He looked at was not the external conditions, but the essence of a human being. He loves everyone to the end and died for them, showing that they have immense value in His heart, and as His beloved, they have value because of His redeeming grace. We were "dead" because of sin, but because of Jesus' salvation, we are "seated (...) with Him in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 2:5-6). The death row inmate is thus transformed to a prince.

思考問題 · Reflections

- 1. 你如何衡量人的價值?你認為自己是個有價值的人嗎? How do you measure the value of a person? Do you consider yourself a valuable person?
- 2. 你在耶穌眼中的價值,應該給你帶來甚麼影響? What should the value you have in Jesus' eyes affect you?