

***Is It Reasonable to Be a Christian* 作基督徒合理嗎？**

Hebrews 希伯來書 1:1-4 & John 約翰福音 14:1-6

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At the last national census, 45% of our neighbourhood have no religious belief. More than 10% higher than the average for NSW. We also rated lower than the state and national average for those claiming a Christian belief.

在上一次全國人口普查中，我們社區有 45% 的人沒有宗教信仰。比新州的平均水準高出 10% 以上。我們自稱有基督教信仰的人的比例，也低於州和全國的平均水準。

At the beginning of 2026, is it reasonable to be a Christian? Over the next four weeks we will be unpacking why the answer is a resounding YES. We will be exploring why faith in Jesus Christ is reasonable and plausible and good and desirable.

在 2026 年伊始，作基督徒合理嗎？在接下來的四週裡，我們將探討為什麼答案是響亮的「是」。我們將探討為什麼相信耶穌基督是合理的、可信的、美好的且值得嚮往的。

If you are an agnostic tuning in, are you 100% certain you want to stay unsure about God? If you are a sceptic tuning in, you might want to consider what kind of God is it whose existence is deemed improbable? If you are a Christian, my hope is that you become more confident in Jesus, and plan to grow deeper in him this year.

如果你是一位不可知論者在收聽，你百分之百確定自己想對神保持不確定的態度嗎？如果你是一位懷疑論者在收聽，你可能要思考一下，究竟是什麼樣的神，其存在會被認為是不可能的？如果你是一位基督徒，我希望你對耶穌更有信心，並計劃今年在祂裡面更深入地成長。

This morning, we will briefly consider whether it is reasonable to be a person of faith, faith in God, and faith in Jesus in particular.

今天早上，我們將簡要思考作一個有信仰的人——相信神，特別是相信耶穌——是否合理。

IS FAITH REASONABLE 相信是合理嗎？

History is full of famous and brilliant people looking at the evidence for God, the same evidence, and moving in different directions.

歷史充滿了著名而傑出的人物，他們審視關於神的證據——相同的證據——卻走向了不同的方向。

At one end, for instance, the British mathematician and philosopher Bertrand Russell. He was asked late in life what he would say if he discovered there was in fact a God after he died. His reply was, "Not enough evidence God."

在一端，例如英國數學家兼哲學家伯特蘭·羅素。他在晚年被問到，如果死後發現確實有神，他會說什麼。他的回答是：「證據不夠，上帝。」

At the other end there is Elizabeth Anscombe, possibly the greatest female philosopher ever. She looked at the same evidence and moved from atheism to Christianity.

在另一端是伊莉莎白·安斯康姆，她可能是有史以來最偉大的女性哲學家。她審視了相同的證據，卻從無神論轉向了基督教。

The list on both sides is long. So how do we account for this? The more common argument used in our culture to solve the problem is that religious people ground their life in faith, but secular people ground their life on scientific fact and logic.

雙方陣營的名單都很長。那麼我們如何解釋這一點呢？我們的文化中常用來解決這個問題的論點是：宗教人士將生命建立在信仰之上，而世俗人士將生命建立在科學事實和邏輯之上。

Religious people have faith, a bias towards religion, and an emotional need to believe in something. Secular people are just being unbiased, objective and looking at life rationally. This is simply not true. In his book *A Secular Age*, Charles Taylor calls this view the “subtraction story.” This is where a person might say *I used to believe in God and the supernatural, but because of science and reason I just subtracted God. Now I just see things the way they are.*

宗教人士有信仰，對宗教有偏愛，並且有相信某物的情感需求。世俗人士只是保持不偏不倚、客觀並理性地看待生命。這根本不符合事實。查爾斯·泰勒在他的著作《世俗時代》中稱這種觀點為「減法故事」。這是一個人可能會說我過去相信神和超自然，但因為科學和理性，我減去了神。現在我只是如實看待事物。

The reality is, to move from belief in God to non-belief is a shift from one set of beliefs to a new set of beliefs. It is not a move from belief to non-belief. One of the first new beliefs a secular person adopts is what is called *exclusive rationality*. It's the belief that science is the only arbiter of what is real and factual and that nothing should be believed that unless it can be decisively proven with evidence and observation.

現實是，從相信神轉變為不相信，是從一套信念轉變為一套新的信念。這並非從有信仰轉向無信仰。世俗人士採納的第一批新信念之一就是所謂的排他性理性。它是一種信念，認為科學是唯一判定何為真實和事實的仲裁者，並且除非有證據和觀察能夠決定性地證明，否則不應相信任何東西。

It sounds reasonable, but its actually irrational. What, after all, is the observed proof, the factual evidence, that science is the arbiter of all that is real? The claim of exclusive rationality can't meet its own criteria.

這聽起來合理，但實際上是不理性的。畢竟，有什麼觀察到的證明、事實證據，能證明科學是所有現實事物的仲裁者呢？排他性理性的主張無法滿足它自己的標準。

Even reason and proof must start with faith in reason and belief in some concept of proof. Exclusive rationality depends on the belief that our senses -- eyes, ears, minds, memories -- are not tricking us. But we cannot test that without using and assuming the reliability of those very senses.

甚至理性和證明也必須始於對理性的信心和對某種證明概念的信念。排他性理性依賴於一種信念，即我們的感官——眼睛、耳朵、頭腦、記憶——沒有欺騙我們。但我們若不使用並假定這些感官本身是可靠的，就無法測試這一點。

Observation and scientific evidence can neither prove there is a God, nor disprove the existence of God. All varieties of secularism are sets of beliefs, not simply the absence of faith.

觀察和科學證據既不能證明有神，也不能否定神的存在。所有類型的世俗主義都是一套套的信念，而不僅僅是信仰的缺失。

I saw an interview between comedian Ricky Gervais and US comedian and talk show host Stephen Colbert. Gervais is an agnostic atheist and Colbert a confused Catholic. Gervais was explaining how he relied on science, evidence, fact and logic for the explanation of all things. He made it clear he wasn't a person of faith at all.

我看過喜劇演員瑞奇·熱維斯和美國喜劇演員兼脫口秀主持人史蒂芬·科爾伯特之間的採訪。熱維斯是一位不可知論的無神論者，科爾伯特則是一位困惑的天主教徒。熱維斯解釋他如何依賴科學、證據、事實和邏輯來解釋一切事物。他明確表示他根本不是一個有信仰的人。

He then made a comment about how the universe started from a freakish miniscule burst of light. Colbert very quickly replied that he couldn't prove that statement, and that he was relying upon the opinion of Professor Stephen Hawking. He then added...his view was a step of faith. Gervais was stumped and the tension was released by moving on to another point.

然後他評論說宇宙是如何始於一次怪異的微小光爆。科爾伯特很快回答說他無法證明那個說法，他依賴的是史蒂芬·霍金教授的觀點。他接著補充道.....他的觀點是一種信心的跨越。熱維斯被難住了，緊張氣氛因轉移到另一點而得以緩解。

Theism nor atheism can be 100% proven by data---they are systems of thinking and believing that need to be compared to one another to determine which makes the most sense.

有神論和無神論都不能被數據 100%證明——它們是需要相互比較以確定哪一個最合理的思維和信念體系。

Which makes the most sense of our experience, of things we know and need to explain? Which one makes the most sense of our social experience and addresses the problems we face in living together? Which of these is the most logically consistent?

哪一個最能解釋我們的經驗、我們知道並需要解釋的事物？哪一個最能解釋我們的社會經驗並解決我們共同生活中面臨的問題？哪一個在邏輯上最為一致？

IS FAITH IN GOD REASONABLE 相信神合理嗎？

Therefore, if all people exercise faith to some degree, is it reasonable to have faith in God? Believers in God have argued that God's existence cannot be proven empirically, as if he were a physical object, but can be logically inferred. Many scientific theories, especially those in physics, are established in the exact same way.

因此，如果所有人都在某種程度上運用信心，那麼相信神是合理的嗎？神的信徒論證說，神的存在不能像物理物件那樣用經驗證明，但可以透過邏輯推斷出來。許多科學理論，特別是物理學中的理論，正是以完全相同的方式建立的。

Christianity suggests there are significant clues that point to the existence of God. Psalm 19 tells us that God has put his fingerprints all through the universe: *The heavens declare the glory of*

God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

基督教認為，有重要的線索指向神的存在。《詩篇》19 篇告訴我們，神將祂的指紋遍佈宇宙：「諸天述說上帝的榮耀，穹蒼傳揚他手的作為。這日到那日發出言語，這夜到那夜傳出知識。無言無語，也無聲音可聽。它們的聲浪傳遍天下，它們的言語傳到地極。」

I'll mention just a two of the clues that point to God's existence. There is the 'cosmic wonder' clue. Modern science is completely insufficient to explain the existence of the world.

我將只提及兩個指向神存在的線索。首先是「宇宙奇觀」的線索。現代科學完全不足以解釋世界的存在。

There are two unavoidable questions. Firstly, *how did the indescribable variety of life in this universe come to be?* How did we go from a single-celled life in pre-historic soup to mosquitos and giraffes?

有兩個不可避免的問題。第一，這個宇宙中難以形容的生命多樣性是如何產生的？我們是如何從史前「原始湯」中的單細胞生命演化到蚊子和長頸鹿的？

An infinity of articles, books, conferences, TV programs, Ph.D. thesis, studies have been devoted to this subject. The general view is a thing called *evolution*. It was all an accident.

無數的文章、書籍、會議、電視節目、博士論文、研究都致力於這個主題。普遍的觀點是一種叫做演化的東西。這一切都是偶然。

The second unavoidable question is simply this: *what happened to bring life into existence in the first place?* This question is rarely ever asked, much less answered with any scientific credibility. How does life come from non-life?

第二個不可避免的問題很簡單：最初是什麼使生命得以存在？這個問題很少被問及，更不用說用任何科學可信度來回答了。生命如何從無生命中產生？

In 1952 at the University of Chicago, two scientists tried to solve that problem. It became known as the Miller-Urey experiment. It failed to produce life from non-life. With all the scientific advancements in the past seven decades, no one has been able to produce life from non-life. This is a question that science cannot answer and everything hinges on it.

1952 年，在芝加哥大學，兩位科學家試圖解決這個問題。這就是後來著名的「米勒-尤里」實驗。它未能從非生命物質中產生生命。儘管過去七十年科學有了諸多進步，但沒有人能夠從非生命物質中創造出生命。這是一個科學無法回答的問題，而一切都取決於它。

The existence of God is inferred from existence itself. Life must come from something that already has life.

神的存在是從存在本身推斷出來的。生命必定來自於某種已經有生命的東西。

In his book *The Language of God*, scientist Francis Collins puts it like this: .

科學家弗朗西斯·柯林斯在他的著作《上帝的語言》中這樣說道：

We have this very solid conclusion that the universe had an origin, the Big Bang. Fifteen billion years ago, the universe began with an unimaginably bright flash of energy from an infinitely small point. That implies that before that, there was nothing. I can't imagine how nature, in this case the universe, could have created itself. And the very fact that the universe had a beginning implies that someone was able to begin it. And it seems to me that had to be outside of nature.

「我們有一個非常確鑿的結論，即宇宙有一個起源，即大爆炸。150 億年前，宇宙從一個無限小的點開始，伴隨著難以想像的明亮能量閃光。這意味著在那之前，什麼都沒有。我無法想像自然界，在這裡是宇宙，如何能創造自己。而宇宙有開端這一事實本身就意味著有人能夠開啟它。在我看來，那必須是存在於自然之外的。」

Science itself has given us a strong case that there is something beyond the natural world that brought it into existence, and which even now upholds its existence.

科學本身為我們提供了一個有力的論證：存在著某種超越自然界的東西，它使自然界得以存在，甚至現在仍維繫著它的存在。

A second clue for God's existence is the **fine-tuned design of the world**. At one point the most famous atheist in the world, Christopher Hitchens, admitted that the fine tuning of the universe argument was not a trivial argument...you had to really think about it.

神存在的第二個線索是「**世界的精微設計**」。一度是世界上最著名的無神論者克里斯多福·希欽斯曾承認，宇宙微調的論證並非無足輕重……你必須認真思考它。

Think of existence as a set of dials, all of which must be set precisely for life to exist. Even a slight variation in any one of them would be enough for life to no longer exist. Once again, the advance in scientific discovery is making this clue stronger and stronger. The scientist Carl Sagan once said there was only two parameters for life to exist.

把存在想像成一組刻度盤，為了生命存在，所有刻度都必須精確設定。即使其中任何一個刻度盤有微小的變化，都足以讓生命不復存在。再一次，科學發現的進步使這個線索越來越有力。科學家卡爾·薩根曾說只有兩個參數是生命存在的條件。

With the advance of the decades, science has discovered hundreds of parameters all fine tuned perfectly for life. The possibility that those dials came to accidentally be set at exactly the right spot at exactly the right time for life to begin and have stayed static ever since to allow life to go on existing, is a massive leap of faith because it's a rejection of scientific evidence that the universe is not static.

隨著幾十年的進步，科學已經發現了數百個參數，所有參數都為了生命而被完美地微調。這些刻度盤偶然地在恰恰正確的時間被設定在恰恰正確的位置，讓生命得以開始，並且從那以後一直保持靜止以使生命得以繼續存在，這種可能性是一個巨大的信心飛躍，因為它拒絕了宇宙並非靜止的科學證據。

Believers in God suggest the fine-tuning of physics makes much more sense in a universe in which there is a creator and designer. To quote Collins again:

神的信徒認為，在一個有創造者和設計者的宇宙中，物理學的微調更有意義。再次引用柯林斯的話：

If any one of those constants was off by even one part in a million, or in some cases, one part in a million million, the universe could not have come to the point where we see it. Matter would not have been able to coalesce, there would have been no galaxy, stars, planets, or people.

「如果這些常數中的任何一個甚至有百萬分之一，或者在某些情況下，萬億分之一的偏差，宇宙就不可能達到我們看到它的狀態。物質將無法凝聚，將不會有星系、恆星、行星或人類。」

It would be more reasonable to conclude it was something intended and designed. Is this a conclusive proof? No, because it suggests only that it is more likely that there is a God than that there is not. But it can't be dismissed.

得出它是有意圖和被設計的結論會更合理。這是一個決定性的證明嗎？不是，因為它只是表明有神的可能性大於沒有。但它不能被輕易駁斥。

The distinguished physician Lewis Thomas wrote: *"I cannot make peace with the randomness doctrine: I cannot abide the notion of purposelessness and blind chance in nature. And yet I do not know what to put in its place for the quieting of my mind."*

傑出的醫師路易斯·托馬斯寫道：「我無法接受隨機性的學說：我不能容忍自然界無目的和盲目偶然的觀念。然而，我不知道該用什麼來替代它以使我心安。」

There are many more clues...at least 30 more. None of these clues are so strong as to force belief, but they do make it completely rational to believe in God.

還有更多的線索.....至少還有 30 個。這些線索沒有一個強烈到足以強迫人相信，但它們確實使得相信神是完全理性的。

IS FAITH IN JESUS REASONABLE 相信耶穌合理嗎？

The clues for God not only do not prove God's existence but at best only give us some abstract being. Christians believe that the main way we know specifics about this God is through his self-revelation.

指向神的線索不僅不能證明神的存在，充其量只給了我們一個抽象的存在。基督徒相信，我們認識這位神的具體細節的主要方式是透過祂的自我啟示。

Not first through our thinking but through his speaking to us. Christians believe he has done that decisively in Jesus Christ.

不是首先透過我們的思考，而是透過祂對我們說話。基督徒相信祂已經在耶穌基督身上決定性地做到了這一點。

Hebrews 1 is referring to Jesus when as it makes the claim that Jesus is the final and decisive communication of God to humanity:

《希伯來書》第 1 章指的是耶穌，它宣稱耶穌是神對人類最終和決定性的溝通：

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,

「古時候，上帝藉著眾先知多次多方向列祖說話，末世，藉著他兒子向我們說話，又立他為承受萬有的，也藉著他創造宇宙。他是上帝榮耀的光輝，是上帝本體的真像...」

It's therefore not surprising that the man Christians call Jesus Christ is the single most influential person who ever lived.

因此，基督徒稱為耶穌基督的這個人是有史以來最具影響力的人物，這並不奇怪。

A greater percentage of the world's population than ever before is Christian, and Christianity adds to its ranks just under nineteen million new people a year.

世界上基督徒人口的比例比以往任何時候都高，基督教每年增加近一千九百萬新信徒。

Christianity is the religion that is most equally distributed across the continents of the world. No other faith has so extensively crossed the cultural divisions of humanity and found a place in so many diverse cultural contexts.

基督教是世界上分佈最為均衡的宗教。沒有其他信仰能如此廣泛地跨越人類的文化分野，並在如此多樣的文化背景中找到一席之地。

Why has Jesus had the effect that he has had? The answer can come only from looking at his life, his words, and his actions. In Jesus we see qualities and virtues we would ordinarily consider incompatible in the same person.

耶穌為何產生了祂所產生的影響？答案只能來自於審視祂的生命、祂的話語和祂的行動。在耶穌身上，我們看到了通常認為在同一個人身上無法並存的品質和美德。

Jesus combines high majesty with the greatest humility, he joins the strongest commitment to justice with astonishing mercy and grace, and he reveals a transcendent self-sufficiency and yet entire trust in and reliance upon his heavenly Father.

耶穌將至高貴的威嚴與至極的謙卑結合在一起，將對公義最堅定的承諾與驚人的憐憫和恩典結合在一起，祂顯明了超越的自給自足，卻又完全信任並依賴祂的天父。

We are surprised to see tenderness without any weakness, boldness without harshness, humility without any uncertainty, indeed, accompanied by a towering confidence.

我們驚訝地看到溫柔而無絲毫軟弱，勇敢而不嚴厲，謙卑而無任何猶豫，事實上，還伴隨著一種超凡的信心。

His unbending convictions but complete approachability, his insistence on truth but always bathed in love, his power without insensitivity, integrity without rigidity, passion without prejudice.

祂有堅定的信念卻又平易近人，堅持真理卻總是以愛為懷，有力量而不冷漠，正直而不固執，熱情而無偏見。

People who have read and pondered Jesus's words, deeds, and life have groped for good ways to describe and explain what they see.

那些閱讀並思考過耶穌話語、事蹟和生命的人，一直在尋找好的方式來描述和解釋他們所看到的。

Many have come to realise that the remarkable claims of Jesus about himself may be the only way forward.

許多人逐漸認識到，耶穌關於自己的非凡主張可能是唯一的前進方向。

What is surprising is that his claims were so self-centred, but his character and his actions were so completely un-self-centred. We never see him pompous or offended or standing on his own dignity.

令人驚訝的是，祂的主張是如此以自我為中心，但祂的品格和行動卻又是如此完全不以自我為中心。我們從未見過祂自負、被冒犯或維護自己的尊嚴。

He is approachable to the weakest and most broken. He is never moody or irritable. There is an unsurpassed moral and spiritual beauty about the character and the teaching of Jesus.

祂對最軟弱、最破碎的人也是可親近的。祂從不喜怒無常或易怒。耶穌的品格和教導具有無與倫比的道德和靈性之美。

Huston Smith, in his book *The World's Religions*, says that only Buddha and Jesus so impressed their contemporaries that they were asked not just "Who are you?" but also "*What* are you? Only these two figures had characters that transcended ordinary human life to the degree that this question was necessary.

休斯頓·史密斯在他的著作《世界宗教》中說，只有佛陀和耶穌給他們的同時代人留下了如此深刻的印象，以至於人們不僅問「你是誰？」還問「你是什麼？」只有這兩位人物的品格超越了普通人類生活的程度，以至於有必要提出這個問題。

Buddha asserted with great clarity and emphasis that he was not divine or an angelic being. On the other hand, Jesus repeatedly and continually claimed to be *the* God, the creator of the universe.

佛陀非常清楚且強調地聲明他不是神或天使般的存在。另一方面，耶穌反覆持續地聲稱自己是那位神，宇宙的創造者。

This creates a great challenge. Jesus is one of the very few persons in history who founded a great world religion. He belongs to that very small group of people who had a great impact on millions of people largely because of their brilliant teaching but also because of their admirable lives and characters.

這帶來了一個巨大的挑戰。耶穌是歷史上為數極少的創立了偉大世界宗教的人物之一。祂屬於那極少數對數百萬人產生巨大影響的人，這主要是因為他們卓越的教導，也因為他們令人欽佩的生命和品格。

The difference between Jesus and the small group of others in this category is that he also claims to be God. Buddha emphatically said he was not a god, and Muhammad, of course, would never, ever have claimed to be Allah, nor did Confucius.

耶穌與這一類別中其他少數人物的不同之處在於，祂還聲稱自己是神。佛陀明確表示他不是神，穆罕默德當然也從未聲稱自己是阿拉，孔子也沒有。

Jesus is also part of a second group of people who claim to be God. What makes him unique in this group is that, apart from Jesus, the members of this group were only able to convince a small number of followers that they were God.

耶穌也屬於另一類聲稱自己是神的人。祂在這類人中的獨特之處在於，除了耶穌，這類人的成員只能說服一小部分追隨者相信他們是神。

Why did Jesus succeed as the only person who ever claimed deity and founded a major---indeed, *the* largest---movement and religious faith?

為什麼耶穌能成功，成為有史以來唯一一位聲稱自己是神，並創立了一個主要的——甚至是最大的——運動和宗教信仰的人？

Firstly, his life was exquisitely beautiful. It is extraordinarily difficult to claim to be perfect and divine and then to get the people who live with you to believe it.

首先，祂的生命精妙絕倫。聲稱自己是完美和神聖的，然後讓與你一起生活的人相信這一點，是極其困難的。

The other reason, that Jesus was worshipped by Jews as God, is he came back to life after he was crucified on a Roman cross.

另一個原因，耶穌被猶太人敬拜為神，是因為祂在被釘在羅馬十字架上之後復活了。

In Jesus Christ is a man who claimed to be God, yet who lived a life so great that he became the only person to convince a sizable part of humanity that he was.

耶穌基督是一個人，祂聲稱自己是神，然而祂活出了一個如此偉大的生命，以至於成為唯一一個說服了大部分人類相信祂是神的人。

We can't be indifferent to such a claim. We can't resolve the issue by saying he was only a great teacher, because his declarations don't allow that.

我們不能對這樣的主張無動於衷。我們不能透過說他只是一位偉大的教師來解決這個問題，因為祂的宣告不允許這樣做。

We can't respond that he never made such claims because of the historical evidence.

我們不能回應說祂從未提出過這樣的主張，因為有歷史證據。

We can't be content with the explanation that he was deranged or a fraud because of the evident wisdom, greatness, and impact of his life on his followers and because of the historical case for his resurrection.

我們不能滿足於說祂精神錯亂或是騙子的解釋，因為祂的生命對追隨者明顯的智慧、偉大和影響，以及因為有祂復活的歷史案例。

This leaves us with the final possible explanation, namely, that he is who he said he is.

這留給了我們最後一個可能的解釋，即，祂就是祂所聲稱的那一位。

As the creator of the universe, he makes claims on everyone's life still. What he said to Thomas in John 14 still stands today for your life and mine: ***I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

作為宇宙的創造者，祂仍然對每個人的生命提出主張。祂在《約翰福音》14 章對多馬所說的話，今天對你我的生命仍然成立：「我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉著我，沒有人能到父那裏去。」

In the next three weeks we will be unpacking each one of those claims; Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

在接下來的三週裡，我們將逐一闡明這些主張；耶穌是道路、真理、生命。

As hard as it is to believe that he is God come to earth, it may be just as difficult not to. It is reasonable to be Christian in 2026, and I'd invite you to explore Jesus, or go deeper with Jesus this year.

相信祂是降世為人的神固然困難，但不相信或許同樣困難。在 2026 年作基督徒是合理的，我邀請你在今年探索耶穌，或者與耶穌更深入地同行。