

Special Edition

(Missive 1)

Refutations By Our International Brethren Against The Allegations And Cavils Of The Church Of Judas Iscariot Sent Out By

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While waiting for pastor to publicly repudiate the adversaries' allegations and shut their mouths, what preoccupied my mind these few days is why did Joel become a turncoat and bite the hand that feeds him? I shudder considering (1) The doctrine of the depravity of man. *'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'* (Jeremiah 17:9). (2) Joel's allegiance to Christ and pastor is contingent upon whether pastor is in agreement with him (could be deduced based on the open letter). For the initial years, Joel might have faithfully ministered to the China congregation with pastor's messages but at some point, he thinks he is indispensable in this China ministry. Spiritual pride overtook him and he refused to see his subtle ambition to set up his own kingdom. When the law was applied to him by the servant of God and he was stripped off all his reputation and glory, it was all too much and humiliating to bear. Surmising, bitterness, wormwood and gall and the Antichrist spirit took hold of him. It is such a fearful thing to behold demonology at work, not outside the church but within. Last Sabbath, Jeshurun preached on Christ's temptations and quoted the example of Judas Iscariot. It chilled our hearts just to read *'Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.'* (Luke 22:3). When ambition is not curbed, pride not subdued, anger not resolved, strife not ridded, doubt not addressed, root of bitterness not axed, then the antichrist spirit harasses, molests and oppresses and unclean spirits energise one to attack the true servant of God with much hatred. One is likened to Alexander, the coppersmith who did much evil to Paul. Pastor taught us that Joab still aligned with David when Absalom sought to overthrow David. But Joab betrayed David and pledged allegiance to Adonijah eventually, probably because David was then old and Joab also sensed that David's countenance and favour was no longer towards him, then Joab decided to change camp. Joel, the Chias, the Lims and his accomplices survived the 1998 AD debacle (and continued to follow pastor) but not this coup 20 years later. The ambitious traits and treacherous blood run in the Chia family right from the eldest to the youngest. Like Absalom, the traitor garners and wins the hearts of the ignorant, gullible and those who are not integral to fight the anointed man of God. The characters in the Holy Scriptures came alive so trenchantly and we see the veracity of the Word of God!

In Deborah Thomas' response to the message on Ezekiel (27 Sept NJT), I was struck that we may secretly trust in our own beauty and graces. The current act of treachery warns me of how great our fall will be if we build our house upon the approbation of men or the trust in our graces or mighty spiritual works, instead of the Word of God and Christ. I pray God rid me of all consciousness of any spiritual words and responses. Let not the foot of pride have dominant over me. I cannot but recoil at the thought that one may express his conviction of pastor's ministry, acknowledge with gratitude and love for the servant of God who nurtured him for more than 30 years, convey pastor's messages and the doctrines (preparatory work and experimental Calvinism) faithfully and even apply pastorally to the hearers, or be skilled in teaching church history or be willing to risk his life and suffer all things

to execute the mission work. Yet, all these are proven pseudo and spurious in a swift moment when the heart apostatises and turns. Do we really know our hearts? One can be mightily used by God for His work, yet in the end strongly used by the evil spirits to destroy the cause of Christ. I ought to take heed that our spiritual state is dynamic. That time and crisis will sift out who are David's and Elijah's friends and foes. We are now appreciating the more the ferocity and reality of apostasy, conspiracy and confederacy not at the intellectual but experimental level. Now, we acquaint more with Paul of whom he spoke of concerning 'false brethren' and 'dogs, evil workers and the concision'.

(3) Joel and Jeshaiiah forgot their dunghills and source of their blessings. The passage of Ezekiel 16 is so true; especially verse 22 *'And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood.'* and verse 15 *'But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, ...'* Both J & J are nincompoops if not for pastor's tutelage. But now they are *'...the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.'* (Revelation 18:2) *'...the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.'* (2 Peter 2:20b-21) Judah Salem reminded me of how pastor was very concerned as a spiritual father at that time when Jeshaiiah was almost under arrest in China. How ungrateful the hearts can be from one whom pastor nurtured since his youth and the other who used to be the right hand man of pastor. Amen to pastor's curse upon the wicked and their descendants from generation to generation! Let them be cut off as the Edomites. *'Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more...'* (Psalm 104:35). God will avenge and vindicate his servant and bring the works of the workers of iniquity to nought. I felt sorrowful that the church is wounded and fearful that more are deceived unto destruction. Pray God preserve us.

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