

Special Edition

(Part 1)

**Responses By The International Brethren Against The Cavils And
Carps Of The Accuser Of Our Brethren (Revelation 12:10b)
Through The Church Of Judas Iscariot Sent Out By**

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If this debacle was a matter of who is right and wrong on a specific issue, it is not as significant. Even Paul said he is the chief of sinners. Unless Chia and Lim can say how pastor is wrong doctrinally, then I will listen. But they cannot. So, the issues become child play. The brothers who know Chia always comment that he is vindictive. He wants to appear as righteous and hence he wants pastor to say that he is right while Haziel Qi is wrong. Pastor said he would not want to make a judgment on the issues as he did not know the ground situation. This is not pastor's job – to say who is right or wrong, who 'wins' or 'loses' - are circumstantial. Pastor says his work is to preach and to prepare the message. Let the elders solve their own problems. The missionaries are to go and preach the doctrines and not rule among the people. They are not there to solve every single nitty-gritty issue or problem of the local churches. Pastor had counselled Chia clearly about this. The preface on 19 August – the comments by pastor – is a commendation of Haziel Qi. Haziel Qi had confessed his sins and propensity and thence asked pastor to direct him. He has gone to NE China and felt the power of pastor's messages and was praised by the hearers. He felt the propensity to be proud and self-glory in his ministry. Pastor has often warned us of procuring glory for ourselves after conveying his messages. Pastor used this preface to show how Haziel has contrition, tenderness and the eloquence of faith and excellent spirit. He also commented that if our spirit is not likened to Haziel's, then we are like Barnabas. It is like Christ saying to those around the adulteress – those who have no sin casts the first stone at her. For almost all of us, we testified that we do not have such a spirit like Haziel. But to the opposing party felt this is a judgment passed on them. This is why Bethuel Yang kept harping on what Chia said – if we are not for Haziel Qi then we are Barnabas. Bethuel asked me – 'Is it that if Chia is not with Haziel, then he is Barnabas?'; they interpreted pastor's commendation as passing a judgment on them.

We did discuss among the brethren and also shared this with our Mandarin-speaking folks. Yap Siew Kien asked me: why do we think that they (Chia and those with him) have apostatized? I told her that pastor never said that Chia and Lim have apostatized nor did he forbid them from attending the means of grace. Many times we did wonder why these two were absent from the means of grace and public meetings. They told us they were ill. In Hebrews, it is written that we sin wilfully if we neglect to come to the assembling of God's people. Siew Kien had another question: how about Carmen Pee who is alone? How did she worship? I answered that Carmen had no choice as she was alone then studying in the United Kingdom. But here, we have the assembly of the righteous, so we should come to the gathering of God's people.

In Acts, the order of the names initially was Barnabas then Paul. Subsequently, it was Paul, then Barnabas. But later there was some contentions between them. The Word of God did not say who is right in their contention. But through providence, we see the Word of God and the Holy Spirit

commending Paul through the records of Acts. Historically, it is said that Barnabas apostatized. It is through the process of time. The real issue we have to look at is anointing. Even David was careful not to touch Saul (who was anointed to be the king at that time). During David's time, there were Ahithophel, Absalom and Joab. When they changed camp and defected from David, their end was tragic. Ahithophel, though a wise counselor, committed suicide. Though Barzillai and Abigail were not so near to David, yet they were commended for their faithfulness and recognition of who David was. All these spiritual realities in the books of Samuel were played out again in our time. Like Rhoda Soh said, it is important to know the doctrine of anointing. Like what was conveyed on Sabbath from Zechariah 4, there are 2 olive trees; these are the anointed of God. If we attack the anointed one, beware. Though we might not know the many details about the contention which Chia and the Church of Judas Iscariot had with Hazieli Qi, the principle in the Bible is this: touch not the Lord's anointed. Maybe some of the things Chia said could be true, but at the end, one should not to establish one's own righteousness and go the way of perdition. Unless Chia and those who take his side can prove that pastor's doctrines are wrong, we cannot believe them. Who has taught Chia and Lim the doctrines that have been used to bless the brethren in China? From whence cometh their blessing? From whence cometh our blessing?

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These comments were made at a meeting with the Mandarin speaking folks after the open letter of the Church of Judas Iscariot was received.