

PREFACE

*“Our beloved pastor, I like to thank thee for not sparing the use of the sword to unfold and expose the core of our spiritual problems from thy extempore exhortation at a weekly prayer meeting concerning ‘The pastoral, practical and applicatory problems pertaining to the doctrine of Justification By Faith’. Though I was not there at the actual public prayer meeting to receive the live address but the sharpness of thy reproof and spiritual analyses on this profound issue published in the JT dated 14-17 March came like an earthquake to my conscience. The measure of the holy anointing is incredibly strong upon thee and it comes as the voice in the wilderness speaking in our times and context. I have not experienced such a powerful jolt for a long time. Even at the recent China conference, I was not stricken in my conscience like this. Although the excerpts of thy exhortation appeared uniquely in a four part series of JT for the first time, yet it is **the contents and spirit of thy alarming preaching that brought trembling to me. When I first read it, I put an immediate pause to all my activities and considered and reflected on the actual state and disposition of my soul. My presumption is shaken and I am made to swallow the bitter reality that I am likely not justified as yet. The thrust of the sword went deeper when thou exposed me to be also neither seeking nor waiting for my Genesis 15:6. How fearful it was when the words of Paul came to me that ‘having preached to others, I myself be a castaway.’ What a damned fool I am that while traversing land and sea to proselytise souls, I have yet to experience saving grace in my own life.** The love of the world and the spirit of consumerism are deeply in me and it shows plainly the love of the Father is not in me. That is why as thou analysed precisely that I am not waiting upon God for my salvation. The guilt of my present state came wave upon wave and it affects my carnal appetite for ‘the scent of Satan’ (as thou rightly coined). Who am I to cast stones at the unregenerate and impenitent children in our midst when my own lifestyle is so incongruous to the application of the strait-gate narrow-way Gospel that thou art preaching? I felt grateful that by thy manner of life, godly affection and changed mentality, thou hast illustrated lucidly and practically what a justified person is like and how saving grace transforms one’s mentality and affection. While I was young and new under thy ministry and supervision, the Spirit of God (ministered to me through thy preaching) had caused me to yearn for the Holy Scriptures and thy anointed preaching. At the same time, there is the purity of heart and some measure of grace to forsake the love for the things of the world. I was content with what I had and I rarely visited any shopping mall then. I felt the great vexation of spirit to be among sinners and scorners and my joy was to be with the man of God and the company of the godly. However, these beautiful changes are transient; it is to my consternation that I am not permanently transformed; what I had experienced might just be influences of the Holy Ghost rather than saving grace. Instead of growing deeper in my delight for the Scriptures and abhorrence for the things of this world, I live as a typical Laodicean who is caught up by the trappings of Satan and feel the need of nothing but am blind to my own spiritual wretchedness and nakedness. I do not have the waiting and importunate spirit of the importunate widow, blind Bartimeus, Zacchaeus and Syrophenician woman that thou hast listed. I do not have the spirit of Lamentations 3 that thou hast always expounded. Hence it also impedes the effectuality and deeper impact of my conveyances of thy sermons and the Gospel of Paul that thou embrace and exposit. I hope the strong spiritual tremors will abide with me and I want to respond and repent honestly. But as thou said, I need the grace of God that is sovereignly dispensed in order to be changed inwardly. I also like to thank thee for the needful correction at the outset of thy address that those from the camp of the False Prophet do mention the subjective aspect of the Gospel but they ‘lack in their emphasis’ on it and I’m enlightened by thee of the two senses they lack in. **But as always, the target was suddenly turned to us who are under thy ministry who are neither justified nor have the spirit of waiting for our justification.** It is very scary when thou made the telling comments that ‘Justification is a rare experience’ and ‘even among the best, the most sanctified company, the people who are justified are very few’. The meaning of the refrain of Christ Yeshua ‘For many are called, but few are chosen’ came with new depths. I felt the razor-sharpness of the sword when thou commented on the sayings of Moses on Deuteronomy 29:4 and reinforced it with the prophetic comments of Isaiah from Isaiah 6:9-10 and the master stroke of Paul the apostle quoting and applying it to ‘the Jews in Rome who rejected his presentation of the Gospel of Christ (Acts 28:24-27). The fearful and solemn sense of the absolute sovereignty of God sinks in. Inward objection, anger and insinuation against the justness of God are at the same time quelled when thou questioned us whether we have sought diligently and frantically from God for these spiritual faculties. While the thrust of thy address was applied immediately to the Singapore Laodiceans and their children (and hence more readily comprehended by those having local knowledge), yet I believe the universality of the core problem and thy biblical prognosis must have benefitted God’s people globally. I appreciate the extemporaneity of thy exhortation. It does not come as a surprise to me because the contents of thy address are matters that are simmering daily in thy heart. It is also because the Holy Spirit has granted thee the deep pastoral discernment to apprehend our woeful spiritual conditions and problems for*

remaining unjustified. Thank God that what Simeon Chia had commented could be experienced afresh by God's people scattered across the 127 provinces reading these spates of JT. Perhaps this vital bit that may be missing in the recent China conference is finally provided through the platform of TJT. It is truly 'the fire of Elijah' sent from heaven that some of the Inner and China Mongolian brethren were expecting to receive. I think the subject of Justification By Faith culminates and climaxes with this address of the man of God raised in our Laodicean times. **I believe Moses, Isaiah, Paul the apostle, the Separatist Puritans and Jonathan Edwards would marvel from above.**" Zephaniah Soh, Khatkhati-Assam, NE India; 18 March 2015 AD