

PREFACE

“Thank God for the covenantal blessing which I could receive through Daniel’s faithfulness despite the hardness of my heart. God is also very gracious to show me from the continual preaching of my selfish indulgence and my short-sightedness in how I was raising up my daughter, Eleni. This helped me to see the need of change in me. I regret that when Olive Pee tried to reach out to me through email, I was not able to respond to her. I did not respond to her; I was not gracious enough to. Eventually, in the first few months of this year, God began to trouble me through the tension in our marriage and particularly this happened when Daniel was away in India. I felt a great sense of bitterness and anger which was more than I could control. I was forced to cry out to God and to humble myself. Gradually, I came to see that if Daniel’s behaviour was not unreasonable, then this was the manifestation of God’s judgments in my life, in a covenantal way. Thank God very much for the prayers of the brethren while Daniel was in India. I am sure that your prayers had preserved me from worse judgment, whether it be physical or spiritual. During that time, God gave me an insight to my utterly lost and helpless state because I could see many interpretations from the Scriptures and so many Christians in the world and I had an inkling that not all was well. I felt then in an experimental way my enmity with God—that all my prayers and religion were an abomination unto Him. God dealt with me but in great gentleness. During moments when I was close to despair, I was most comforted through the Scriptures. Even at that time, despite I struggled and rejected the truth which Daniel was trying to bring to me, God began to grant me some light. I think that when I was brought to rock bottom, I began to realise that nearly everything that all Christians were doing is the evil imaginations of their heart. Scriptures, as a revelation from God, suddenly became very beautiful to me. I also fell in love with the pure religion of the Reformers. I began to read much more. At first that which made no sense, when Hananiah was trying to preach to me, suddenly became very rich to me. Some time last year while following the Bible reading card, I came across Psalm 11:3 – ‘if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?’ This is a frightening verse but I suddenly realised how much the Bible was making sense of the light of the doctrines. In a way, it was an exciting time for me and I could feel thankfulness to God and closeness to Him to what He was doing for me. While Daniel was away to India, I tried to withdraw myself from Hananiah’s exhortation. I spent a few weeks attending other churches of different denominations. Even then, God was so gracious and longsuffering. I was convicted of the truth even out of the mouth of these false prophets. The first church I went to was the Reformed Presbyterian and it was immediately apparent from the message that they preached that they were hyper-Calvinists. I went to a Baptist Church too and I was able to understand what Arminianism was in its purer sense. It is amazing to me now that after all that I have done, and after all the teachings and light that I have rejected, I was able to discern that, while I heard those things, my soul was not fed and I was able to see the error of their teachings. I was also able to see much more clearly that even when a church where the doctrine was correct and Calvinistic, and if the fruit, that is the congregation, was presumptuous, then it is not good. When Deborah Thomas explained this to me when she came, it was very timely. After Daniel returned from India, I felt very desperate. I did not have the grace to accept pastor’s ministry. In fact, it was arrogance that I was not able to understand properly. At that time, I have a great number of fears. A lot of them were very rational fears. I could only say that it was a spiritual battle. A lot of fears were not based on fact. I felt that there was nowhere in this world that I could go and I saw the deep wisdom and mercies of Christ Yeshua and the kindness of pastor to send the sisters (Deborah and Rhoda) just at that time. As they ministered to me, I felt that I was being delivered from many of those fears and bitterness towards Daniel and the servants of God. I also felt spiritually quickened because the doctrines before had caused me to stare in horror because I thought there was no way I could practise them. But suddenly I felt the joyfulness and the desire to be with God’s people. I thank God for the love of the Chews who are willing to receive me back again and the sacrifices of those who come to minister to us in Ulster, Northern Ireland, and the warmth and acceptance I have received here from the people of God.” Sarah Harper’s testimony during the water baptism administered at Port Dickson, Part 2 (final), Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia; 5 November AD 2010. Presiding pastor’s comments: Sarah Harper had waged a titanic struggle in the throes of falsehood. Sarah was able to define what she was struggling with when our doctrines were propounded to her first by the Chews and then her husband, Daniel Harper. She particularly perceived the power of Arminianism in her life. Though her change took place recently, yet the change is phenomenal. It is quite a radical and clear transformation. Sarah had tried to analyse the struggles that she went through and sifted it rightly so that she was able to know what her problems were with a good measure of clarity. Her biggest enigma was that she found it preposterous that one group of people from the east could claim themselves to uphold such a monopoly of the truth and that with what seemed to her then with such sheer dogmatism. Her visit to other churches in

the vicinity of her province and assessment of their states to prosecute her cause did not help. Their negativity spoke to her positively. But most of all, she went back to the Scriptures and attempted to get her answers from the Scriptures. By bringing our corpus of teachings and distinctives to scrutiny through the light of the Scriptures only served to verify and augment our position. The visit of Deborah Thomas and Rhoda Soh to Belfast cleared the remaining cloud of scepticism. The amazing thing here is the magnitude of change that had taken place within this fleeting period. For Sarah, it may have taken such a long time but many of us see it as a relatively brief span. It underlines Sarah's seriousness and uprightness. I behold the grace of God prevailing upon Sarah. I also see God's lovingkindness and tenderness towards Daniel, as well as Hananiah and Hadassah. It was a wonderful deliverance that brought so much joy and goodwill towards the hearts of those who fought desperately for Sarah's soul, including those who were engaged in the background. Although I must add, as far as Sarah is concerned, that this journey of faith has only just begun. You may ask me how is it that I allowed Sarah Harper to be baptized so soon? The point is that they came from such a faraway place and when they go back, it is like they are going back to a battle arena. Daniel would be facing a barrage of assails from every side. It would be best for the Harpers to be united together. If they were rent asunder, both Daniel's and Sarah's families would take full advantage. They would attack without mercy and try to get Sarah to overcome and demolish Daniel's doctrinal stance. Another thing I must give thanks to God for is that Daniel did not try to induce neither compel nor coerce Sarah to take this ordinance of water baptism. It is Sarah herself who made the decision freely and happily after a few sessions of Bible Study under pastor. I think Daniel is happy enough to bring Sarah here but his joy was further crowned and rewarded when Sarah said she wanted to go through water baptism together with him, provided they met the approbation of the leaders. Thank God that their eligibility was confirmed unanimously by the panel of elders. Esther Eleni was allowed to be baptized on the basis of her covenantal privilege. Now, they go back to Britain jointly and fight in concert as a team. Thank God they have each other's company. As Scriptures aver, one may chase a thousand but two will chase ten thousand. And they have a manifold unity there in Britain with Esther Eleni and the Chews. The journey of our faith involves the saving of our own soul and combating the forces that attempt to douse our belief. Yet in the midst of it, we are to attempt to save others, who oppose themselves and bring about swift divine retribution upon themselves. It is an all consuming battle. But Sarah's faith and baptism brings so much of the cheer of Christ Yeshua to all of us in the midst of the greatest of all battles.