

PREFACE

“The message is very rich. I am still lost when it comes to doctrines, but I felt it is important for me to grasp the message as pastor said that the book of Genesis is the foundation and the basis of my faith. I felt guilty for taking the Word of God and the psalms for granted. Pastor spoke of God’s wisdom in writing the Scriptures. It is divine revelation. On my own I would not have a saving understanding of the Word of God, but thank God for the means of preaching and pastor’s exposition of the Word of God. I have been taking all these things for granted especially the whole of last year. When pastor spoke on the doctrine of man and the bondage of the will, I felt thankful for the doctrine of election. I need to plead to God to save me. I cannot save myself by my own will. Because of our depravity, we incur misery, wrath and the judgments of God and this is what I have been going through. I pray that I will be reconciled to the three Persons of the Godhead. Once again, the example of Cain and Abel brought fear to me. Cain did not have computers and handphones but he was filled with the Antichrist spirit and he murdered Abel. Pray God elect me that I may be found in the godly lineage. Pray I will be strong in faith. Pastor said that the flip side of faith is repentance. Pray I will repent whole-heartedly and that it will be a repentance that needs not be repented of. Pray God grant me the fear of God especially when the godly brethren are not around to reprove me of my sins and I need to be sensitive towards God. Pastor exhorted us to welcome the law and stick to the godly brethren. Thank God that in Bukit Sentosa, there are Elisha Yee, our local pastor, my mum and Hephzibah Chai; they are the ones I should stick to. Pray I will not continue to enjoy the world but enjoy Christ Yeshua. When I go back, I have a lot of homework to do: I have to read the Scriptures and practise singing the psalms. Pastor whetted my appetite to read the book of Habakkuk and Hebrews (chapters 10 and 11). I do not know how to cope because I am having a major exam this year. Pray I will set my priority right, to seek for my salvation and not take the things of God and flaunt them in the world.” Carmen Pee, 16. *“Thank God that pastor could be with us on this first Sabbath of the year. I see that our foundation and basis must be strong. Thank God for pastor who cited the example of those who were sick and those who were not. I see that I must have a good foundation or else I will drop out of the race. Thank God for pastor who brought us back to the beginning of beginnings. Thank God for pastor who brought us to see the doctrine of man as shown from Genesis 1:2 and Jeremiah 4:22-23. I see my heart is exactly like the description in Genesis 1:2 because the Holy Spirit has not moved upon the face of my soul. I feel sad because I have not invited nor treasured the Holy Spirit in my life. Thank God also for pastor who brought to us the doctrine of the Church. It is beautiful to see Eve representing the Church. Yet I also see that there is a mixed multitude in the church, as seen in Cain and Abel. They were both under Adam but Cain had the Antichrist spirit and persecuted Abel the child of the promise. It brought fear to my heart and I have to check whether I am a child of the promise or a child of the bondwoman. Pastor told us that the child of the bondwoman always persecutes the child of the free. Sometimes I see the Antichrist spirit in me when I have evil thoughts against some of the brethren. But I thank God that I am not utterly without hope. Thank God for the doctrine of Christ Yeshua. I was really touched by the condescension of Yeshua Christ, His incarnation and His death. I was struck by what pastor said: angels cannot die so Christ Yeshua took upon Him the seed of Abraham so that He can die for His elect. Thank God too that Christ Yeshua is the last Adam. In the first Adam, all of us fell in sins but in the last Adam there is hope for us to be redeemed. Thank God too for the doctrine of election. Initially I wondered why pastor thank God for the doctrine of election. Thank God for Naomi Chua’s explanation. I see that without the doctrine of election, we have no hope of salvation at all. That is because of my depravity and whatever good I try to do, I simply cannot do it. But thank God for the doctrine of election—at least we have hope that God may choose and elect us despite what manner of persons we are. I pray that I may examine myself whether I am upright or not and whether my repentance is simply superficial or outward. Many times my repentance is for show. I have never truly sorrowed unto godly sorrow. **Pastor said that he knows all of us would go to hell if we die tonight.** That scares me. I need to ask God for grace to repent so that I may press toward the mark of the high calling of God*

in Christ Yeshua; and like in Hebrews 10, not to cast away the confidence of faith, even if what I have is not saving faith as yet. I ought not to stagger but be strong in faith like Abraham. Even when I go back to the Scriptures, I need to seek for that saving understanding and inward illumination of the Holy Spirit so that the Word of God may come alive unto me. This year, there will be a lot of law in the form of school work and I pray that I may learn to take the law as it is good for my soul. The ultimate thing I need to learn is, how to cry unto God. I am also technical in my approach before God. I need to humble myself and cry with my whole heart like psalmist David. I pray God be merciful unto me.” Leah Chua, 12. *The foregoing vespers were rendered in response to pastor’s exegesis of the book of Genesis, John Bunyan house, Johor Bahru, Malaysia; 2 January AD 2011 (first Sabbath of the year).*