

PREFACE

“Before the start of the conference, there was a series of prefaces on the book of Acts. Pastor was quite disturbed that some brethren could not say things about his ministry clearly. There is vagueness. Pastor gathered us at night and spoke on many matters pertaining to the issue. The solemnity thereof weighs heavily upon us. There is so much to consider and digest. Thank God for pastor who took upon himself to teach us further on this subject. It is very significant also considering the many mission reports we have heard recently. In our times many of our brethren have gone forth to many places, and in the near future, many more could be going aboard. If we are vague about the special ministry and calling of pastor, we would be vague of our niche and role in his ministry. After the China mission report, pastor showed us that we not only have to bring across the doctrines effectually but we also have to know what our ministry is—to rescue those embracing the heresies. Why did not our two missionaries to China ‘go for the kill’ and rescue souls from the false prophets? Pastor said it is because we are vague about pastor’s ministry. This is so significant to us. It does not augur well for the souls in Christendom if we are vague. What is the uniqueness of our Gospel? People who pick on us will ask why we have the monopoly of the truth? But those who are upright will acknowledge that we have the only Gospel which can save them. We have to be prepared to testify what the ministry of our pastor is and the distinctiveness and uniqueness of this Gospel he preaches. Pastor brought forth in a master stroke of precision concerning Paul’s ministry and his own calling in our days. Thank God that there was Luke to record the acts of the apostles. In our days, though we do not have a Luke to record the work of the Holy Spirit, perhaps The Jerusalem Times are the records. The way the book of Acts ended at chapter 28, with Paul preaching the Gospel at Rome, shows that the acts of the Holy Ghost continue to this day because the Gospel is spreading to the uttermost parts of the earth. I see that there is the Scriptural warrant for the work of the Gospel to be in major cities, like Rome. Like in our days, our brethren are scattered across the world in major cities. Pastor showed us how there is this shift (in Acts) from place to place and person to person for the advancement of the Gospel. Ultimately, the baton rested on Paul. After Stephen’s death, God raised up another to champion the Gospel cause, even Paul. Paul has a special place at the stage of the inauguration of the church, the spreading of the Gospel to the Gentiles. What is the special place of Paul with respect to the other apostles? Thank God for the way pastor states the special calling and anointing of Paul. God used Paul to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles and to crystallise the doctrines of the Gospel, with corroborations from the Old Testament. Paul was particularly employed to propound the doctrine of Justification By Faith in the context of Jews and Gentiles. If James or Peter prevailed, all the brothers would have to be circumcised today! There would be a lot of confusion. It would then be the doctrine of works that is advocated. What is the special calling of Paul? Why did God choose Paul? The kind of heart he has, colossal mind, catholic spirit and Paul is able to relate to the mentality of the Jews and the Gentiles. Pastor today shows us the uniqueness of his ministry with respect to Paul’s special ministry and calling. Pastor himself has to condescend to us despite the fact that we are the ones that should understand and defend his ministry. Pastor has all the right to be angry. He specifically showed us the uniqueness of his ministry to re-state and re-establish the Gospel in the times of the heresies of our days. Pastor presented to us the multi-faceted Gospel that he has shown to us from the Scriptures especially the role of the law in the realm of preaching and the work of the Holy Spirit in awakening and conversion. Many years ago, pastor showed us the 10 distinctives of our Gospel. But now, there are more than 21 distinctives. Why is it that there are more and more distinctives over the years? God is granting pastor more and more light to assert the doctrines of grace with greater clarity and precision. The spiritual landscape is the same all over the world: churches are being swallowed up by Charismatism, Arminianism and Dispensationalism. Apart from the heresies, those in the pseudo-Reformed circle and others espousing hyper-Calvinism are also people we need to contend with. Pastor showed us what is this Gospel we have with respect to our historic faith. God has raised up a standard in gross darkness. Pastor corrected Eliezer Pandey in his prayer, it is not so much a vision but it is a divine and Scriptural mandate that God has given to pastor, a standard God has raised up. God has raised up His servant to rescue souls from Satan, Antichrist and especially the False Prophet.

Is there not a cause and a niche that God has given us?! When pastor explained how and why God raised up Paul, I felt God's love for the Gentiles. In the past, God has raised up our godly forbears in the time of Reformation, then the Separatist Puritans. I felt thankful that God has preserved His truth to all generations. In our days, despite the fierce onslaught of the False Prophet, we are granted the clarity of the Gospel. Pastor also showed us what experimental Calvinism is. I want to reaffirm that I am indebted to Paul the apostle and the likes of Martin Luther, John Calvin and the Puritans and our pastor. God has raised up pastor before the close of history. If not, I would be swallowed up by heresies and be destroyed. I pray God will answer the prayer of Eliezer Pandey, that I will consecrate myself and God will accept my consecration, and that I will really grow, to know what is God's will and what is my niche. I pray I may receive pastor's doctrines and his spirit, and that we will play our part to support pastor's ministry and bring across this Gospel. Man is in great delusion and deception in this time. If we cannot receive this Gospel in its doctrinal precision and experimental clarity, how can we and others be saved? This is the great need of the hour. Thank God for the singing of Psalm 85 and Habakkuk 3 which are so appropriate in the light of the message we heard today. Rhoda Soh's response to presiding pastor's message on *The Uniqueness Of Paul's Calling And Ministry (the Book of Acts)*, Star Regency, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; 8 June AD 2012