

PREFACE

“When I first heard the conveyance of this message ‘The Scriptural Evidence And Substantiation For The Prevalence Of Mass Unbelief, Presumption And Delusion Both In Jewry And Christendom’, it brought a lot of fear. First, I was struck with the presumption of the Jews from Nehemiah 9 and subsequent Scriptural verses like how Paul in Acts 28 spoke of the unbelief of the Jews. In our time I saw myself in it. Pastor is also preaching to us all this while and I am presumptuous. The most frightening prospect is that God can send a delusion. In this time we are living in, we are caught in the Laodicean syndrome. That night I cried as I saw my state is no different from the Jews’. I cried to God to have mercy on me not to send delusion to me. This week when I travelled to John Bunyan house, I prayed to God to have mercy on me too, and remove such a spirit of delusion from me. It is almost impossible to be saved. Thank God very much for pastor to bring the urgency and impact of this message to us in our days. I may think that having been under the true ministry of God where the Holy Spirit is very strong that I am going to heaven but it may be far from true. I am warned not to be deluded in this manner.” Eunice Lim. “Tonight, I am very struck when you quoted Hebrews 4 ‘Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief’. You brought out the problem of the Jews is also the problem in Christendom and in me.” Phinehas David Yeoh. “Really I am the greatest ‘goondu’ (fool). Thank you pastor for giving us many chances – the third or fourth chance now to understand this message. Pastor condescended to show us that what he was trying to show us is the message on presumption – applied to Jewry and Christendom and even personally to ourselves. Thank God for pastor who showed us from the Old Testament the Jewish history is characterized by their presumptions. This has been documented and testified by the Jews themselves in the covenantal confession in the days of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 9). Pastor defined what is that presumption—apostasy and unbelief. That presumption is testified in the Scriptures. In the New Testament, Paul brought it across in Hebrews 3 and 4 and other passages. Pastor brought clearly what is the state of the church at this time of final apostasy and especially the state of the Laodicean church—we are blind to see that we are not saved yet. Pastor showed to me that I have to examine myself as I may not be saved yet. That is the greatest fear—to hear the truth and have access to the means of grace but dwelling in presumption. I need to make sure that I am in the inner court and not in the outer court. Thank pastor for correcting us that while we bring this message to warn people of presumption, we should not go round telling people that they are not saved as we are not God. We should open the Scriptures to show them the message of the Holy Scriptures.” Rhoda Soh. “Thank God that today pastor went through the recent spate of The Jerusalem Times again. I think in our sisters’ discussion last Saturday, Leah Chua reiterated pastor’s comments during the June Convocation. Pastor said of all the 3 messages, this message is the most important. Leah asked why it is so. Today, pastor helped me to appreciate why when I preach to professing Christians, this is the first message to bring across. We are not talking about preaching to Job’s father (unbeliever) but Ben’s father (professing Christian). This is how we must start the conversation. I appreciate Sarah Harper’s response when she spoke about the fact that many of us, especially the sisters, may not have the chance to open the Scriptures when we meet people; the sisters are unlike the missionary pastors who usually have a pulpit or platform to preach to an audience. Sometimes, it is even hard to start a spiritual conversation but pastor showed us how we could break the ice. This matter of presumption is the message to start with. This is the ice breaker. As pastor queried, ‘Why do we need to preach the Gospel to professing Christians?’ This is the answer to the question why our missionaries are going to NE India and central India to preach to professing Christians. The next thing pastor clarified for me today is the relationship between mass presumption and unbelief in Jewry and Christendom. In the latter prefaces, he inserted the word ‘delusion’. Today, he helped me to see the relationship between unbelief, presumption and delusion in the fact that they are all linked to apostasy. This is the theme and thread that pastor helped me to see throughout the whole Scriptures. If this is the theme in Old Testament, how much more it is crystallised by Paul in the New Testament. I see how I am to relate to these people and what their queries might be. Finally, I am very much spoken to of the fact we lack penetration because we have not struggled with this problem of presumption. We need to grapple with this message in our own lives.” Hannah Grace Thomas. The foregoing were responses to pastor’s corrections and clarification as to the published responses pertaining to the theme of ‘The Scriptural Evidence And Substantiation For The Prevalence Of Mass Unbelief, Presumption And Delusion Both In Jewry And Christendom’; he delivered this discourse as the key address at the public prayer meeting convened at John Bunyan House, Johor, Malaysia; 18 July AD 2014