

**PREFACE**

*"I like to give thanks to God for ministering to me this time. I am spoken to by the fact that my children are not found in Adelaide though Melbourne is near to Adelaide. It shows their lack of desire to appreciate the fellowship of God's people. In many ways it is also my fault in not impressing upon them the value of Christian fellowship. Given the times we live in, we must appreciate that every time pastor travels, he gives the state of the world and of the church address; he also gives us a sense of the times we are living in. It is sad that we are winding down on the reading of the Old Testament Scriptures. We need continually the application of the law on us as the Old Testament signifies the law. We remain so stunted in growth and stupid and inert at the place of prayer. It shows our unbelief as in Psalm 95. I give thanks to God that the man of God also showed the importance of preparatory work. It has not started in my life yet. It is so scary that despite all the years under the ministry of the man of God and the hallmark of his ministry is to bring us to see the necessity of preparatory work in our lives before we are justified, yet **my sadness is that this preparatory work has not begun in my heart.** Psalm 90 shows the shortness of time—1000 years is like a day! Therefore I felt so bereft and I do not know what to do. I need to cry to God, to howl to God for His mercy. I need the grace of God to work in my heart or I will remain a traitor and an Esau. Thank God for using the man of God to encourage my heart." Enoch Chia. "Thank God. Pastor, you bring soundness to our mind. It caused me to see the misery of my soul and it exposed the unbelief deep in my heart. It is a personal message to us as parents to see how we are raising our children for Satan as we do not believe in disciplining them as instructed in the Word of God. That speaks deeply to my heart. Another thing that struck me is, the need to acknowledge my sins and not come through the 'back door' and to call a spade a spade and not euphemistically excuse myself from my sins. [Pastor: "If you don't start in this manner, God will not forgive your sins and God will not hear your prayers."] In this regard, when I was still new under the ministry of pastor, my children were already taken care of by the aunts; the tendency is to think good of my children rather than take heed to the assessment of the aunts and trust in their judgments and their assessment of my children. Therefore the evil thoughts I had then. I had not dealt with these sins and now I want to openly apologise. I appreciate the beauty when pastor brought out the thrust of the Minor Prophets and today I felt convicted when pastor asked us to see how haughty we are. When pastor applies the Word of God to us, it makes me see my ugliness so much so that I realise I am a desperate man. I am afflicted in so many ways to see especially all my failures; therefore the place of prayer is so alluring for me to deal with my heart. Thank God pastor brought to me how I should come—with the spirit of Joel (the Minor Prophetic book) to howl and pour out my heart and not just with words, and to seek to have a thorough breakthrough and permanent change!" Zechariah Tan. "Thank God for the spontaneity in you, pastor. The Spirit of God is so strong. One look at our faces and the sermon comes out and you go to the root of our problems. You underlined the point that we must acknowledge and confess our sins and iniquities. But because we have not duly acknowledged and confess our sins, therefore God has judged our children and confounded us. God is righteous in all His ways. We cannot mock God. We must acknowledge what is exposed. How frightening is the problem of unbelief! It is the root of all problems; it is the reason why we are not through. Tonight many things were being addressed and so much of our ugliness was exposed. It has been so many years and still we are not changed! Thank God for the patience of Christ in you despite all that you speak against us. Therein is all your love. However, still I cannot take for granted as time is running out. We are morons and damned already if we still abide in unbelief. I am also grateful to you for bringing forth such crisp summary of the Minor Prophets and the gist of it—the spirit of crying which could well be the start of our deliverance. I am touched that you summarized the book of Zephaniah—that the song (Zephaniah 3:14-17) is for those who believe in the promise. Those global judgments are part of the preparatory work for them that believe in the promises. There must be faith. Otherwise, all our words and hypocrisies will become deeper and more sickening. Thank the Spirit of God for using you to bring appropriately the urgency that God must give us, even the spirit of the message of Joel, to cry out that peradventure, the sovereign God may hear us." Zephaniah Soh. The foregoing were feedback to the prayer meeting discourse given by presiding pastor on a clutch of themes, Part 1, John Bunyan House, Johor Baru, Malaysia; 7 October 2016 AD*