

PREFACE

“My feelings today can be summed up from Matthew 13:16-17, ‘Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them’. I thank God for using pastor so greatly today. Indeed, the Acts of the Apostles did not stop in Chapter 28; it still continues today when the man of God stood behind the pulpit and gave us the exegesis on this book. I was thrilled when pastor drew the connection between the Acts and the Epistles. He showed me that while Yeshua Christ’s earthly ministry was portrayed in the Gospels, He is continuing His ministry after His ascension, which is seen in the book of Acts. I thank God that the Acts of the Apostles can also be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. These beautiful, historical records of the church show me so many things about what pastor is. God has raised up a Luke to record all those things which he observed. I thank God for using pastor to introduce to me the forgotten Paul – 17 years in solitude, about 14 of them in Tarsus. Pastor showed me the confusion that prevailed even in the early New Testament church, particularly in the area of circumcision. Paul was especially raised of God to defend the Gospel. Using passages from Galatians and the rest of the Epistles, pastor showed the uniqueness of Paul’s ministry – not just that he had a special encounter with Christ Yeshua on the road to Damascus, but also how Christ was revealed to him personally. This proved to me that religion is experimental and this Gospel is to be experimentally known, which is something very lacking in my life. Pastor today showed me the comparison and the contrast between so many characters – particularly Barnabas and Paul. Barnabas ended up fighting against the man whom God could have used to save his life. Pastor said, of all the persons, Barnabas should have been able to see the grace of God that was in Paul. It is very solemnizing and I need the humility to see the grace of God that is within others, and avoid Barnabas’ end. I thank God for raising up pastor at a time when the church is so confused regarding the doctrine of justification by faith. If God did not use Paul to defend the Gospel, my Gospel would be adulterated and the prospect of salvation would be far from me. Without Paul, there would be no true Gospel and therefore no true salvation. Without pastor, today I would have been a full-fledged Arminian and full-blown Dispensationalist. The greatest problem Paul had was amongst the people within the church. I pray that God will have mercy to grant me the grace that is in Peter, because I really admire the humility and meekness of Peter. For towards the end of his second epistle, he acknowledged the grace of God that was in Paul. I thank God also for Luke who was raised up so we would be able to know about the ministry of Paul, and have Paul’s life brought to the fore. Just as Paul had the Damascus experience, I pray that I may know the Gospel in the inner recesses of my heart, and not just intellectually. I agree with pastor that he was very sad that our missionary pastors are not around to enjoy these things. Indeed, pastor left behind a very goodly portion.” Phinehas David Yeoh’s Sabbath vespers in response to presiding pastor’s sermon, ‘Acts Of The Apostles: The Ministry And Life Of Paul, The 13th Apostle’, Johor Baru, Malaysia; 14 November AD 2010