

PREFACE

“Pastor’s preaching was based on his recent preaching on Liberalism and the series of responses printed in the JT. Pastor used Jude 24-25 and brought us into the topic of Liberalism. Liberalism means man departs from God and seeks his own Eden. Because of his depraved human nature, all his seeking is to satisfy the lusts of his flesh. One manifestation of Liberalism is consumerism. This is especially seen in our Laodicean age. Because of industrialization and advancement of technology, there is a constant upgrading on the digital products and devices to appeal to the spirit of consumerism in men. This spirit of consumerism is prevalent in the world. The second manifestation of Liberalism is moral decadence: sexual looseness, adultery and fornication, homosexuality. This spirit of Liberalism is like the virus in the air and it infects the whole world. And we breathe in the air and are affected by the decadent liberal lifestyle. Truly we see the reality and danger of these twin battles in these last days. It is very difficult for the people in our age to be saved. So do we still have the hope of salvation? Pastor quoted Jude 24 and 25 to encourage us. God in His wisdom and power shall preserve His saints from falling and present them faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Therefore, a believer can persevere till the end by the sovereign grace and mercy of God. This is the Gospel of Paul. He was faithful to the ministry Christ had given him and faithfully testified to the Gospel of grace, which is Calvinism and it emphasizes on the sovereignty of God. We can say the Gospel of Paul is Calvinism, or say the Calvinistic Gospel is Paulism. And what Paul preached is the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). Pastor preached this message at the last Watchnight service. I felt he wanted us to recollect the grace of God upon us throughout the whole year. ‘I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living’ (Psalm 27:13). He encouraged the people of God to continue in this strait-gate narrow-way Gospel by the grace of God. When Calvinism is mentioned, many would think of the five points of Calvinism. Pastor said that these five points are very rich and he particularly wanted to talk about the fifth point, which is the perseverance of the saints. Pastor focused on the theme ‘Persevering Grace’. Pastor posed the question of Christ to His disciples in John 6:67: ‘Will ye also go away?’ to every brother and sister in our midst. The response of Peter was very spiritual, ‘To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.’ Yet later he denied Christ three times. This question is a great challenge to us. It is good that we have a good start, but more importantly, we must persevere to the end.

*Actually pastor started his message right at the commencement of the psalm singing. We sang Psalm 25, Psalm 119:9-16, and Psalm 119:169-176. These psalms emphasise the importance of the Word of God and the truth through the life experiences of the psalmist. There are twenty-two octaves in Psalm 119. Every octave starts with a letter of the Hebrew Alphabet, and that in alphabetical order. The psalm portrays the experience of the psalmist in seeking God from his youth to old age. The psalmist sought God with the fear of God, humility and diligence. He cried to God to grant him understanding of His Word and help him to hide His Word in his heart that he might meditate therein and rejoice in the Word. He received guidance and strength from the Word of God. He wanted to declare the Word of God and rejoiced in God’s salvation. Hence, we would think that when psalmist was old, he would have gone from one summit to another summit. Yet in the last verse (Psalm 119:176), the psalmist said, ‘I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant; for I do not forget Thy commandments.’ A person can have the Word of God and the means of grace, and tries his best, yet at the end it is still possible that he is a lost sheep that has gone astray. Hence, David asked God for His grace to persevere to the end. The reason he gave was: ‘For I do not forget Thy commandments’. Pastor showed us that Paul instructed Timothy to bring the parchments when he visited him. Paul was still desirous of the Word of God even when he was old (2 Timothy 4:13). Presiding pastor showed us how the name of Luke was being positioned in the three epistles (Philemon 24, Colossians 4:14 and 2 Timothy 4:11) and brought to us rich doctrines. We would never take notice of these verses ourselves. Surely pastor has been delighting in the Word of God and meditating therein day and night. His preaching is the fruit of his meditation. **In Acts 15, Mark followed Barnabas when he departed from Paul. Barnabas was the uncle of Mark. But later Mark repented and left his uncle who had apostatized and followed the truth. Indeed truth is thicker than blood. His separation from Barnabas is biblical separation. Paul also received Mark in the end because he was profitable for his ministry. The conversion of Mark showed me the importance of clinging on to the Word of God and to abide therein. Only when we love, honour and follow the Word of God, then are we blessed. I also see the sovereign grace of God in bringing this lost sheep back to Paul. As regards to Barnabas, he was a leader in the beginning and Paul was his follower, but subsequently, God manifested His special calling and anointing upon Paul which could be seen in verses like Acts 14:12 and Acts 15:40. So Barnabas ought to recognize the special ministry in Paul and humble himself to follow Paul and submit to the sovereignty of God. But because of his pride, he left Paul.***

Thank God for raising up our pastor. He is the standard God has raised up in this final apostasy. Thank God for placing me under his ministry to receive the preaching. Pastor’s preaching livelily presented to us the characters and events in the Scriptures and planted in me the desire for God’s Word. I enjoy his preaching which is accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. As I have a clearer understanding of the doctrines and

truth, I have better spiritual discernment to affirm the calling of our presiding pastor. Hence how blessed I am to be placed under his ministry. We may have the means of God and have done our best, yet pastor's concern for us is whether we will persevere to the end. Paul said, '...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before', because he did not see himself as already attained, either was already perfect (Philippians 3:12-13). If Paul would think that way, how much more that I should not be presumptuous to think that I am already saved and give any excuse to lapse in the seeking of my salvation. May God help me to persevere by His grace to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles and to continue to the end, that I may say like Paul, 'And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly Kingdom: to Whom be glory forever and ever.' (2 Timothy 4:18)" Response of Hushai Guo, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China, (translated by Zipporah Lee) to pastor's message, 'Enduring Faithfully Unto The End', Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia; 29 January 2016 AD