

PREFACE

“While we originally planned to discuss 19th-21st August prefaces, we ended up discussing solely the 19th August NJT due to the weightiness of the subject matter. First, thank God for Hannah Grace’s address to us regarding our inadequate understanding of pastor’s Gospel and our failure to imbibe the spirit of pastor’s Gospel. It results in our apathetic attitude towards the spiritual disposition of our youths especially. That caused us to soberly consider our failure in ministering to those under our charge as we ourselves are lifeless and indifferent towards our own spiritual state and that of others too.

Second, thank God for Haziell Qi’s letter and pastor’s blurb. We were impressed by the depth of his soul-searching regarding this sin of spiritual pride and the way portions of the Holy Scriptures we do not normally consider were woven into his letter so naturally. We recalled that he had been a spiritual leader even before coming under pastor’s ministry, so what was it about pastor’s Gospel and the special mandate to restore all things that caused Haziell to respond in such a contrite and humble manner? The sisters highlighted the different aspects of the Gospel that Haziell focused on: like the law he receives from pastor’s exposition of the Word that exposes his utter depravity; the sovereignty of God in that no one, even the best of us, is indispensable; the reality of the spiritual battles in the house of God (demonology); all of which focus on experimental Calvinism, enabling him to be so critical on himself and his actions in the spiritual realm. Ultimately that he applied these very personally and pastorally to himself with regards to his spiritual disposition.

As one pointed out that everyone of us is susceptible to this sin of spiritual pride, we were directed to see that while this pride is a sin that plagues all, it is a particular danger to the leaders and especially those in the mission fields. This is because of the applause and attention that we will receive when we convey pastor’s messages.

When our vision is not aligned with that of the servant of God in relation to the Special Mandate, then we will end up like Barnabas who departed from Paul. Ultimately we make ourselves vulnerable to the Antichrist spirit, if our ambition is not of faith but to accomplish our own agenda and for our own kingdom, making merchandise of the truth and eventually we will be found in the camp of Satan to oppose Christ, His servant and His people.

We were also solemnly reminded that there are souls under our charge at stake; thus greater is our responsibility. We are also reminded not to forget the source of our blessing, even pastor who has opened our blind eyes to the truth.

We discussed at length pastor’s blurb as we were wondering why pastor spoke about the differences between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God in the context of this preface and the expressions of words. We were struck by what pastor highlighted that ‘nothing could substitute scriptural adducing and corroboration’ as seen in Haziell’s personal reflections - that he quoted the Holy Scriptures and that was the basis of his convictions and searching of himself. Also with respect to the relevance of the theme, pastor showed that Haziell has touched on this matter on the danger encountered as a missionary in a very honest manner. And also his willingness to bear the reproach of Christ in identifying with the special mandate of the servant of God in reaching out to the churches. Haziell is an example of spirituality and character as opposed to our freakishness in the multitude of words. Thank God for such a stellar example for us to behold and learn from. Finally, we appreciated pastor’s commendation at the end. Pastor is commending Haziell to the conscience of those sitting on the fence to witness his faith, maturity, humility, spirituality.” Reported by Leah Chua (edited by Rhoda Soh) on behalf of those gathered on the 22nd August 2018 AD at Joy’s apartment, Deborah Thomas, Julia Low, Elisabeth Tan, Phoebe Job, Pauline Lu, Esther Ng, Esther Yeoh, Euodias Cordero, Lydia Teo, Baca Chia, Claudia Ng, Beer-sheba Tan, Huldah Grace Teo, Keren-happuch Tan, on their discussion on Haziell Qi’s preface and presiding pastor’s blurb in NJT 19 August 2018 AD.