

PREFACE

*"First, I must say that last night's preaching gave me an overwhelming sense of how puny and small man is. I feel such a fool trying to speak about the sacred and heavenly things of God. It is conceit even to try to do so. How can the finite mind understand the infinite God? It brought me down very, very low, the more so because over so many years I have heard pastor's preaching but I have not fully grasped his doctrines and the philosophy of the Scriptures. However, yesterday was a really cleansing session. For a while it seemed that time stopped. While pastor was preaching he brought the things of eternity into time, to help a finite creature understand the infinite God. First and foremost it affirmed what preaching is. Pastor spoke about the message, but I also thank God pastor spoke about the mode – preaching - and also the messenger. **Pastor used to say that preaching is Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.** Yesterday he said it is the visible demonstration of the invisible Spirit of God. It took time for me to soak it in. This what I am coming to, week after week, Sabbath after Sabbath, I am confronted every day with the invisible Spirit of God and His power, but in a very visible way, through preaching. But how brutish I am! I have not seen it or soaked it in. Hence there is still all the conceit and deceit, so I want to thank God that I am here at this conference. How is a man ever to understand the Gospel, the wisdom and the power of God? A few days ago Lois and Naomi were talking about the questions that children ask: What is God? Why did He make man? They sounded like cavils, questioning God. In a sense we are born with the philosophies of this world- we are born a sinner, in absolute depravity. That is why we are so confused. I was such a mess, so confused, before I came under pastor's ministry. I can identify with everyone- the Greek, worldly philosophies, or with the other religious philosophies, like those of the Jews. They are anchored in unbelief from the dawn of history- even though the very Messiah came from their lineage. No wonder the wrath and judgments of God have been upon them throughout history. We can still see it in the rising of anti-semitism, a judgment against their unbelief. On the other hand there are the so-called philosophers of this world. They are filled with conceit, boasting of their own intelligence and their ability to logicize and rationalise. Pastor brought out the pendulum from Epicureanism and Asceticism. It doesn't matter which way you swing, but they are all against God. They all boast of being logical but they are at enmity against God's wisdom. It was very beautiful when pastor spoke of the Gospel of Yeshua Christ. The beginning for us is creation. We can't go beyond that. We are finite. But we have the spirit of Satan thus we want to go beyond (our limit). But pastor said the philosophy of God is in the Scriptures and it begins with creation. It sets us all in the place where we should be. If we are ever to understand the philosophy of God, we must understand our place, that we are creatures, puny and finite. Thank God for bringing in the essence of the message of God, the essence of the Gospel, which is the cross and Christ crucified. Next to creation, the understanding that we need to have is the fall of man and the eternal redemptive plan of God, especially in the incarnation of the second Person of the Godhead. How can a man find any logic in this if we are carnal, that deliverance should come through Christ and Him crucified? The Lord Yeshua Christ was perceived as defeated on the cross but it is the power and the wisdom of God. This foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of men! God had to bring down the conceit in us- the way Paul says it is really a slap in the face! Is it humour or holy sarcasm? It is a swipe at the impudence and the arrogance of man. Our ears are blessed to hear all these wonderful things! Pastor went on to speak of how we may be delivered from the bondage of the will, from sin and from the world. There is not just the objective aspect of the Gospel, but in the second chapter there is the revelation of God through the Holy Spirit. The wisdom of God is shrouded in mystery- it is a parable- the wise in this world are not able to perceive it. The Holy Spirit must illuminate us- I believe this is experimental for us. It doesn't save us, but there is a growing addiction as it nourishes us. There is this desire to go back to the Scriptures, to read and meditate and to come back and hear it again. There is no wisdom like this wisdom from heaven! But I am warned that it is not knowledge- no flesh can glory in His presence. There is a tendency in me to glory in my intellect or in my ability to articulate, but it is all of the grace of God to save a man. There are so many spiritual paradoxes here. My desire is that I may not be deceived by my own conceit or by a mere apprehension of the Gospel of Yeshua Christ but that I may be able to truly receive it, if God be gracious to reveal this truth to me in an experimental way, such that I could taste the power and wisdom of God; the Gospel made alive in the depths of my soul, so that Christ would truly be precious to me. Lastly, just a little appreciation of the messenger whom God has raised up, and all who deputize on his behalf. Pastor said he cannot fellowship with some of us. We are not on the same frequency. I am so earthly, and the spiritual brethren are so heavenly. Even the angels would want to bow down to hear their speaking: things that are so deep and so rich. I wonder what the women in Bedford were speaking about, such that captured the heart of John Bunyan. I understand why man thinks the Gospel of God is illogical. But the truth is, it is rational and logical! It is man who is irrational. He is carnal, that is why he cannot understand God. We impose our carnality on God. Now I understand why pastor says we cannot judge him. He is beyond judging. Yet we often have the audacity to ask, why this, why that? It was very encouraging when pastor told us that we need to grow up. We are babes; not just babes but it is a reflection of our spiritual disposition. We have yet to apprehend this heavenly wisdom of God. It is so heavenly but it is so functional- all the problems in the*

Corinthian church were addressed by the philosophy of the Scriptures. Lastly I pray that while I seek for true regeneration, I thank God very much for pastor who tells us to meditate on God's Word. This is the weakest part of me, to still down to meditate. But this thinking is the bridge between listening and speaking. This is why I can't speak- I say all kinds of rubbish- because I am not meditating on the Word of God. As a result, I am also unable to hear. I am filled with the wisdom and the spirit of this world, so there is no facilitation of the Holy Spirit. Pastor says he can meditate for a week on one verse. This message contains the meditation of a lifetime. I hope the children will see their blessedness. As mothers we have brought in these other philosophies, destroying our children whom pastor had groomed up from birth to hear the wisdom of God. If not for the mercies of God, I would have destroyed my own children. I pray the Holy Spirit will reveal His philosophy to the children and to us too. Thank God for the labour of the servant of God."

Response of Deborah Thomas (Yishun, Singapore), to the message on "The Infinite Wisdom And Infinite Power Of God Both In The Work Of Redemption, In The Calling And Appointment Of Preachers And The Mode Of Conveyance Of The Everlasting Gospel Of Christ Yeshua", an exegesis of 1 Corinthians chapters 1 and 2 expounded at the December Convocation AD 2014 at Parkview Apartments, Cameron Highlands, Tanah Rata, Pahang, Malaysia; 16 December AD 2014