

PREFACE

*“Greetings dear pastor, today Ruth Mary conveyed to us your message on the Doctrine of Justification By Faith seen from the perspective of Historic Faith. I felt ministered by the Spirit of God. She brought across the gravity that many are called and few are chosen seen by the many examples you quoted from the corridor of history. Salvation is not of man, it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God Who shows mercy to whomsoever He pleaseth. Having been blessed with so many spiritual advantages, are we justified? That is the crux of the matter. I felt your message cornered me to ask myself whether I have tasted the experimental aspect of the Doctrine of Justification By Faith. I thank God for the strength of your message. I thank God for the prefaces that I can ruminate upon. Such strength is so important to me because since my return from the China conference, I have been trying my best not to lose focus on spiritual things but to be conscious of God and live by faith. But it has not been easy and I felt I am beginning to succumb to the demands of this life. Hence I am very thankful to God for speaking to me through your message on Justification By Faith to steer me back to focus. I am also very thankful for your message on Joshua gleaned from the responses of the brethren. One sentence Philologus Eio said struck me a lot. He said it is not so much that henceforth we should go around preaching or evangelizing like the Arminians who glory in their outreaches, but the message shows us the heart of God and what He desires of us. I see that by doing our part is a way to please the heart of God and I am touched that God wants us to serve Him. Your message on Joshua connects me back to Christ again that I should live by His grace and for Him. This is the least I can do for One Who loves me and gave Himself for me. I felt spoken to that I should move and yield myself to the bidding of the Captain of the LORD’s host through His anointed servant. Since my return from Singapore, on a few occasions, I put aside my loads of work during office hours and preached to some clients when opportunities came knocking. Last Friday evening, in an informal conversation with Mr. Baron, he told me that my presence in the office brings him the sense of God. He said he has tried to know God and he felt good that he has become more religious. I felt he had missed the point and told him plainly, ‘The more you know God, the more you will abhor yourself’. He was really stunned and said he had never heard such a thing before. ‘What do you mean?’ he asked and that granted me the provision to tell him about the total depravity of man. Thank God for these spiritual adventures in the office these two weeks which are the effects of the spiritual ministrations I have received from you in the recent China conference. Shalom, pastor. The weather is not so cold now because the winter is coming to an end and spring will be arriving soon. Thank God!” Zipporah Lee, Teaneck, NJ, USA; 8 March, 2015 AD. “I remember last night in pastor’s house he asked if he should hold the meeting on Friday or Saturday? For the KL brethren we should have it on Saturday. I feel pitiful for the KL brethren who did not get to hear pastor expound so beautifully on this doctrine. Before this, pastor spoke about how the Lord has afflicted some. Yet I have a seat here. It further touched my heart when I heard Jephthah: 18 years in Singapore, but now he has to leave (for India) and he is now trying very hard to learn the doctrines. I am so privileged. God has given me a plethora of chances to hear. I missed pastor’s farewell address to the China brethren. While the sisters were having discussion on this address on Justification By Faith in Julia Low’s house, I was lost. But today I heard it from the mouth of pastor. Doctrines are lofty but pastor made it simple for us, whether it is the Doctrine of Justification or the book of Deuteronomy. Pastor showed the experimental aspect of this doctrine. He doesn’t need a text. He just looked at our faces and spoke of the experimental aspect. Not that this doctrine is not being preached in our times, rather it is that we have yet to experience it. **There is no real conversion. If I don’t acknowledge my state I am forsaking my own mercy. Though I don’t know how to speak positively of having the zeal, joy and hunger for the things of God yet negatively I am defiled. It’s a manifestation that I am not justified.** I am still surfeiting and being a by-product of the 21st Century. Pastor drove home the point so personally and experimentally to us. Why God call this doctrine ‘Justification By Faith’? It is all by Christ. It is all of the grace of Christ. Yet it is condescension on God’s part. God wants us to come by faith. [Pastor: “And hope against hope and stagger not at the promise of God.”] It is scary when pastor showed from Deuteronomy 29:3 – God has not given us the ears, heart and eyes to understand these things. Seemingly it is God’s fault but in truth, I have not sought for it. I need to come with that desire to seek for my salvation.” Hephzibah Chai’s response to pastor’s prayer meeting exhortation in John Bunyan House, Johor, 6 March 2015 AD*