

PREFACE

*“Thank God for the message of pastor. Today, pastor brought out the intriguing link between the minister of God, the truth of the Gospel and relationship between the believers and the preacher. Pastor brought out the anger of Paul and at some juncture, I wondered if he was talking about himself or of Paul. In one of the examples, he said Paul did not go to Singapore Bible College. Whatever Paul had understood and written, they were revealed to him not by men but by the Spirit of God. The deep truth that the man of God preached to us is not taught to him by men but rather by the Spirit of God through the Word of God. So thank God for pastor bringing out Paul’s anger and Esther Ng’s response which put into perspective the message for me—how Paul’s anger was directed towards the pillars of the church—Peter and James. Paul’s contention with them was their understanding of the Gospel and how they responded to the truth of the Gospel. At the end of the message, pastor asked us to consider why Paul was so angry and asserted his authority and ministry and calling. Most importantly, he asserted the truth of the Gospel. Thank God for raising up Paul to be very precise, zealous and clear as to what the Gospel is. Thank God for raising up the man of God who is very clear in understanding the Gospel of Paul and of the Scriptures. Paul brought out the doctrine of Justification by Faith. The Law and the Gospel are separate and distinct. The law cannot save but the law is a school master that brings us to Christ. The law came to Moses yet it did not disannul the promise made to Abraham 430 years earlier. [Pastor: “The law which came 430 years later did not disannul the promise, not so much made to Abraham but to Jacob because it is Jacob who went to Egypt and the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years.”] Thank God how pastor beautifully introduced the doctrine of Federal Headship. Under Adam, we are condemned under the Covenant of works. None of us can keep the law. [Pastor: “Because we are born in original corruption. Whereas Adam was in his first estate made with original righteousness. He could have attained to the righteousness of the Law but not after his fall.”] Thank God for the promise and hope in the Lord Yeshua Christ. Yeshua Christ is the last Adam (Romans 5:14-18). He has kept the law perfectly. Pastor brought out concerning what Paul said about the objective aspect of the Gospel from eternity, then he also quoted Galatians 4:4 that in the fullness of time God sent His Son to be made of a woman and to subject under the law. Pastor crystallized this part of Galatians that is so hard to understand. Today, light came and I was ministered by that. Pastor’s exhortation and pastoral application to us was actually summarized and very pointedly brought out when he explained that the bondwoman and her children will persecute the free woman and her children. Before that, pastor was hitting out at those of us who have heard him for so many years and have received the truth and professed love for the truth and yet they are not changed. I am like the Galatian Christians. I am like the harlot who goes out to fornicate and go to other philosophies of this world such that when I come to the house of God, my spirit and countenance change. Despite the fact I prayed and felt ministered by the Spirit of God, but when I go out to the world, my spirit changes. I know how to behave myself before pastor and the people of God but my life is diametrically opposite to the truth taught to me. **It is a shocking reality to me that I am not yet converted.** The other day, the aunts were talking about the difference between being convinced and convicted. I wondered how much I am convicted of the truth and of the identity of the man of God and his ministry. Inevitably this has to do with our role and niche in his ministry. We need to urgently understand the message of Paul as the world needs it. He can’t keep sending the same people (or missionaries) again and again. In the wee hours of one night, pastor said if Zephaniah goes, who will replace him? That statement stuck in my mind and heart. Why is it that pastor can only send Zephaniah Soh, Deborah Thomas, Rhoda Soh and Esther Ng? I felt the burden in pastor’s heart that we have yet to understand the truth of the Gospel and much more to be convicted and to converted by the Spirit of God and to be justified. It is the burden of the man of God today that the leaders are not up to the task. Often times I have affected my brethren by bringing in the wrong spirit from the world as I am not convicted of the truth and am still liberal. I am still a child of the bondwoman and have the spirit of the Antichrist and False Prophet within me. Therefore, I thank God we sang Psalm 138. I felt ministered because the psalmist said that God will behold the proud from afar off. I think I am something when I am nothing. God will behold me from afar. If I sow in the flesh, I will reap corruption. Pray God have mercy upon me and each of us to save us. Like Psalm 138, pray God will not forsake the work of His hands and that it will be perfected in me. Thank God for pastor bearing his heart to us. Pray God answer his prayer for every one of us.” Response of Naomi Chua to pastor’s exposition of the book of Galatians, John Bunyan House, Johor Baru, Malaysia; 3 December 2017 AD*