

26 July 2015 : Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: A Pastoral Heart

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 12

1. The topic is for all believers and not just for pastor. It includes every father who is head of the family, fellowship leader responsible for the well-being of the members, Sunday School teacher for the students, matured believer to younger believers etc. It is also for those who under their spiritual oversight to pray for these who have oversight.
2. 1 Sam 12 is a farewell speech by Samuel even though his ministry had not ended yet. The people had rejected God as their King as they wanted a human king like the Gentile nations. Samuel was already old at this time. Though he was rejected by the people after having served them as their Judge for many years, Samuel responded with grace and a pastoral heart to the people.
3. A pastoral heart is one committed to integrity (v.1-5). Samuel could tell the people with a clear conscience that he had served God with clean hands and a pure heart. He had not defrauded nor stolen nor oppress nor taken bribe from anyone. Samuel was a godly spiritual example to the people especially to the new king Saul.
4. A pastoral heart is one committed to admonishment (v.6-18). To admonish is both to encourage as well as to rebuke and warn. Samuel recited the history of Israel to admonish them how often they forgot God and were then oppressed by the enemies. When they cried to God for deliverance, God would forgive and deliver them. Samuel admonished them they had rejected God by wanting a human king. He told them to repent and fear the Lord.
5. A pastoral heart is one committed to patience (v.19-25). This is the heart of God to be longsuffering with His people. Despite the disobedience of the people, Samuel would pray for them and encourage them to seek the Lord. He would restore them to the Lord and rejoice with them when they sought the Lord. It is a sin against God when we do not pray for one another.