

**PREFACE**

*“Pastor’s message was a thorough treatment on parenting and was actually a doctrine of the cane. Surprisingly, also embedded in the verses which pastor referred to in the book of Proverbs are the doctrines of depravity of man, imputation of sins, constitution of man and even the doctrine of the law. Pastor really gave a thorough and comprehensive treatment to this doctrine of parenting and nurturing of children. I marvel that in these few verses, God understands the queries, worries and subterfuges that parents have in handling children. God has to assure the parents that the application of the rod will not kill the children but will deliver them from hell (Proverbs 23: 13-14) and from foolishness (Proverbs 22:15). I see the condescension of God to reach out to our standard and the wisdom of God behind all these things. The application of the rod will not kill the child but it will drive away foolishness that is bound deep in his heart and cause him to appreciate the Law behind all these corrections done to the saving of his soul. While the cane is painful, real love is seen when parents use it to thoroughly cancel the power of depravity in a child. I see the blessedness of the children in our midst in that they are being corrected and chastened when they are young; there is hope for their souls. In contrast, I have not been dealt with the Law of God when I was young, neither was I disciplined or brought up in the biblical way so I suffer in the world and ‘bang my head against the wall’. I pray that the children will see that the Law of God is good. Pastor said that it is easier for parents to cane and break the strongholds when the children are young than for the preacher to pull down the wickedness and strongholds when we are grown up, for by then it would be a much harder task for the preacher. There are many times we are really deceived by the children. Once I wondered why some sisters were so harsh to a child. But when I had real incidences and confronted with situations which showed the depravity of the child, then I knew I was wrong (because I was deceived by the child’s outward niceness) and the sisters were right. When there is opportunity, the wickedness of these children will surface. Our own depravity will kill us, especially when we have only outward attractiveness. Therefore parents must really trust in the wisdom of God and the Word of God (even as our presiding pastor expounds it), adhere and live out the doctrine accordingly and not to do according to what they perceive to be right. Today is a happy day for the parents, it is ‘Parents’ Day’. The children should take this doctrine rightly for the doctrine is not for their condemnation but for the deliverance of their soul from damnation in hell. I am happy to hear this doctrine but I have to be careful. For me, the real test is when I am really confronted with the children, then it will show how much I am really convicted of the doctrines and how much I really deal with the children according to the doctrines.”* Julia Low’s Sabbath vespers in response to presiding pastor’s sermon on ‘Parenting And Nurture’, John Bunyan house, Johor, Malaysia, 12 July AD 2009