

PREFACE

“It is surprising that the book of Proverbs has so much to teach us about ‘Parenting And Nurturing Of Children’. Pastor did not just search out the verses but linked them up and granted us the gist of each portion of the Scriptures stated. The wisdom of God is clearly highlighted and it is in the direct opposition with the philosophies of men. The whole message is very doctrinal and enlightening. The application of the rod is not only imperative, we are taught that it must be applied sufficiently, and that betimes (early while there is hope), and to apply to deal with and cancel the power of innate depravity present in every child. This is God’s way and the only way to save the child from hellfire. This is the narrow way against the broad way that leads to destruction. I think presiding pastor is probably the lone man that is unflinchingly advocating this way of scriptural upbringing. He is taking on the hosts of the wicked liberals and papists and false prophets. Many have succumbed to the fierce tides of apostasy. Even among the Reformed constituencies, a large majority of the churches are compromising and they have deceitfully reinterpreted and commuted the ‘rod’ to be oral discipline in New Testament era. I am freshly reminded of the special calling and niche that the man of God has in these last days. He is raised of God to remind us of the Law of God given in Horeb (Malachi 4:4,5) and to ‘seal the Law among My disciples’ (Isaiah 8: 16). Presiding pastor is our role model. He consistently practises what he preaches. The presence of canes is a conspicuous distinctive in our midst. Personally speaking, where my earthly father failed, I thank God that He gave me a spiritual father. I came early as a youth, just before I began my teens, under the ministry of presiding pastor. I have benefited spiritually from the strong doses of reproof and rebuke that came my way from the man of God. Presiding pastor has not slacked or become derelict in this vital responsibility all these years. Still I must not be superficial. While I mentally acknowledge that the Law is good, there is still the tendency to run from the Law of God and enforcement of it in my life. This will eventually harm me and later destroy my soul. I yearn for more grace to welcome the ministry of the Law. I am glad that at the whole treatment of pastor from the book of Proverbs on this issue shows also further proof that the strait-gate, narrow-way Gospel that pastor preaches is in accordance to the Word of God. There is no other way but it must be through the Law that the ground of the heart is prepared. Presiding pastor makes me understand that behind the rod is the love of God for sinners. While children and men are to grieve about the power of human depravity, God has prescribed the remedy to be the rod and the law. It shows me the intent of God is that He is ‘not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance’ (II Peter 3:9b). To ignore this message is to spell damnation to my own soul. The message is also encouraging to parents, especially mothers. 1 Timothy 2 gives that encouragement. In His judgment on the woman, there is still mercy in childbearing. If the mother will ‘continue in faith, charity, holiness with sobriety’ (I Timothy 2:15), it may lead to salvation of her child and her own too, if God be merciful. Finally, thank God for presiding pastor making clear the delicate relationship between God’s grace and parental responsibility in the realm of parenting and nurturing of children. God usually and is wont to dispense grace to the child whose parents have conscientiously and integrally fulfilled their scriptural parenting responsibility. ‘They are not incompatible’ as pastor emphatically asserted to expose the error of the Hyper-Calvinists.” Zephaniah Soh’s Sabbath vespers in response to presiding pastor’s sermon on ‘Parenting And Nurture’, John Bunyan house, Johor, Malaysia, 12 July AD 2009