

**PREFACE**

*“I thank God for this wonderful Sabbath. When I first heard about pastor’s ministry, I heard that he was very strict and was always angry. I heard that it was pastor who made salvation so narrow and so hard. It made me curious to see this realm. I reflected that it is the application of the law (that pastor brought out over the last few days) that caused me in time past to look forward to meet the missionaries and presiding pastor. When I came to the ministry of pastor, I tried to judge if what they said about pastor was true and it was so. Upon hearing the message, I tried recollecting my childhood. My parents would apply the law when I did something wrong. If we failed to do the house chores, they would beat us. They used the belt as a form of threatening to ensure that we would not fail nor make any mistakes. I think this helped us to build character. Even the teachers used the cane in those days. I thank God for those who applied the law on me in those days, those we branded as ‘tigers’. Pastor brought out the need of the application of the law. Pastor showed that the reason for him applying the law is because he loves our souls. My parents applied the law to punish us for mistakes but pastor applies the law betimes. I saw it in my young son (Melchizedek, age 2) how that he became better after we applied the law on him. I really appreciated how pastor expounded the book of Proverbs. It gave me the reason why I should cane my children and he shew me how to apply the law. I need to do so because of the depravity of their heart and not out of hatred. I am dealing with the spirit within. I was shown that there is the appropriate time to apply the law. I see the wisdom of the man of God. I see the conceitedness of my heart. I know how to hide and pretend. I see the life of pastor is really biblical. He does not do anything according to the philosophies of the world or men but only according to the Word of God. I saw the disappointment of pastor because the way others apply the law is a failure. It is reflected in the state of my children. It is not just about character but pastor cares about the soul. It is not just to see them prospering but to save their souls. I should not be resigned but continue on until God shows mercy and delivers the soul. Sometimes we rather use words to scold but it is the contact that is necessary. I must not be afraid because the failure to apply the law would mean damnation to me and my family. I pray for faithfulness to practise the message. I want to imbibe the spirit of pastor. I understood the example of the coach that if he is strict the team would perform. Sometimes the flesh resists the law, but if the law is not applied, people would become wild and effeminate. The enemies will laugh at us. I need to be strong and faithful. It is time that I amend my manner of dealings especially with my children.” Abiel Patacsil. “Thank God for the burden of the man of God to preach appropriately from Proverbs. I thank God that pastor cited from Proverbs giving so many scriptural citations concerning the application of the law and how the application of the law facilitates the preparatory work. I find that this message is most relevant in a day and age when corporal punishment to children is considered as ‘child abuse’. This message is relevant as we are living in the battles of Gog and Magog and Armageddon. When I went to a shop and asked for a cane, the shopkeeper was shocked. One of the common characteristics about the Free Presbyterian Church and some of the people we met in the western society is that the children leave their parents to join unbelievers. I thank God that here in the house of God, under the ministry of the true man of God, we have a pastor who believes in the whole counsel of the Word of God. I thank God that through the book of Proverbs, pastor showed us how the law is to be applied, in terms of its intensity, frequency and implementation of usage. This belief and usage of the law has its basis in the doctrine of human depravity. I thank God for the rod to extricate the vices in a child’s life. When I was a child, though my family was pagan, they applied corporal punishment. I can say that it has prevented me from becoming a wayward person and in a sense has eradicated some of the vices. Thank God that in His providence I had a good Art teacher who applied the law such that this day I have good penmanship. I thank God for him instilling diligence and responsibility. When pastor gave the example of the football coach, the end result is the fruition on the players. One thing that impressed me is the need of grace to love the law. When pastor quoted the psalmist, I realised that I do not love the law. I am impressed today that true love is when the law is applied. We have the man of God who ceases not to reprove, rebuke and exhort. This is where true love is administered. If I love the people of God, I must apply the law as and when it is needed. If I truly love the children, I must reprove, rebuke and cane them. I see, with much sadness, that the children do not have the love of God in their hearts, they even need to be told to read the Bible. They need to be directed to clean up the bowls in the kitchen. It is really sad that while some of these things are done in the fear of God and love of Yeshua Christ, there are other times when the uncles come and sit among them that they cease talking and slowly move away. The only exception to this is Josiah John Chen who would sit with the uncles and fellowship. When I see the ungodliness of my girls, it is a reflection of my own ungodliness. When I come back home to them, they behave like angels, immaculately. I really have to think of ways and means to expose their sins. I feel sad when they run to their rooms and refuse to come out. I request God’s people to apply the law when you see them waver. I thank pastor for inculcating in them the fear of God through the application of the law. I feel that it is a long drawn out battle. I fear that they end up*

***like Delilahs, daughters of men and sons of Belial. I thank God that it strengthens my understanding of the doctrine of man. I thank God for such an appropriate and timely message.***” Phinehas David Yeoh. *The foregoing were responses to pastor’s message on ‘The Upbringing Of Children In The Fear and Admonition Of The Lord’ according to the book of Proverbs, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; 15 June AD 2014.*