

PREFACE

“Just now Claudia Sheba said that it is better not to have children at this time. But pastor shew us the verse that ‘...a woman shall be saved in childbearing’. You often hear the heartfelt cries of the mothers in the upbringing of children. Mothers were the first to be hit at as pastor showed us the principles in the upbringing of children from the Holy Scriptures and the book of Proverbs. The principles not only apply to parents but also to guardians, mentors, shepherds and pastors to apply to people under their influence. Thank God for this wisdom. The wisdom pastor had is all from the Holy Scriptures. I am struck by the verse, ‘train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it’ (Proverbs 22:6). This is the way. And the way that leads to life. This is the strait gate, narrow way, not the broad-way, wide-gate Gospel that would flatter the soul and feed the ego and pride of children and even ourselves. Another thing that struck me was when pastor said that we have to inculcate in children the respect for the law. When they respect the law, they will have respect for those who apply the law and they will respect authorities that enforce the Law. Thank God for these precious principles. Pastor would not save his face and has no fear of man. Pastor said, ‘If you cannot take it, the exit is there.’ Those who cannot take it, they walk out and may not come back again. This special bond we have with the servant of God is because he spares not to apply the rod. The bonding is of the Holy Spirit. In the world today and in school, you cannot do anything to discipline the children. When the tone of the teacher is harsh, the parents complain. Sometimes I don’t bother, I just scold the kids as they do not respect authority; they are disrespectful and they have no regard for teachers. Sometimes I see children become kings and mothers become maids to their children. Even for teachers, when we write remarks for children in the report books, it is a tall order. The principal says, ‘You cannot write negative things about the children’. We see bad traits in them. We have to write something to hint to the parents of these traits in their children, and we are supposed to write objectively and yet in a positive way but not over-exaggerate. How to do that? All these things are happening in the schools and society! Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet, have destroyed belief in the doctrines of the Scriptures but thank God for the man of God who causes us to see the need of these doctrines from the Word of God. This message is for a pastor to apply to the congregation, parents to children and spiritual elders to their brethren. Why I withhold correction and do not apply the law enough, sharply, penetratively is because I want to win them to myself and not to Christ and in this sense, I am hating their soul. I had never experienced the love of a father. My physical father could not take care of himself. But in the house of God, I experience the love of pastor as a father for his children. Like Carmen Pee, I came in at the age of 12. My mother caned me once and I spitted at her. I threw saliva at her. That is how rebellious I was. I went to school, I spoke vulgar words. You would not know I was like that. I chased with a cane my aunt who tried to bully me. Indeed rebellion is in the heart. But when I came to the house of God, pastor brought me up. But because I am cultured in the ways of God, I become more deceitful. Pastor may not be able to apply the physical rod on us but pastor has many creative ways to humble us, such as stand on the chair, do gardening, and carry dog’s poo. All these are pastor’s wisdom to humble us so that pride is brought down. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child. However as an adult, I can cover it but pastor extricates it out in each of us in the way we can take it. Pastor taught us to apply the law in creative ways. As parents, they have the privilege to cane the child till the blueness of the wound for to save the soul. To apply the rod betimes speaks of the fact that it is never too early to discipline a child; we cannot be deceived by the cuteness of the babe. Thank God for the wisdom and counsel of God so comprehensively conveyed through the exposition of pastor on many verses in Proverbs this day. I felt touched by pastor’s testimony at the end of the message. During the days of his youth, there was confidence and buoyancy of pride in pastor. [Pastor: “Until one day, my pastor preached Christ from Isaiah 53, then my pride came tumbling down. I was quickened. Then I saw the ugliness and folly of my pride. The self sufficient gait of my strides gave way to a posture that reflected my utter dependence upon the omnipotent God.”]. I marvel that the Holy Spirit revealed to pastor Who Christ is. Looking at Christ, the virtue of humility touched pastor. Through the years, God also showed to him the providential dealings of God. I think pastor grew experimentally through the wisdom that is given of God even in how to deal with people and those under him in all these principles. I felt we are beneficiaries of the deep love of Yeshua Christ through His servant. It is the love of Christ in pastor to apply the law on us. It is the application of the rod that facilitates the preparatory work. The principle in the Scriptures has to be ingrained in my heart both as one who welcomes the law in my own life and as one to apply, not to do it leniently and lighten the effects thereof. The other point is about those children with the grace of Christ bring comfort to their parents. Eve was not comforted till Seth came. I saw pastor’s dealings with his children, like Ruth Mary Thomas and Israel Thomas. When Ruth Mary was young, pastor caned her very hard, till her spirit was changed. God honoured His servant to bring Israel back though he was offended when pastor applied the law harshly on him. The application of the law is the foundation that must be laid though it is a hard and dirty work. Thank God for this whole worship. Though the message was from Proverbs but the call to worship is from Job. The call to worship uplifted the sovereignty of God like the verse (Job 38:28) says, ‘Hath the rain a father? Or who hath begotten the drops of dew?’ Glory is given to Almighty God. It is the majesty of God. Then how appropriate when we sang the Doxology, ‘And all man shall fear thee. They shall

wisely consider the works of JEHOVAH.' The spirit of worship was evoked. I felt I am an unworthy recipient of God's mercy. I felt I am not worthy but I was surprised that God tenderised my heart from the message on Job 1-3 in the pre-conference and the further discourse of pastor that we should not be over anxious of this life and he pointed us to Yeshua Christ, that He is the Possessor of heaven and earth and yet He came down as nobody and people also despised and rejected Him. I kept thinking about it and tears ran down. I felt the presence of Christ Yeshua drawing nigh and I prayed, 'Lord Yeshua Christ, come also to my own heart and sup with me'. Thank God for using that first sermon to tenderise my heart to seek for that communion and fellowship with Christ. Thank God for the reports we could hear from North East India and China. Pastor's constant reminder of his global ministry and burden; pray that I would be partaker of the grace and ministry of the servant of God. I do not want to be sucking pastor's blood and waste the God given resources but be of use to the Kingdom of God. [Pastor: "Rhoda not only spoke of the length and breadth of the message but applied it to her life and the spiritual and moral conditions of the world. She brought out the blessing of the conference and also of the reports. She gave thanks for the whole conference although she came up late."] Rhoda Soh's response to pastor's message on 'The Upbringing Of Children In The Fear and Admonition Of The Lord' from the book of Proverbs, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; this is the final instalment of this nexus; 15 June AD 2014