

**PREFACE**

*“It was unexpected for me that pastor preached on upbringing of children. Pastor has been talking about the application of the law through preaching and also today the use of the rod. As a parent, it is relevant to me. Thank God for the Holy Scriptures - every verse is so instructive. I thank God we also have the man of God to give us the sense of the verses. Many preachers do not interpret ‘the rod’ literally. Thank God for the man of God to teach us so that we may wisely undertake the preparatory work so that their souls be saved. Quite a few things pastor preached struck me. Firstly, it is not just the wounds but the blueness of the wounds, not just correction but the severity of the correction. Recalling back to my days in apartment block 173, I always struggled with the upbringing of children due to the depravity of heart. I am always lenient in the way I discipline the children. I am not effective in the use of the rod. I struggled as the elder sisters corrected me in the way I disciplined my children. There was offence in the heart thinking that the sisters did not understand the whole situation. That was to my own loss. I thank God for the message which is timely. Now in Australia, the government does not allow corporal punishment. We should not allow the government to dictate; but rather, the Scriptures should determine how we discipline the children. For my son Judah Salem, it is harder to use the rod though there are ways to deprive him (as means of correcting him). I felt the message is timely for me to apply. All that pastor exhorted direct me that I may use the rod properly and betimes on my 2 girls (Shiphrah and Ma Navu) when there is still hope. ‘Train up the children’ – the need to train them up and use the rod. I concur that when we correct our children, there may be peace at the end, there is nothing that comforts parents until they see the grace of God in the heart of the children. It is beautiful when pastor condescended to give us his testimony—when he read Isaiah 53 and how the Holy Spirit worked in him to tenderize him. There is self-confidence and pride in the heart when a young man is growing up so there is the need to use the rod to humble him. I thank God for the conference. I enjoyed all the fellowship and reports and preaching of pastor. If not for the preaching of pastor, and the global vision and ministry of pastor, we would not have the conference. I felt my cup is full and the soul is satisfied with so much richness. How we should envy the China brethren. I do not have the first love as the China brethren, especially their love for God’s Word. I desire to return and enjoy God and enjoy Christ in whatever niche I am in, not to forget to share the global ministry of pastor by knowing the doctrines and preaching the Gospel. Thank God for all the brethren, the chef, our dormitory leaders at 12-1, Rhoda Soh and Pauline Lu, and all the transport provided. I felt sorry to give pastor the burden by booking the flight on Sabbath.” Martha Tan. “Thank God for the labour of pastor who unexpectedly preached, in a way, from the book of Proverbs. It is a very appropriate follow up especially when pastor talked about the doctrine of preparatory work. For me, it is to apply it as a recipient of the application of the law and also how to relate to others in the truth. Pastor gave a lot of scriptural proofs when and how the law ought to be applied but one thing impressed upon me is that I ought to first have the love for the law of God. Not just the delight in the Word of God but also the extent that I must be cultivated to have that delight in terms of rebuke, reproof and correction. I totally agree with pastor that there is no way a person can be good. Neither can it be achieved through genetic engineering. But it has to be by cultivation, to have that love for the law of God. Thank God that this thing is really impressed upon me. I also thank God that pastor nurtures us in the Scriptures and brings home the understanding and principle that everything we do is founded upon the Word of God so that there is this assurance that if we follow faithfully, it will yield fruits. There is this liberal stronghold in me that I tend to misconstrue love, also misplacing my affections when the law is being applied. Thank God that when pastor preaches against the philosophy of the world, my perspective is set aright. Thank God there is this promise given that if we apply the law faithfully, God will bless our attempts. The child will not go away when he is old. The child will remember that training was given to him and God could give that power of retention in the mind or heart in the child to remember what was being dealt with. Thank God for I was experiencing these things even before coming under pastor’s ministry. All I can remember what my mum did for me was to cater to my physical needs and cook for me. But I can never forget how my father dealt with us. Although now he seems very gentle, my father was very fierce when we were young and dealt with us sternly. When I was 12, my father dealt severely with me. I was never being humiliated as I had thought I was the apple of his eye. I was pampered all the way till I was 12. For that incident I did not speak to my father for a week. But when I look back, if I were to consider my relationship with my parents, I am closer to my dad than my mum. Our relationship is never estranged. This thing brought sense to me when pastor brought home the scriptural aspect to cause me to understand the preciousness of the law. Why do people think that pastor is a very angry man? Pastor told us it is because of the office given to him – a prophet— that he has to apply the law strongly. I can remember better the wrath of pastor on me because those were the times of my spiritual restoration. Thank God that pastor really caused me to see that ultimately it is to cater to the mending of the soul; it is to deal with the depravity that is so deeply rooted in me from which I cannot deliver myself until the law is applied to expose all the evilness of my heart. Thank God all these things were being taught to me this day. In this whole conference, one thing has*

***been impressed upon me – the love for the Word of God. It is when I have the love for the Word of God, only then I will be able to respond better especially to the law that is applied on me and I will better appreciate pastor's doctrines, be a more effectual vessel and an help to pastor's global ministry. Thank God for the privilege to be found here in this conference." Hephzibah Chai. 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***