

PREFACE

"The mothers have spoken so the child should speak. Thank God for pastor's labour. Last night he called me and asked whether I had a good sleep. He said of himself, 'I did not have any sleep the whole night'. Thank God for pastor systematically showing this doctrine from Proverbs. Pastor did not show us from the philosophy of this world but from the whole counsel of the Scriptures. It must be done at home. Thank God for pastor and my mum. Many a time I have gotten the blueness of the wound. Thank God for my mum who really followed the counsel of pastor and did not spare the rod despite the opposition of my father and grandmother. She still applied her faith in the Word of God. I am preserved here in the house of God because of the law she has given me from my youth. (Pastor: "I want the parents to believe that everything I taught today comes from the Word of God, I was trying to communicate the exact exposition and exegesis of the Word of God. This is one place where we can substantiate what we want to put across. I can put it in a very sermonic way but instead I gave it verse by verse.") Pastor is not exaggerating or putting forth his own sentiments - you can confirm from the Word of God. You got to go back to the Word of God: it is not so much the wisdom of pastor but the cumulative wisdom of the Word of God. It is nothing but the pure and unadulterated wisdom of the Word of God. (Pastor: "You can see the same from Job and Esther as well. Nurturing the child in the fear of God. That is why I have to go verse by verse so that the mothers would believe that it is from the Word of God. But the mothers need to apply these principles. The parents need to dirty their hands with blood and tears so that the child may be saved. I came to explain it and elaborate on it meticulously, precept upon precept. Slowly we got to teach them through every verse. It is to convict them of the sense in the book of Proverbs.") I think it is reflective in society that though they use Proverbs but only pick some principles at their convenience and comfort and just ignore the rest. Pastor teaches without apology as it is from the Word of God, hence with the authority therein. Why there is the need of the rod to be applied? It is because of the foolishness within the child. Parents must know the depravity rooted deep within the child. Else the child will repel instruction. Nowadays the law does not come in the form of caning (since I am already a teenager) but deprivation. Many times I have rebelled against it because I think the punishment is too harsh (Pastor: "They assume that the punishment does not fit the crime.") but I am shown today that because of deep foolishness of my heart that it is implemented else I will not repent. If the child rejects the law, he forsakes the way of God. Pastor links it to yesterday message that we forsake our own mercy (from the prayer of Jonah in Jonah 2: 8). Many times there is still the aversion to the law that I do not see when I go against those who apply the law to me; I am condemning myself to hell and bringing myself to my own damnation. Pastor brought the reality of the Word of God. Pastor said, 'Don't be afraid to apply the rod because later on the children will not hate you; they will respect you.' When my mum scolded me and sanity came back to me, I realised she was doing it for my soul. Else God would be judging me. Only when the Holy Spirit convicts me then I realise that all these things pastor is doing is for the good and blessing of my soul. I think what pastor said about punishment being a deterrent measure is also true. Thank God that I have a sister. When I was younger, my mum caned Naomi but Naomi did not repent but hid herself in the storeroom. Then my mum locked the door; afterwards Naomi came out, then we had a time of prayer. But instead of Naomi confessing her sins, I was the one confessing my sins. It really works as a deterrent measure to train the child. Thank God for my mum who trains us the way we ought to go. But it is whether I want to really follow this path. It is not only the fear of God but the love of the law when it is applied with faith. I have not come to that yet. But I pray that even as I grow up, I may take heed to these things as it will be my safety to submit myself to the wisdom of the Word of God. The people of the world said that we should talk nicely to the children but the Word of God teaches us that it is the rod which is the best way to communicate to the children. My friends give me strange looks when I said I get caning from my mum. Thank God for my blessedness else I would already be damned long ago. Thank God for the provision of the Lord's Supper. I almost did not want to partake it after the fencing address, but I pray that God will grant me grace to practise biblical separation and take away my love for education and gadgets. Thank God for pastor's love to ask me to hear preaching so that I can be strengthened spiritually before I descend the hill. Thank God for the beautiful weather up here." Leah Chua's response 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