

PREFACE

*"I thank God for the labour of the servant of God to continue to apply the law on me through preaching. Today his preaching is from the book Proverbs, on the legitimacy of the application of the law in the upbringing of children. Thank God for the leading of the Holy Spirit as I see how integral this topic is to the Gospel which the servant of God preaches. There must be the consistent, rigid application of the law on children. [Pastor: "Ruthless application."] It facilitates the preparatory work in the soul of a child. Preparatory work is the inward working of the Holy Spirit in the soul of the child. It might not take place automatically with the application of the rod, but this outward application of the law on the child facilitates the inward work of the Holy Spirit. This is the way of life, the way of the righteous when pastor related it to Proverbs 10:15 and Psalm 1:6; this is the way that leads to life eternal and it is the strait-gate narrow way and the way that the Lord wants me to walk in. He that hateth reproof shall die (Proverbs 15:10). The child that is averse to the law damns his own soul. I have to take heed to what the servant of God preaches. The psalmist says, 'O how love I Thy law! It is my meditation all the day' (Psalm 119: 97). It is important to love the application of the law of God on us although it is very painful and difficult. All these years I have been struggling to receive reproof and rebuke from the servant of God especially during preaching. I was like an Arminian, hardening my heart whenever the servant of God rebuked from the pulpit, 'Thou art the man'. I answered like the Jews in Malachi, 'Wherein have I despised Thee?' I resisted and despised the law instead of letting the Holy Spirit work in me, so that I do not grow in grace and maturity. I am so childish in my application of the law on my children. Thank God for the love of the servant of God to fight for our souls and the children's souls. The Gospel is bequeathed to us in its purity and power. I see the counsel of the wicked, that is the confederacy and conspiracy of Satan in introducing the soft approach in the handling of children—parents and adults talking gently to children as if they are on par with them; that is the liberal mentality and Satan is recommending such mentality to the whole world. For the older generation, some exercise the rod but everybody now resorts to the mentality that Sigmund Freud perpetrates. Sigmund Freud is associated with the Jesuits and is used by Satan. [Pastor: "Correct. Sigmund Freud is a Jesuit. Benjamin Spock also took a lot of things from him. A lot of people follow his way in the upbringing of children. If you want to trace it, it is the work of the Jesuits to destroy children's soul."] **This shuts off people from the true Gospel.** [Pastor: "That's why in America, there are many groups that don't believe what scientists or psychiatrists teach at large. So people can live in community like the Amish to do what they want. It is hard for outside forces to come in. The governments cannot come in and interfere in family matters. You still have groups that still follow the application of the rod on their children. It is purely biblical. Thomas Hooker and Thomas Shepard's philosophy of preparatory work is based on the wisdom from the book of Proverbs. But to destroy it, Roman Catholics came up with Humanism in the upbringing of children which the liberals embrace very much. Humanism is the philosophy that destroys the fabric of western society especially in Protestant nations. It is the reason for which the basic foundation and fabric of western society has been destroyed. This is why the western society is crumbling. Even in assessing students' work in schools, teachers are lenient and generous. For instance, when Denise Taylor came and graded the Sweet Psalmist contestants, everyone got 10 upon 10. To give 9 upon 10 is a cruel thing. It may seem amusing but it is actually destructive. Bad becomes good or bad becomes not bad. The western society is a confused society today. They are all undermining the esteem and value of the law of God. They hold the law of God in contempt. This is what Satan is generating—utter contempt for the Word of God."] **I also must acknowledge that I am that stupid and wicked mother.** [Pastor: "You must know that is not something personal but something that is happening in society today. Many parents want to practise it but given the framework and philosophies that are forced on people, they cannot practise it. It is breaking up society everywhere. You see what Hadassah said: Peniel went to school and they gave a lecture teaching the children where to call for help when parents discipline them. Satan wants to destroy our children in this battle of Gog and Magog and destroys faith in the Word of God and the respect of children for parents. You see what Satan is doing. When you understand it, your heart boils. It is bad in Singapore. That is why I called up Leah in the middle of the night and told Damaris and Rhoda what I said to Leah, 'Don't go back now, forget about remedial classes. Have you brought up the school books? Go and bring them.' She was quite willing. I asked at the right time before there is no hope. You must be careful even in the house of God. Some elder sisters keep telling me not to interfere for some parents would not appreciate it. Magdalene and Phoebe have helped me a lot here. Everything we do, some parents undo it with their own carnal mindsets. I am an expert on this. I have known it by experimentally through the grace of God. I have taught the book of Proverbs a few times. I have seen from young age how people are brought up. I have seen children in the slums, or the rich men's homes. The worse places are where there is the trappings of affluence. I know a lot of Indonesian kids who are very rich. I gave them tuition to earn my fees for my tertiary studies. They can afford one tutor per subject. But then they are very spoilt. Many of them are well cultured and they will listen when I preached the Gospel to them. That is why I am not surprised when Enoch met this young Indonesian boy, Marcel, who is receptive to the Gospel. He asked for 5 copies of 'Distinguishing Saving Faith' and wanted to buy those books to spread it. Thank God there are places nearby in China and Indonesia where people want to be kept pure from the decadence of western culture. In a way the China authorities are tight but they should not do it for the fencing of Communism. That is why they guard search engines such as Yahoo, Google, to prevent western culture from making inroads."] **Thank God for the prescriptions of the***

Word of God from Proverbs, even the dosage, the frequency at which the rod is to be applied in order for it to be effective. I have to strengthen the arm power. The father is stronger. One stroke by him is harder than my 3 strokes. Parents must exercise the rod early and frequently while there is hope (Proverbs 19:18), before the world would consume our children and have the children in Satan's hands. Thank God the children in our midst have this hope while the servant of God is still around. I must treasure this period of grace that God has given and not let it slip by. I must cry to God in doing that. 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Proverbs 22:6). It implies the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a child, as much as there is the human responsibility in nurture. While I learn to exercise the rod in my house, I have to take heed to myself. In my house, everyone knows that Joel is a son of thunder. I have to receive rebuke and reproof meekly from him because this will be an example for the children in the manner they should receive every rebuke and reproof that comes their way. This is an area that God wants me to repent as I descend the hill." Charity Chia'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; 15 June AD 2014