

# Take it Home

Applying the Preached Word



## The Rod and Reproof

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### **Text- Proverbs 29:15**

#### **Main Point:**

Our children are sinners who need the discipline of the rod and the Word which transforms.

#### **Key Ideas:**

The Bible never condones the use of physical punishment in anger for the harm of children. The Bible does endorse the careful and loving use of self-controlled physical chastisement with instruction for the sake of discipline.

#### 1. Our children are sinners

- The world teaches that 'baby knows best'; that children are morally good and need only to be freed from constraints and limits to become what they are meant to be.
- The Bible teaches that children are sinners (instinctively disobedient to God and His ways) and will develop into foolish people if left to themselves and their own desire.
- Surgeon "we need to train our children in the '3R's'- Ruin, Redemption and Regeneration.

#### 2. Who need the discipline of the rod.....

- The rod in scripture is most often a physical correction with no harm but some discomfort. Some have an aversion to the use of the rod of correction because of bad experiences or because of mis-understanding of what it is and isn't.
- The rod is not the only tool of discipline, and may not always be the most appropriate tool in a given circumstance. But we shouldn't take something that the Bible says is an important tool and treat it as an irrelevant tool.

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- We never apply the rod out of anger; out of a sense of personal offense with what a child has done to us, or as a last resort when other discipline has failed. We need to be thoughtful, careful, consistent, and measured in our use of the rod as a tool of correction.
  - Over time you can see a development of three general stages of discipline in children. When children are very young we discipline to address what is safe. Then we discipline to address what is right and wrong. Then we discipline to address the heart. The rod is not the gospel; it can't change the heart. But it can help a child focus on the need for something outside of themselves to live in righteousness; and that is the opportunity for the Gospel.
3. And the Word which is transforming
- The sobering truth is that we can use the rod to mold external behavioral conformance to rules. But that is not true righteousness. Our children need to see their need for Christ and have the Gospel carefully and lovingly applied in the context of discipline.
  - Rather than asking, 'how long can I keep using the rod', the better question is, 'when can I look for ways to turn the rod of chastisement over to the Lord?'

### **Fellowship Starters**

#### **Treasure: *Application to stir our love for Christ***

1. Read Hebrews 12:3-11, in what ways is God's discipline of us a model for how we discipline our children? In what ways is it different?
2. How have you seen the discipline of God in your life for your good? If you have kids, how would you share that experience with them for their good?

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***Grow: Application to stir our obedience to Christ***

3. What in this message did you find difficult? What are some things that can hinder us from allowing the Bible to speak as truth in the area of child discipline?
4. What are the things you found most helpful in this message?

***Proclaim: Application to stir our witness for Christ***

5. *How would you relate to a friend or extended family member who had strong concerns against the rod?*