

THE BULWARK

QUIET REFLECTIONS...

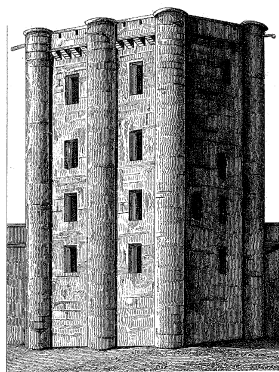
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

*“For I know the plans that I have for you’,
declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and
not for calamity, to give you a future and a
hope”* (Jeremiah 29:11) That passage came
to mind recently upon reading an email,
wherein reference was made to a John
Denver song entitled “Poems, Prayers &
Promises”. The opening lyrics to the song
is “I’ve been lately thinking about my
life’s time...” How many times in life have
we sat down and engaged in quiet reflec-
tion with respect to “my life’s time”? Us-
ually when such occurs, it is during a time of
melancholy, but it need not be so. Going
back to the song lyrics, the refrain focuses
on the fact that “it’s been a good life all in
all”. Ecclesiastes 7:14 Solomon writes, *“In
the day of prosperity be happy, but in the
day of adversity consider-God has made
the one as well as the other so that man
may not discover anything that will be after
him.”*

Life is a wonderful, precious gift that
should be enjoyed and fully appreciated as
expressed in the book of Ecclesiastes. But
there should be the recognition life must
not be abused. *“Rejoice, young man, dur-
ing your childhood, and let your heart be
pleasant during the days of young man-
hood. And follow the impulses of your
heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet
know that God will bring you to judgment
for all these things..”* (Ecclesiastes 11:9) In
other words, enjoy life, but don’t live in
such a way that you will have to “live it
down”. Life passes as Job pointed out,
“swifter than a weaver’s shuttle...” (Job 7:6)

While one might echo, “it’s been a good
life all in all”, there is something far and
way better that awaits. That is if we have
fully placed our trust and confidence in
God. Paul as he writes his second letter to
Timothy, is delving in to reflection of his
life. He speaks succinctly with respect to
confidence, faith and hope. *“For this rea-
son I also suffer these things, but I am not
ashamed; for I know whom I have believed
and I am convinced that He is able to guard
what I have entrusted to Him until that
day.”* (1:12) In the second chapter Paul
speaks about God’s trustworthiness (see vs
11-13)

*“I have fought the good fight, I have fin-
ished the course, I have kept the faith; in
the future there is laid up for me the crown
of righteousness, which the Lord, the right-
eous Judge, will award to me on that day;
and not only to me, but also to all who have
loved His appearing.”* (2Timothy 4:8) In
short, what is being asserted is that in spite
of some hardships, “it has been a good life,
after all” and something grander awaits.

*“Therefore we do not lose heart, but
though our outer man is decaying, yet our
inner man is being renewed day by day. For
momentary light affliction is producing for
us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all
comprehension.”* (2Corinthians 4:16-17) The
incomparable blessings that God has set in
place for His children. The splendor, beau-
ty and joy in this life, and if we have been
found faithful indescribable blessings that
await. (wbe)