

THE BULWARK

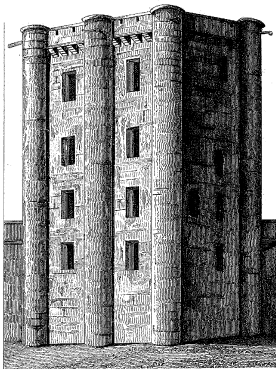
May 14, 2023

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

THE PRIME OF LIFE

Ah, the passage of time, it sneaks up on you; “one day you were young and spry, the next you sneezed and your headed to the chiropractor because you threw out your back.” George Burns noted, “Age to me means nothing. I can’t get old; I’m working. I was old when I was twenty-one and out of work. As long as you’re working, you stay young...” It shouldn’t come as much of a surprise that the demography in America is changing and skewing older. It is estimated that by 2050 nearly one out of four Americans will be 65 years of age or older. Today that rate is one out of six, and strikingly enough, those 85 and up are the fastest growing segment of that demographic and expected to double by 2040, according to the Administration on Aging. A simple look at congregations of the Lord’s church and this dynamic can be clearly seen.

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish on the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green.” (Psalms 92:12-15)

A beautiful picture of the righteous individual who has grown over time, yet maintains the spiritual vitality to be productive. There is no retirement, at least in a spiritual sense. In fact retirement from the work force by those who are older is a relatively new concept (1889 in Germany according to several sources; however retirement

for those serving twenty plus years in the military can be traced back to the first century) Do you realize that Moses and Aaron were in their 80’s when they spoke to Pharaoh (see Exodus 7:7) Joshua was in 70’s when he led the children of Israel into the promised land. Daniel was over 80 when he served as one of the governors of the kingdom of Babylon. He was 80 when he was thrown into the lions den.



Zacharias and Elizabeth, the parents of John the baptizer, were advanced in age, yet still active in service. The same could be said of so many throughout the Scriptures, including John, who was thought to be in his late 80’s and perhaps into his 90’s when he wrote his epistles and Revelation; also confronting the error of Diotrephes. Still active, producing fruit.

For those who have advanced in age, there is a lot that can and must be done for the cause of Christ. Men need to consider serving as elders if they meet the qualifications. Mentorship of younger men. Women can follow the example of Dorcas and heed the words of Paul as he wrote in Titus 2:3-5. Consider as well what is found in Psalms 48:12-14. We have the responsibility to instruct and prepare the next generation. The well being of the Lord’s church resides in those who are older to prepare those younger.

There is so much to do, and age shouldn’t be something that holds us back. Embrace it, accept it and be fruitful. (wbe)