

The Bulwark

MAY 11, 2025

INNER TORTURE (PART TWO)

Paul exhibited genuine concern for Titus to be aware of the need to encourage older members within the body of Christ to instill courage in the younger members. Which naturally would include the need to offer instruction to the younger ones. What a tremendous responsibility! Oft times, those of us that are somewhat more “seasoned” are guilty of trying to neatly set aside this directive. The future progress of any congregation of the Lord’s church demands such. *“Consider the ramparts; go through her palaces; that you may tell it to the next generation.”* (Psalms 48:13) Ramparts, another word for bulwark, a defensive wall, a strong wall for protection. Indeed a sense of purpose.

The writer of Psalms 48 was speaking with reference to the bulwarks that surrounded the city of Zion. As it applies to us today, it is with respect to a spiritual bulwark. The church is referred as being the spiritual Jerusalem (see Hebrews 12:18-24). Spiritual Zion. The onus falls on those of us who are older to impart the needed wisdom to the next generation. In conjunction with this line of thought notice as well Psalms 71:18, *“and even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who come.”* There is still yet an-



other thought to be seen from the psalms, this time the 92nd psalm and verses 14-15. *“They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”*

Job made the following observation in response to what Zophar had said, *“wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding.”* (Job 12:12) In Proverbs 16:31, Solomon wrote, *“A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness.”*

There is a lot that we have to offer as we age. However, we get caught up in the inner torture and lose the understanding that should be in place. As a result we start to MAJOR in the minors. What is meant by that is that we may begin to “nit pick” over little, tiny things. Things that shouldn’t matter one way or another. Yet, there we find too many of us, looking, searching for something for which to complain. No matter what it may be. Complaining about one another, apparently thinking our years has given us the right to be grouchy. Not so (see James 5:7ff)

As members of the body of Christ, we have been clothed with Christ. A life devoted to Him. Replete with an attitude of compassion,

humility, understanding, gentleness, forbearance, forgiveness and love (see Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:20ff)

Job went through a massive amount of inner torture along with physical suffering. None of us can honestly say, *“I will complain in the bitterness of my soul”* (Job 7:11) Yet, many of us still feel as if some how, some way, we can manifest inner torture as we grow older. What a tremendous waste, if that be said of us.

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” Isaiah 46:4

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