

I Will Love Thee, O LORD, My Strength; Psalms 018:1-3

Ps 18:1 <<"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,>> I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

We find in **2Sa 7:1 ¶ "And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; 2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."** Thus, when David had rest from all his enemies; he desired to build a temple for the Lord. David is telling Nathan that my house is better than the house of the tabernacle, and I desire to make a house for God that is better than my own.

Shouldn't this be the desire of every Child of God, after their new birth? Understand that with the new birth and the assurance of our eternal life and eternal salvation; we have been given eternal rest from all our enemies. Wherefore, we should desire to live lives that reflect the new nature of Christ in us, which far outshines the lives of our old nature. This is a picture of each child of God building a temple for the Lord.

Why would we want to do this? Because of the love we now have for God and Christ. Because now we know who our deliverer is. We know who our buckler is. We know who our horn of salvation is. We know who our high tower is. We now call upon the Lord and praise his almighty name, for God alone can continue to deliver us from all our enemies.

What is a fortress? A fortress is a place where people can gather and be protected from their enemies. It is usually constructed of thick walls of stone that cannot easily be broken down. It is a place that is stocked with food and has a ready source of water within it. A place that is easily defensible and well protected. The fortress would have watch towers, which were high enough to see over the walls, and allow the watchers to detect if an enemy was coming to attack.

Now, apply those thoughts to your life as a Christian and see the church of Jesus Christ in this age of salvation by grace. Christ Jesus gave his life on the cross to provide the fortress, the thick walls of defense, for every child of God. What do you mean? Is there any force that can break down the walls of our eternal security provided by Jesus? There are none, as we are told in **Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** Jesus Christ is our rock upon whom the fortress of the Church of Salvation by Grace is builded.

Should our foes come against us, and they surely will, we have the written word of God as a defense against them. Remember that Jesus used the rightly divided word of God when Satan tempted him, setting the example for us to follow. Of course, this means that you must seek refuge in the church and you must be read and be studied in the word of God to be able to have a ready sword of defense. You must know the Word of God to be enabled to put on the whole armour of God.

This is why we have organized bodies of believers called individual church bodies. A place to gather away from our enemies and give thanks and praise to our God and King. Why would we seek refuge in the organized church on earth? Because that is where the bread and water of life is found, which is Jesus Christ.

Well, what about the watch towers? The watch towers are the ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who are preaching the whole truth of God from the king James bible. They are constantly warning the people to be aware of the wiles of Satan, which they must face in everyday living. They are teaching the children of God the whole truth of the whole bible, not just those things that sound sweet and are good to the taste. Even in nature, if our diet has to much sweetness, we will develop a disease called diabetes, which will eventually kill us. As it was necessary that the Israelites ate the passover supper with bitter herbs: the same is true in the life of a Christian, and the responsibility of a sound biblical preacher. We cannot just preach the things that please the ears but must also preach those things that cut to the heart and soul.

Wherefore, when the church body gathers, we share our joys and our woes, and build up one another in the faith in Jesus Christ, as seen in: **Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the**

Lord." We sing praise and give thanks to God for our King that rules over the church. Our ministers preach the word of God, not withholding the things that are bitter to our taste, and we give thanks for that also. We need often to be reminded of where we came from (we were dead and alienated sinners) and that we are what we are today: children of God, saved only by the love and grace of God.

Therefore, we, like King David, can say: "*I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*" We thank you, King Jesus, for making this possible in our lives. Hallelujah! Amen!