

THE BULWARK

“EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK”

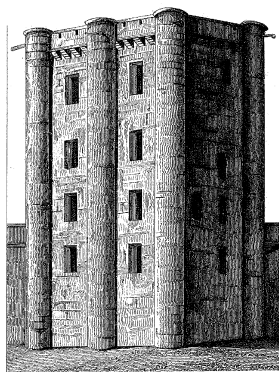
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

For many years it was a great privilege to coach “little leaguers”, those days are long since past for me. But recently they came to mind as I drove past a park where baseball practice was taking place. Thinking back to the excitement of the players on the first day, then the frustration they experienced as they tried to develop the skills needed to play the game. Mistakes were made. But with patience and instruction they began to build a skill set. I can still remember one young boy, who got his first hit, jumping up and down on first base, yelling out, “I got a hit! I got a hit!” That boy as the season went on progressed to the point where he was selected to be on the all-star team when the season concluded. He matured, but it took patience and understanding. Coaching and mentorship by both the team coach and fellow members of the team, all helped contributed to his marked improvement



There is a responsibility that it is clearly identified in the pages of God’s word. Take a look at what is seen in Hebrews 12:12-13. *“Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.”* To provide what is necessary on behalf of those who call for more direction.

The fourth chapter of Ephesians chronicles how the spiritual body (Christ’s church) works in concert with one another. Exhibiting patience and forbearance with one another motivated out of love (v2) all done with a view to “maturity” (v13). To that end each one plays a role to the betterment of one another. Note carefully verses fifteen and sixteen of Ephesians four. *“But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”*

In his second epistle to the young evangelist, Timothy, Paul penned the following. *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate. Equipped for every good work.”* (wbe)

Then there were those who thought they were “a bag of chips and all that”, but they had much to learn. Coaching, mentorship. So it is at times with some in a spiritual sense. *“For by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God...”* (Hebrews 5:12) Drop down a few more verses and the following is seen, *“let us press on to maturity...”* (6:1) It is an on going process with all of us involved to one degree or another. Note the words, *“let us”*.