Fostering A *Thanksgiving* Lifestyle: Contemplating Our Strong Tower

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Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe. (NKJV)

This proverb, put to song – written by Clinton Utterbach (1991) – honors our Lord through these lyrics:

> Blessed be the name of the Lord (repeated for emphasis through 1st verse);
> Holy is the name of the Lord (repeated for emphasis through 2nd verse);
> Glory to the name of the Lord (repeated for emphasis through 3rd verse).
>
> … Oh Most High

In these *blessed be ... holy is ...* and *glory to* phrases, God is praised … God is thanked.

Further ponder the Proverbs 18:10 quote above.

The three expressions of praise are prompted by the reality of the name of our Lord being a strong tower into which the righteous run and find safety – pretty cool, especially for our day when there are threatening armies of darkness all around us. Once again, God's precious Word provides both perspective and peace-filled encouragement to those who are willing to seek His Truths through Bible reading. God is good, all the time … God is a strong tower. Martin Luther penned, *a mighty fortress is our God* hundreds and hundreds of years ago. The *picture* of a strong tower | a mighty fortress *paints a thousand words* for us today, including that which the wisdom of Solomon expressed as an eternal principle in this one short verse. My how glorious the Word of God continues to be for His children in His Son, Christ Jesus! There are SO many more verses – you don't say! – which bring needed blessing today. We simply need to commit to **taking in** His Word on a regular basis – Psalm 1 says *day and night* (verse 2). And let's not forget the picture this very Psalm paints in the next verse: My what prosperity in Christ Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God IF we would but obey our Creator concerning the taking in of His nurturing Counsel. **Are you *taking it in* on a most regular basis these days?** Am I? And let's not forget to go on to heed it in our expressions of faith before our almighty God. A prayer to our Great Triune God is appropriate at this juncture:

Lord, we once again thank You during this special Thanksgiving Season! Thank You for your precious Word. We are so blessed in Christ Jesus Your glorious Son, our Savior. We praise You, oh God Most High. Please use us in these dark days. May we exalt Your name together as we shine the light of Your Son in our abiding. We are grateful for the generous abundant life You so graciously allow us as we walk in Your Spirit. In Jesus Christ's name we pray, amen.

(continued)

God blesses us … God sanctifies us … God glorifies us … as He once again shares with His sheep who are willing to yield to His transcendent ways. His people, in turn, springing from a grateful heart, *pay it back* : "In these *blessed be … holy is …* and *glory to* phrases, God is thanked and praised." What a circle of light graced to us by our loving God.

The chorus portion of the praise song by Clinton Utterbach is as follows:

> The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and they are safe;
> The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and they are safe.

Speaking of a mighty fortress,* a strong tower … take the time to experience yet another blessing found in a passage written by one who suffered much as he faithfully declared the Word of God to God's Old Covenant people … read Jeremiah 16, especially verses 19-21. WOW!

The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe.

* Suggestion: Do a word study on "fortress" and you'll find sweet blessing – needed encouragement in these dark days prior to our Lord's initial appearing in the sky | in heaven.

For additional **blessing** (to you) on this topic,

please read Psalm 31 – the whole psalm.

Verses 19 – 24 wrap up the **message**
of encouragement in such a wonderful way!