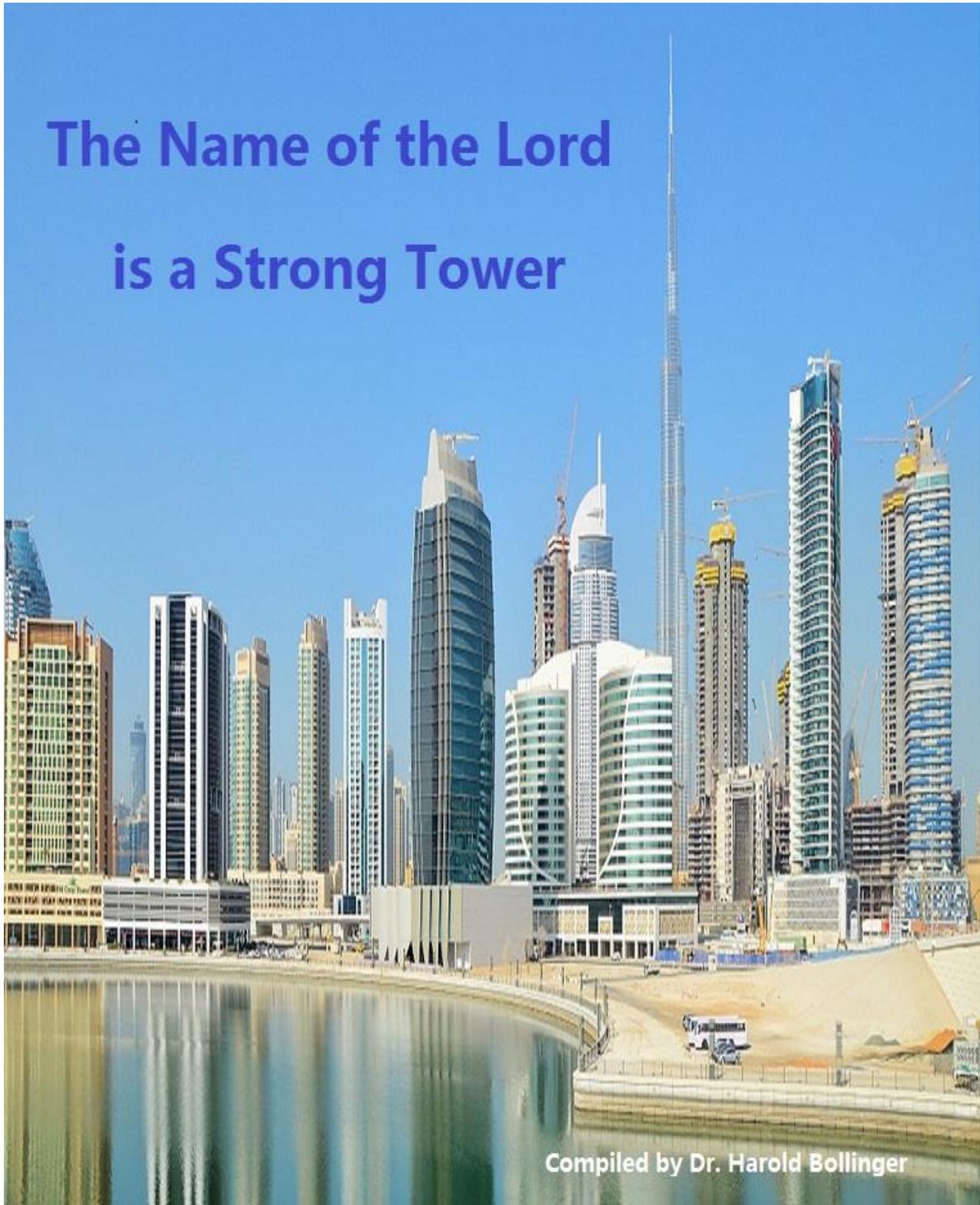


The Name of the Lord is a Strong Tower



Compiled by Dr. Harold Bollinger

Moral issues and their contrasting views

Proverbs 18:1-24

(1) A recluse is self-indulgent, snarling at every sound principle of conduct.

If we would get knowledge and grace, we must try all methods of improving ourselves

[2] Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

Those make nothing to purpose, of learning or religion, whose only design is to have something to make a show with

[3] When the wicked arrive, contempt, shame, and disgrace are sure to follow.

As soon as sin entered, shame followed.

[4] A person's words can be life-giving water; words of true wisdom are as refreshing as a bubbling brook.

The well-spring of wisdom in the heart of a believer, continually supplies words of wisdom.

[5] It is wrong for a judge to favor the guilty or condemn the innocent.

The merits of a cause must be looked to, not the person.

[6] Fools get into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating. [7] The mouths of fools are their ruin; their lips get them into trouble.

What mischief bad men do to themselves by their ungoverned tongues!

[8] What dainty morsels rumors are—but they sink deep into one's heart.

How base are those that sow contention! And what fatal effects may be expected from small beginnings of jealousy!

[9] A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things.

Omissions of duty, and in duty, are fatal to the soul, as well as commissions of sin.

[10-11] The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the godly run to him and are safe. The rich think of their wealth as an impregnable defense; they imagine it is a high wall of safety.

The Divine power, made known in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, forms a strong tower for the believer, who relies on the Lord. How deceitful the defence of the rich man, who has his portion and treasure in this world! It is a strong city and a high wall only in his own conceit; for it will fail when most in need. They will be exposed to the just wrath of that Judge whom they despised as a Saviour.

[12] Haughtiness goes before destruction; humility precedes honor.

After the heart has been lifted up with pride, a fall comes. But honour shall be the reward of humility.

[13] What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts!

Eagerness, with self-conceit, will expose to shame.

[14] The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear it if the spirit is crushed?

Firmness of mind supports under many pains and trials. But when the conscience is tortured with remorse, no human fortitude can bear the misery; what then will hell be?

[15] Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.

We must get knowledge, not only into our heads, but into our hearts.

[16] Giving a gift works wonders; it may bring you before important people!

Blessed be the Lord, who makes us welcome to come to his throne, without money and without price. May his gifts make room for him in our souls.

[17] Any story sounds true until someone sets the record straight.

It is well to listen to our enemies, that we may form a better judgment of ourselves.

[18] Casting lots can end arguments and settle disputes between powerful opponents.

It was customary sometimes to refer matters to God, by casting lots, with solemn prayer. The profaning the lot, by using it in matters of diversion, or coveting what belongs to others, forms an objection to this now.

[19] It's harder to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars.

Great care must be taken to prevent quarrels among relations and those under obligations to each other. Wisdom and grace make it easy to forgive; but corruption makes it difficult.

[20] Words satisfy the soul as food satisfies the stomach; the right words on a person's lips bring satisfaction.

The belly is here put for the heart, as elsewhere; and what that is filled with, our satisfaction will be accordingly, and our inward peace

[21] Those who love to talk will experience the consequences, for the tongue can kill or nourish life.

Many a one has caused his own death, or the death of others, by a false or injurious tongue.

[22] The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the Lord.

A good wife is a great blessing to a man, and it is a token of Divine favour

[23] The poor plead for mercy; the rich answer with insults.

Poverty tells men they must not order or demand. And at the throne of God's grace
we are all poor, and must use entreaties.

[24] There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than
a brother.

Christ Jesus never will forsake those who trust in and love him. May we be such
friends to others, for our Master's sake, having loved his own, which were in the
world, he loved them unto the end; and we are his friends if we do whatever he
commands us,

John 15:14

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

His Love to His Disciples

Those whom God loves as a Father, may despise the hatred of all the world. As the
Father loved Christ, who was most worthy, so he loved his disciples, who were
unworthy. All that love the Saviour should continue in their love to him, and take
all occasions to show it.

The joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment, but the joy of those who abide in Christ's love is a continual feast.

They are to show their love to him by keeping his commandments. If the same power that first shed abroad the love of Christ's in our hearts, did not keep us in that love, we should not long abide in it.

Christ's love to us should direct us to love each other.

Matthew 11:28

**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**



To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.

- New Living Testament

