

Leaves Of Hope #1

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey thy Word
And naught but what thou wilt, desire;
With such new life my soul inspire.

L.H. 398, verse 3

Ecclesiastes 1: 9-11

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look this is something new?" It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow.

The Greeks were very boastful and proud of their culture, their art, and their knowledge. They desired to be remembered as intellectual giants and as true patrons of the fine arts. They wanted to be known as the originators of some of the most glorious things in the world. There was then no greater shock to their ego than to be told that the originals of what they possessed, they owed to others. If this was a blast to the Greeks, it would be even more so to the modern seekers after something

new and different. If there has been any time when the ego has been inflated and blown up, that time is our own with its neo-this and neo-that. This is true all the way from natural science to modern theology.

Things go in cycles and in circles and come right back to where they started. Is there anything of which one can say, “Look this is something new?” Those who think they can come up with something new are deceiving themselves. “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” What a blow to those who have been debunking the fathers of the Church in an attempt to build themselves up as founders of a new school of theology tailored to the new century. But even the errors of which people are guilty are old as the hills. People who speak of the new morality should drop the new and change the word to immorality which goes all the way back to the fall of mankind and was demonstrated so sadly in Sodom and Gomorrah. We pray that we may be preserved from the evils of those two cities. There are not new inventions of the devil today but inventions that are as old as the history of mankind.

There is really only one thing new and that is the new creation through regeneration, the new birth. “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” II Corinthians 5:17 Here is an absolutely new thing. By nature there was nothing in us - not the least trace of this new birth in

Christ. Our coming to Jesus is indeed a new thing, a new life. It brings into our lives such new riches of grace and forgiveness which we did not possess on our own. These treasures assure us of entrance to the New Jerusalem, which will not pass away, a new world wholly different from this corruptible world. It is new to all eternity, ever fresh and always flourishing in the presence of God our Savior Jesus Christ. God grant that our hearts may find their rest in these treasures, for Jesus' sake. Amen

We thank Thee, Christ; new life is ours

New light, new hope, new strength, new powers:

This grace our every way attend

Until we reach our journey's end!

L.H. 398, verse 3