

## **Leaves Of Hope #2**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Abide with richest blessings

Among us, bounteous Lord;

Let us in grace and wisdom

Grow daily through Thy Word

L.H. 53, verse 4

### **Ecclesiastes 1: 16-18**

I thought to myself, "Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. – For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

When Solomon was given the privilege of choosing whatever gift his heart desired, he chose wisdom. This was a good choice for it showed that he wanted to rule his people with an understanding heart. God was pleased with his choice and gave him other blessings in addition. Surely wisdom is a gift from God, a blessing to be treasured. Whether at school or in the home, the pursuit of wisdom has its use and proper place.

However, it is well for us to know that wisdom standing by itself does not guarantee peace and joy. Our text reminds us of this. Those who could say that they possessed more wisdom than all who had gone before them in Jerusalem, had to admit that there was a use of it which could be described as a grasping for the wind, a vexation of the spirit. Our text calls it an unhappy business when people, for instance, try to determine the origin of all things simply by the use of human wisdom and science. What is the result of this activity? In this there is much grief and grasping for the wind as one theory is discarded for another. In fact the more we really know about the earth, the world and its doings, the more we see of sin, of lust, lying, of cheating, of stealing, of cursing and blasphemy and every form of crime and vice. We may see advancement and progress, discovery and invention, beauty and fashion, but covering it all we see the overshadowing darkness of corruption and destruction. The very things of which the world prides itself, glories in and lives for, must all come to an end. Great minds are shattered, fortunes are lost, beauty is disfigured, strength and power are cut off, and fame and honor are taken away. These are the things we see and the more knowledge and wisdom we have, the more clearly we will see that this is so. In this there is no real joy. Who can rejoice in saying: “What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is

**lacking cannot be counted?” Ecclesiastes 1:15 As we contemplate all the works that are done under the sun, we must say with Solomon: “All is vanity, and grasping for the wind.”**

**As we view the passing scene we may be taken with a feeling of frustration. We may have a desire to be unclothed of this mortal frame that we may be clothed with the robe of immortality and thus be freed from the evil we see around us and the sinful nature that we have within us. But such feelings must be dispelled; for each child of God who is left on this earth is left here for a purpose. And the purpose is that we may testify to that treasure which moth cannot corrupt, which rust cannot corrode, and which thieves cannot break through and steal. The more we see of the change and decay around us, the more eager we should be to improve each opportunity to point to him who does not change – Jesus Christ who is yesterday, today and forever the same – a gracious Savior with forgiveness, balm an healing for all.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see,  
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me.**

**L.H. 552 verse 2**