

Family Devotion Hour #9

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

O how great is thy compassion,
Faithful Father, God of grace,
That with all our fallen race
And in our deep degradation
Thou wast merciful that we
Might be saved eternally! L.H. 384: 1

“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.” That a person can say this, in view of the fact that we are also being relentlessly pursued by enemies who are always at our heels, is one of the miracles of faith. We can say it and believe it only because God has given us the right to say it. We can say it only because of his goodness and his mercy. If it were not so, but only a product of our own making, then the words here written would be but a cruel lie. For we know that what men call *“goodness”* and what people call *“mercy”* cannot stand in the presence of God and will but fall in the day of trial. Finally, when one’s possessions, money and goods, are lost, then what people call goodness falls dead to the ground. If we were to depend upon a person’s mercy, then all goodness would vanish into thin air. How

different it is when we hear of the goodness and mercy of God: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

It may seem to be a contradiction when we say that we are pursued by the enemy and followed by God’s mercy as well. But it is a glorious truth, giving comfort and joy to the pilgrim on his journey through the wilderness. If we are looking for an illustration to picture this double pursuit and the final outcome, we have it in the exodus of God’s people from Egypt. When Pharaoh pursued them with six hundred chariots, God caused the cloud of his presence to stand between his people and the pursuing host; and this was the line of march right through the waters of the Red Sea. The result became the subject of a song which rose from Moses and the children of Israel: “The enemy boasted, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.’ But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who

is like you – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.”

Exodus 15: 9-13 The goodness and mercy of God stands between us and our enemies, and these enemies will not come near us to harm us. The blood and righteousness of our beloved Redeemer have assured us that, in spite of our sins, it will be so.

Even though we are beset by temptations that try us sorely, even though there may be days of such distress that it would seem as though we should be submerged, even though we may have such days of sorrow that it would seem that there is no joy remaining – yet it remains true that only goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. Though it may seem hard to believe this, yet there stand the words of the twenty-third Psalm, given by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and we know that it must be so. Yes it is so, for God cannot lie. And so, once again, we find ourselves raised up in hope

and confidence by what the Lord says: **“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.”** Amen

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we commend our bodies and souls to your keeping knowing that although we walk in danger all the way, pursued by Satan and all his hosts, yet your goodness and mercy follow us. Because of this we know that the victory is ours and we will not be overcome by the enemy. Your power is greater than our greatest enemy and, because you have loved us to the end, we know that no evil can befall us. Send your holy angels to guard us and protect us day and night. Lead us safely to the home that you have prepared for us in heaven. We ask this in Jesus' saving name. Amen