

Leaves Of Hope #10

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

What is the world to me with its vaunted pleasure?
When thou, and thou alone, Lord Jesus, art my treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord, my soul's delight shalt be;
Thou art my peace, my rest – what is the world to me!

L.H. 430:1

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.

In looking over today's text we find that it is drawing a sketch of two men. Of one it is said that his sleep is sweet - the other that he is not able to sleep. The intention is not to judge people simply on the basis of whether or not they drop off to sleep when they go to bed at night. If we were to do that we could make some bad mistakes. The question of sleep versus insomnia is dealt with in connection with the cause.

On the one hand we have the man who loves money but isn't satisfied with that. We see a man who loves abundance, always looking for more and more. Though he loves to wine and dine, to satisfy his sensual appetites, he eats in darkness and has much sorrow and wrath in his obsession. He holds his silver in his hand and yet has nothing but evil travail to pass on to his son. When it comes time to die he has nothing in his hand, for the shroud has no pockets. He has labored for the wind. He is robbed of his sleep, robbed of contentment, of happiness; for his joy is centered in things that are perishable, vain and quickly blown away. In this the person you want to be?

The ambition of the great majority of people is to find a way to make money the easiest and quickest way so that all pleasure and material success will be in easy reach. Looking to the end of the road isn't considered. Thinking of something really worthwhile and permanent is left out of consideration. In the end such a person is consumed by his own selfishness. Is this the person you want to be? If so, be sure of this - that you are grasping for the wind and you will have nothing in your hand when you stand before the throne of the Almighty God.

By implication, if not by express words, the description of such worldly minded people calls for us to turn in the opposite

direction. We are referred to the person whose sleep is sweet. We think of this person as one whose contentment is coupled with godliness, present whether the day brings abundance or dearth, riches or poverty, good days or bad, prosperity or depression. We are now speaking of a person who has something in their hand even when he or she dies and passes into eternity. Looking away from silver and gold and things perishable, their hand of faith has laid hold on the righteousness of Jesus Christ with the spiritual riches which please God and gain acceptance with him for eternity. With this in their hand, the believer gains acceptance with God. With this in their hand, the believer gains acceptance into the halls of glory. Isn't this the person you want to be? Then think along these lines and let not the beckoning voice of vanity turn you aside from choosing the course which will provide a dedicated Christian life as a child of God and witness of the Lord Jesus Christ - laboring in his kingdom assures one of sweet sleep - the contentment which comes when you say:

I am content; My Jesus is my Lord,
My Prince of life and peace;
His heart is yearning for my future bliss
And for my soul's release.
The home where he, my Master liveth
He also to his servant giveth,
I am content! I am content! L.H. 196:3