

## **Leaves Of Hope #17**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
Among us with thy grace  
That Satan may not harm us,  
Nor we to sin give place.

Abide with richest blessings,  
Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom,  
Grow daily through thy Word.

L.H. 53, Verse, 1, 4

### **Ecclesiastes 7: 11-12**

**Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor.**

Some years ago a seventeen million dollar inheritance went seeking for an heir. While only two people who claimed kinship attended the funeral of the supposedly penniless woman, 2600 people came forward to claim a part in the inheritance, when it was made known that she had left a large fortune and that legal heirs were being sought. It was quite evident from this scramble

that these people considered money to be their greatest treasure and defense. The love of money is a common sin. For that reason it is so essential to reassess values in order that we do not come out serving the wrong master. We may not be looking for a great inheritance but how about the value that we put on money, goods, and property in our daily lives? Are we not inclined to complain and be filled with anxiety when the money supply runs low? Do we on the other hand show a similar concern if opportunities to hear and learn the Word of God are diminished or cut off entirely? If we will think about this we will realize that this weakness, this sin of clinging to earthy treasure is not so far distant. We too need reminders telling us that our greatest defense is not money but the wisdom and excellence of knowledge which gives life.

The people of the Old Testament had to be reminded of this. They were told that their security and defense was to be found not in the bread on the table but in the Word of God who provided it. These were the words: “So he humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord..” Deuteronomy 8:3 Furthermore, we need to be reminded that there is a life more important to us than the physical.

Of this the 5,000 people in the wilderness were reminded after they had been fed. This is what Jesus told them: **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.”** John 6: 35 **“The word that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”** John 6:63 To know this and to believe it, this is the excellence of knowledge. This is the wisdom that gives life. Here is the treasure above all treasure – forgiveness, pardon, joy in Christ, and salvation in his name. Indeed money can buy the bread which is soon consumed, but in Christ we have the bread which bestows life eternal. Jesus said, **“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”** John 5:52 May we by faith receive this bread.

**Wisdom’s highest, noblest treasure,  
Jesus, lies concealed in thee;  
Grant that this may still the measure  
Of my will and actions be,  
Humility there and simplicity reigning,  
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training  
Oh, if I of Christ have this knowledge divine,  
The fullness of heavenly wisdom is mine.**

**L.H. 366, Verses 5**