

## **Leaves Of Hope #20**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

I will sing my Maker's praises  
And in him most joyful be,  
For in all things I see traces  
Of his tender love to me.  
Nothing else than love could move him  
With such sweet and tender care  
Evermore to raise and bear  
All who try to serve and love him.  
All things else have but their day,  
God's great love abides for aye.

L.H. 25:1 Paul Gerhardt, 1659

### **Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1**

Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" - ...

In these words from our text, we detect a note of urgency and a warning against delay. Remember now! Don't wait until old age when your sight is dimmed, your hearing is impaired, and your gait has slowed down. Don't wait until only the remnants of life are left after youth has been wasted. Now, now in the days of your youth "remember your Creator." You are here not simply to give a fleeting thought to the God to whom you owe your being. This remembering is to be your life motif as you bear in mind that you belong to him who is the author of your existence and the Savior of your soul.

We can well understand why the trend among today's youth is downward when each one feels free to do whatever gives pleasure – freedom in sex, freedom in speech and art, freedom from authority! What else can we expect from those who have been educated in school to believe that they have evolved from the primordial cell and therefore not responsible to a Creator –God. Who has the right to tell them anything? Parents? Teachers? Government? No one can take a place of authority as only the strongest will survive in the end.

How different it is to those who remember their Creator in the days of their youth. They will know that

their God has a great deal to say to them for their welfare and eternal good. They know that their Creator-God is a loving God who has not only made the supreme sacrifice of his Son for the Redemption of the world, but constantly watches over them every step of the way. For their spiritual benefit God provides Holy Scriptures to guide the very steps of each child of God. Those who have learned this and accepted it as a child have found true joy and possess a feeling of true security of which the world cannot comprehend.

One of the outstanding examples of these truths is that of Augustine. This man in his youthful years was drawn to partake of the moral rottenness of his day. Up to the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of his life, he walked in the ways of the world. But then by the grace of God, and in answer to the prayers of his mother, he was converted to the Christian faith. It was ever a source of grief to him that the years of his youth had been wasted. Hear him pouring out his heart to God: *“O Lord I am thy servant and the son of thy handmaid. Thou hast broken my bonds in sunder. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of praise. Let my heart and my tongue praise thee.”* This is the prayer of a man who learned to remember his

**Creator. May we in youth and old age remember him  
and find joy in this remembrance. For Jesus' sake.  
Amen**

**Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.**

**L.H. 29, Verse 1 Paul Gerhardt, 1659**