

## **Leaves Of Hope #24**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
To keep his statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
To know and do his will.

L.H. 416:1

### **Romans 12:2**

**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

The devil has laid out a pattern according to which he would have people tailor their deeds and desires. He laid out a pattern for Eve in the Garden of Eden and he succeeded in his effort. It was the pattern to disregard the will of God, and then to design and arouse a desire for the forbidden fruit.

The Old Testament is filled with examples to show the disastrous results of following this pattern. Thus, in the days of Noah, the sons of God consorted with the daughters of the world who were fair to look upon. They

took them wives of all which they chose. As a result they conformed and became like-fashioned with the world, thinking only of food and merriment, turning a deaf ear to the preacher who walked in their midst. God looked upon the earth and behold it was corrupt. As a judgment God brought destruction upon the earth by means of a flood. The children of Israel, even on their journey to the Promised Land, erected a golden calf as an object of worship and dance around it. They were weary of waiting for Moses, who had gone up the mountain to meet with God and so they chose to worship a god that they could see. Later they chose a king so they could be like their heathen neighbors, and thereby despised the rule of God who spoke through the prophets. As a judgment the requested kings were given and most of them were bad. And so the story goes on to show how people have fallen by the thousands, because they were like-fashioned with the world.

And the end is not yet, for the devil is still laying out his pattern and beckoning upon men to follow the urging of the flesh. He lays out his pattern in the most attractive colors and shows his fashions in the most glamorous ways.

By the movies, the TV, the modern novel, computer games, the hard rock festivals and their lyrics, he sets his image and makes sin so common and matter-of-fact that judgment is corrupted and standards are gradually cut down. It is the way of the world and we are drawn by the carnal to conform and to conform in the line of least resistance.

Instead of conformation we need transformation. We need a transformation of the mind so that we may find and perform that which is the good and the acceptable will of God. A Christian is one who has thus been renewed in his mind so that he will search out what the will of God is that he may in all truth and sincerity follow it.

As children of God who daily enjoy the forgiveness of sins purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, we will want to apply the Word of God to the specific instances in our lives when the question is raised, *“Whom will we serve? What will we do? What is right? What is wrong?”*

While the doing falls behind the willing, there can be no doubt about the desiring and sincere intention of the Christian. A Christian is transformed in the renewing of the mind, and finding out what is good and acceptable to the

perfect will of God. This transformation we have through Jesus Christ our Lord who by his precious blood made us his own possession.

Order my footsteps by thy Word  
And make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in thy commands –  
'Tis a delightful road –  
Nor let my head or heart or hands  
Offend against my God. L.H. 416:2,4