

## **Leaves Of Hope #5**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

O love how cheering is thy ray!

All pain before thy presence flies,  
Care, anguish and sorrow melt away,  
Where'er thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see,  
Nothing desire or seek, but thee!

L.H. 349, verse 3 Paul Gerhardt 1653

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3**

**To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven . . . A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build . . .**

As time passes on taking us from the twentieth century into the twenty-first, it is good to know that time is a gift from God. He gives only such time as will be to the benefit and welfare of his children. He not only apportions the time but also sets to each time its purpose in such a way that we will reach the heavenly goal, where time blends into the eternal day with its light proceeding from the Lamb of God.

Yes, God has set to each time and given to every season its specific purpose. The sad thing is that people ignore this fact and try to upset God's order. They act as if they were in control of all their time, with a right to use it in whatever way they choose. Guided by carnal reason, they make wrong judgments and set themselves up as judges of what is right and wrong, arguing that changing times require changed standards. This is, of course, part and parcel of the evolutionary theory, which is not as innocent and harmless as some people think.

Along this line lies the mistaken idea that the God of the Old Testament is different from the God of the New Testament. When they find him saying that there is a time to kill, a time to break down; when they find him saying, "Whosoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed" they turn away in disgust from the God who says this. They become pacifists and say that all war is murder, disregarding the fact that there were wars commanded by God himself. They argue that the execution of those guilty of homicide is murder.

In the face of all this we need to keep our balance and realize that with God are the issues of life and death. When he says that there is a time to kill, then he makes

the rules determining for us when this is proper and right. Surely God does not excuse Herod the Great for his massacre of the infants. God does not excuse Herod Antipas for his unjust execution of John the Baptist nor does he place the stamp of approval on the stoning of Stephen. But he does say that there is a time to kill, namely when God has so ordered it and provided for it. When he says that the powers that be have been given the sword as his ministers to execute wrath upon the evildoers, we should not accuse people of murder who do their proper duty on the police force or as members of the armed services in time of a just war. Romans 13:4 There is indeed a time to kill and a time to break down.

But the message regarding time and its seasons and purpose does not end on this somber note. We are also told that there is a time to heal and a time to build up. God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked. It is not his pleasure that men should die by the sword. Rather it is God's will that people should live on this earth to serve him and that they should live with him in time and eternity. It was the Savior's pleasure to heal the brokenhearted, to preaching deliverance to the captives, to set at liberty those who were bruised. It was also God's pleasure to

speaking of salvation to Jew and Gentile and so also to give eternal life for all. It is God's will that the Gospel should be preached to all nations and all people. Yes, there is a time to heal and a time to build up. God help us to bow to his Word and to live according to his will.

O depth of love, to me revealing  
The sea where my sins disappear!  
In Christ my wounds find perfect healing,  
There is no condemnation here.  
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies forever  
"Mercy! Mercy!" cries.

L.H. 349; verse 4