

## **Leaves Of Hope #6**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Grant thou me strength to do  
With ready heart and willing  
Whate'er Thou shalt command,  
My calling here fulfilling;  
With all my might, and bless  
The work I thus have wrought,  
For thou must give success.      L.H. 395; verse 2

### **Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**

**What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That every man may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God.**

In one of our hymns we pray that God would keep us from all pride and boasting, vanity, and foolish trust - knowing that our work without God's blessing would crumble in the dust. People who labor with the understanding that their works are under the blessing of God will have an entirely different view of their daily task than those who think only of what profit they may have. It doesn't matter if one labors with their hands at an hourly wage or

with their mind in a high position with a large salary. Those who accept their task as being God-given will know that their work is God-pleasing and therefore beautiful in its time. The children of God go about their work with the prayer that their work will prosper with God's help and blessing.

The person who thinks only of the dollars and cents of a pay check and always cries for more has lost the sense of what this life is all about. The person who can think only of fine clothes, the expensive speedy, flashy cars, the beautiful furniture, etc., which money can buy will have a mind set in the profit to be gained from labor. Such thoughts will remove and wipe out any consideration of the treasures of the Spirit, if indeed these thoughts are not suppressed by the power of God's Word. Satan knew what he was doing when he tried to turn Jesus off his course by displaying to him an alternate glory, the glory of the world! Taking Jesus up on an exceedingly high mountain where he could see all the gold and glitter, the power and prestige which the world has to offer, he said: "All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me." What did Jesus do? He said, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only you shall serve.'" Yes, he banished him and overcame him by the Word. Matthew 4:8-10

Indeed, in Jesus' victory over Satan we will find our strength when we are tempted to look for the wrong kind of profit from our labors. Surely God wants us to enjoy the proceeds of our labor, but we are being warned not to let the material gain and profit fill our minds and lead us in the wrong direction.

It is important to look to our text which says that God has put eternity in our hearts. The eternal treasures are to fill our hearts so that we maintain the proper world-view. We are to be on our guard against thoughts which center our ambitions simply on getting ahead in the world. Indeed, "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" Matthew 16:26 "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" 1 Timothy 6:19 What God's plans are for the final use of our material wealth is often hidden from our eyes. It may be increased beyond our expectations or it may be wiped out in short order. But this we know the eternal blessings of the Spirit stand firm and will not be destroyed. We bow our heads and ask the lord's blessing. He will put eternity into our hearts.

**Above all else, Lord, send us thy spirit to attend us,  
Within our hearts abiding, to heaven our footsteps guiding.**

**L.H. 122:11**