

Family Devotion Hour #10

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

Thy goodness and thy mercy, Lord,
Shall follow me, attending
The days thou dost to me afford,
Until they reach their ending:
Thereafter shall I in thy love
Dwell in thy house in heaven above
Forever and forever. L.H. 345:6

“I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” With these precious words the twenty-third Psalm is brought to a close. If we will turn to the twenty-seventh Psalm, we will read these words of David: **“One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.”** Psalm 27:4 When we consider the blessed words of the Gospel, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we realize that as often as we hear these glad tidings, we are truly being led to the house of the Lord. Though we may have to move from one place to another, from one house to another, it is comforting to know that we have a house where we may live all the days of our

lives. As surely as we walk in the Words of our God, so certain it is that we are dwelling in God's house. This is the house where we are nourished and fed, where we are sheltered and protected, where we find rest unto our souls, and where there is joy to gladden the heart. This is the house where the heavenly Father keeps the home-fires burning. No need to worry about energy shortage, for in this house there is no lack. In this house God sits at the head of the table and the children are seated around him. Here the spirit of obedience, the spirit of love, the spirit of understanding reigns and hold sway.

If you are looking for a place that provides security and contentment, a place of calm and peace, your search has reached its goal in the house of the Lord. For here, in the Word of the ever-living God, all these gifts are found in fullest measure. It is not a specific place to which we must journey. It is not to be found in a certain area where we must remain. It does not have boundaries or limits. But it is where the Word of God is – the Word that proclaims: “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are

red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” Isaiah 1:18 It is the Word that calls upon us to get up into high mountains, to lift up our voices with strength and fearlessly say: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” Isaiah 40:1-2 Thus the glory of the LORD is revealed and all flesh will see it together. We will realize and fully appreciate what it means when we are told in Scripture: “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8

We know that we are living in evil times, when many evil spirits are abroad seeking to rob us of the blessings which proceed from the house of the LORD. Hence we need to resist, with all vigor, the workings of the foe who means such deadly woe. We need to resist the first rustling of evil as they stir within our breasts. We need to avoid even the first appearances of evil and walk in the paths of righteousness, being satisfied to lie down in green pastures with the rod and the staff as our comfort

and protection. And so we will say now and throughout our pilgrimage: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LROD forever.” Amen

PRAYER: Dear Shepherd of my soul, lead your sheep into places where they may safely graze. Feed them with your saving Word; protect them with your power; give them the joy of gladness to soothe their sadness. At last, bring them safely home to the mansions that you have prepared for them. Grant that all of us may be numbered in that fold. Keep us all in the saving faith unto the end of our lives. We ask this all in Jesus’ name. Amen