



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 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.

Romans 12:1-8

Why am I Lutheran? I hear the calling

This week we’ll look at something called the “doctrine of vocation”, which is the teaching about how God calls us to various roles in our lives.

We often listen to the lie of the devil when it comes to our callings. Even though they are amazing gifts you’ve been given by God, he says they aren’t enough and you deserve more.

“Hey,” he whispers, “I know you’re in paradise and God has promised to give you everything you need...but what about that fruit that’s not for you?”

Listening to that lie may be the most imperfect, human thing to can do. Humanity was, after all, created in the image of God. They were called to experience the joy of living on the perfect planet he made for them. And as the devil slithered up and suggested that they deserved something else—as though something else could improve this—they were stupid enough to think they’d be happier with more.

(You know, to all of us who watch Apple’s new products so closely, let’s not miss the fact that their logo is a piece of fruit with a bite out of it. It’s not wrong to have an iPhone, there’s one in my pocket, and I’m literally writing this devotion on a Macbook. But let’s just make sure we are thinking through the question of how much we can spend before this *thing* is what we are worshiping. Is having one going to *improve* our callings, or is having one starting to *become* our calling?)

Satisfaction, happiness, contentment, feeling good—they don’t come from hoarding God’s gifts. Not ever. And they definitely don’t come from using the gifts you’ve been given to cut deals that elevate you in some way. They come in the midst of applying the Law & Gospel to your callings. (See last week’s devotion...)

Lutherans, more than any other voice in the world, hold out the callings people are given as the very work of Jesus. When you run after being the best student or sister or employee or cousin or friend that you can be because Christ is calling you, you’ll end up satisfied. If you do it for yourself, you’ll end up afraid of failure or crushed by defeat. If, instead, Christ is the one calling you to act on his behalf, success means he is glorified and failure means he comforts you. Win/win.

Prayer: Lord, call us. We can listen, with your help. If you lead us, we will follow. Amen.