



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-10

God’s Approval

In 2014 Bowe Bergdahl made headlines when he was brought home to the U.S. after five years in Taliban captivity. The happy reactions quickly turned sour when it was revealed that Bergdahl’s initial departure from his base was a little sketchy. There were suspicions that he had deserted his unit. Just walked away...

You’re at a party in someone’s basement. No parents. A beer is slammed down in front of you. With a big grin on his face, your friend cries, “Drink up!” It feels like every set of eyes in is fixed on you. It feels like this moment will define the rest of your high school experience. In one quick, awkward motion you take a big drink and your friend gleefully claps you on the back.

We make choices each day. We desert God. We walk away from him.

Yet God’s love pursues us. Jesus chases us down before we can ditch our God completely. His perfect choices are substituted for our terrible decisions. His life is traded for ours. God’s love is totally undeserved and completely stunning. He refused to desert us when we deserved to be abandoned forever. God’s loyalty dominates our betrayal.

God calls us to live in his grace. We are not slaves to the approval of our friends, teachers, or anyone else. Through faith worked by the Holy Spirit, we are freed to please God, who approves of us through his Son, the one who strengthens us to be the people he made us to be in our baptism.

PRAYER:

Lord God, create in me a clean heart, one that does not desert you with my choices. Let your Word drive me to live for you. Amen.