

## Daily Devotionals, July 10, 2020 Use What You Have Been Given Wisely

***<sup>5</sup> What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup> I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 1 Corinthians 3: 5-7 (NIV)***

I'm a terrible artist. If I try to draw anything beyond stick figures, it pretty much ends up looking like the work of a 6 year-old (except that mine have baggier pants). My daughter on the other hand, is a fabulous artist. Genetically. This comes from her mother, I'm certain. If the fate of the world's population depended on my being able to create even a decent work of art, let's just say that the Mission Impossible crew would disband and retire. Martin Landau, Tom Cruise, et al., would not be able to save the day because my art is a lost cause. But, hallelujah! God is well aware that being a masterful artist was never my calling. There are many talented artists who have been given that gift from God who can fulfill that role, so thank the Lord, I'm off the hook!

God is a God of complete order. Paul declares that, "as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." What a great example of the body working together, each member doing their part so that God could work through their actions. We see in the functions of Paul and Apollos, that Paul's strength and calling was in spreading the Gospel. It wasn't his calling to stay put and to mentor those he was sharing the gospel with. His calling was to connect with as many people as he possibly could. Apollos' call on the other hand, was to shepherd the Corinthians. He was to water the seeds Paul had planted, meaning he must stay put in Corinth. Neither one's job was more important than the others', but both were crucial to God's plan.

This same condition is true for us today. No role that we are called to is more important than the other. We all have unique gifts and talents God has given us, and no gift is any more or any less important than anyone else's. The problems begin when for whatever reasons, we decide we don't want to stick with whatever role God has given us, or when we want to fill another role that we feel we might like better. This creates a vacuum, a void in the role we were supposed to play. If Paul had decided he didn't want to keep traveling to spread the Gospel and wanted to assume Apollos' role, there were many regions that would not have heard the Gospel. If Apollos had decided he wanted to roam around spreading the Gospel instead of staying put and watering the seeds in Corinth, the people of Corinth might have fallen away from God.

Our call is to be humble enough to know that God's way and God's will is always a much better plan than our own, and that if we keep in line with God's plan and God's timing, God will use us in ways greater than we could ever imagine. Be happy with what you have been given and use your talents to the best of your abilities to God's great glory!

***<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)***

***Prayer: Lord, I ask for the grace to be generous in my response to your generosity to me. I pray that I might learn to use my talents well, not trying to step outside the boundaries that you have placed on me. And when I'm paralyzed by fear, I ask for the courage I need to use these gifts wisely. Guide me in Christ's name. Amen.***