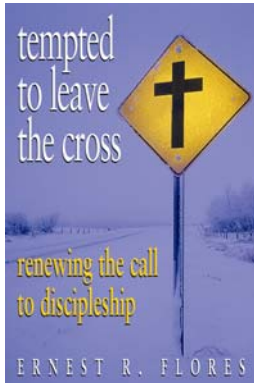


New Book Challenges Victory Theology and the “Health and Wealth” Gospel

Valley Forge, PA—Who is Christianity about, anyway?



It seems that many of us have gone after a Christianity based on the motto “What God can do for you and your situation.” We have become more American in our consumeristic obsession than we are like Jesus and his suffering servanthood. Some of my colleagues and I have identified what we refer to as “victory theology,” in which the focus on God and Christ is essentially for the purpose of gaining the victory for ourselves. Healings, miracles, jobs, financial prosperity – the whole “health and wealth” gospel – all of it is based on the idea that God is really God only if we are victorious. And we struggle to become anything like the Jesus, who “laid down his life for his friends.” And we certainly fail to lead anybody else to become like him. – from the Introduction

In the new Judson Press book *Tempted to Leave the Cross: Renewing the Call to Discipleship*, author and pastor Ernest R. Flores considers the cross of Jesus and what it represents in the Christian church today. Recognizing that many Christians are too busy climbing the ladder of success to “cling to the old rugged cross,” Flores calls for readers to center their beliefs and actions in the cross and to value the high price that Jesus paid for our salvation. Self-care, self-fulfillment, and self-satisfaction need to be replaced with sacrifice, self-denial, and faithfulness – the very meaning of the cross.

Offering solid biblical study in a conversational style, Flores embraces the cross not only as a symbol of personal salvation, but also as a call to kingdom service. As Christians, we are to be selfless and sacrificial in our pursuit of justice in the world.

Complete with “Cross Examinations” for small-group use, Flores presents a powerfully prophetic discipleship resource.

About the Author: Ernest R. Flores, MDiv, is pastor at Second Baptist Church in Germantown, Pennsylvania. Previously, Rev. Flores served churches in New Jersey and California, preached as an evangelist across the United States and in Mexico, and taught on the faculties of Azusa Pacific University and Latin American Bible Institute.

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