

Month #16

Let's play "Let's pretend." Pretend for a moment that you can have anything that you desire. "Name it and claim it" would be the motto of this game. You name it, and it is yours. What would you select?

For many people, money would be the number one choice. Even though wealth is transitory, even though armored cars do not follow hearses, even though we leave all behind when we die, people still want money. As Solomon observed, "Death and destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man" (Prov. 27:20).

For others, fame would be at the top of their list. They equate being well known and admired by others as what's most important in life. Still others seek power and control, while some long to be beautiful and popular.

Very few, though, would deliberately choose to be a servant, even a servant of the most high God. The role of a servant is not one to which we aspire. Most people — including perhaps most of us — want to be served rather than to serve.

G. Campbell Morgan, who was known in the 19th century as the "Prince of Preachers," told of the way in which God dealt with his attitude as he was in prayer. He felt the Lord was asking him, "Which do you want to be — a servant of Mine or a great preacher?" Struggling with that question, he asked, "May I not be both, Lord?" He had visions of being an unknown minister in some obscure town. But as he evaluated the two options, Morgan submissively prayed, "O Lord, my greatest wish is to be Your servant." As one author expressed it so well, "Time has proved that the Lord's response was to make him one of the greatest preachers of recent memory."

What do you want to be? A servant for the sake of Christ and the Gospel or something else? Even if your vocation is "something else," you can still be God's servant at work, at home and here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. When you stop and think about it, in the light of eternity, there is no higher calling than to serve God.

And as you stop and think about it, consider these words from Colossians 3:23-24 — “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”