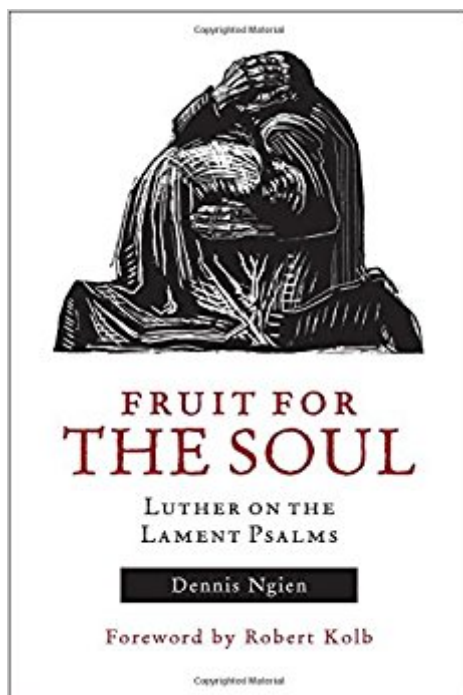


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Fruit For The Soul: Luther On The Lament Psalms



Synopsis

Given a life spent in scholarship and controversy, it is easy to forget how much energy Martin Luther devoted to helping the common person understand and take comfort from God's word. This commitment extended to even the most challenging of biblical texts, and nowhere is this more apparent than Luther's work on the lament Psalms. Difficult to understand, and perhaps even more difficult to implement in life and devotion, the lament Psalms played a key role in Luther's thought. More importantly, the lament Psalms were for Luther an essential part of the Christian's understanding of the life of faith. In this volume, Dennis Ngien helps contemporary readers engage Luther's commentary on the lament Psalms. What Luther intended for the education and encouragement of everyday Christians, Ngien unpacks and illuminates for life in the twenty-first century. Introduced and commended by Robert Kolb, the volume will be appreciated by teacher and student alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In recent years, there has been much attention given to Luther's Theology of the Cross. In the Lutheran circles of America, much of this attention has been due to Gerhard O. Forde's introduction to the topic in *On Being a Theologian of the Cross*. Dr. Ngien has taken up the task of providing the English reader with more than an introduction, with numerous books written on the subject over the years. In *Fruit for the Soul* the work pays our dividends. A truly captivating book, Dr. Ngien not only introduces a person to the topic but shows

just how important and useful master of the subject matter is for the shepherd of souls who has to comfort and sustain the faith of Christ's sheep with God's word in their times of trouble. This is something that many Christians struggle with today. This is especially true in the midst of American Christianity which grows in popularity constantly shilling theologies of glory in whatever manifestation that they can find. Christians are told that their faith should be relieving them of trouble, suffering and financial woes. When they find themselves in trouble they are told they just don't believe hard enough. No, one ever considers that Jesus Christ who truly had faith to move mountains suffered death on the cross for the salvation of man, and those that follow him inevitably share in those sufferings. Luther understood this quite well. Far from a fair-weather Christian, Luther knew how to enjoy times of peace and prosperity, but also to comfort and give solace to the suffering. He spent an unprecedented amount of time for a professional scholar and celebrity offering pastoral care to the common man, and most of this centered around his work in the Psalms. He found no better place to source solace for the suffering than the Lament Psalms, 6, 51, 77, 90, 94 and 118. Ngien mines the work of Luther in these Psalms to give a breathtaking account of Luther's theological backbone that any pastor, professor or interested laymen will find beneficial not only for his understanding of the topic but also as fruit for his soul. Given that the Lament Psalms were those read on Fridays during Lent, this book also provides a great resource for a Lenten Series that is truly substantial as well as historical, liturgical and fruitful. Perfect timing for lent 1517, but I won't wait that long.

There are few expositions of Luther's thought I have found as nourishing to the soul. Both spiritually insightful and erudite, this well written volume deserves to be among the classics in Luther's Theology of the Cross. I highly recommend it!

b

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