

July 25, 2010

*We need to labor to bring our imagination unto the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). The imagination, if ungoverned, is a wild and raging thing. Even when we are devising good things, there is still some sickness of fancy remaining in the best of us. Those guided by fancies live more like beasts than men. Fancy will take fire before we are aware. Job knew this, and therefore made a ‘covenant with his eyes’. We should make imagination serviceable to us in spiritual things. We should think within ourselves—“What is this to true honor, and enduring pleasures?” God has represented to us heavenly things in earthly terms, so we should follow God’s lead in this. God represents heaven in the terms of a banquet, and our union with him in the terms of a marriage, yes, and Christ himself, under the names of whatever is lovely or comfortable in heaven or earth. The Lord sets out hell to us by whatever is terrible or tormenting. Here is a large field for our imagination to walk in, not only without hurt, but with a great deal of spiritual gain. If fire is so terrible, what is hell fire? If a dark dungeon is loathsome, what is eternal darkness? If the meeting of friends is wonderful, what will our meeting together in heaven be? The Scripture by such terms will help our faith and fancy both at once. A sanctified imagination makes all creation a ladder to heaven. Since childhood is the age of fancy, it is a good way to instill the loving of good and the shunning of evil. Using their young fancies, children learn to hate hell under the representation of fire and darkness. It is important to cultivate a holy use of the imagination. Does not the Lord’s table help our souls by our senses, and our faith by imagination? The soul can receive great hurt from the imagination, so it may also gain much through it.*

– Richard Sibbes



## Proclaiming the Sovereign Majesty of God

*But what Beato and others do not seem to get is that, although the Bible is the best-selling book being consumed, it is being consumed differently from how it was fifty or a hundred years ago. It is not just the marketing that has changed but the marketplace. Consumers get Bibles for a different purpose; they expect to get something different from it than earlier generations did, namely, autobiography, not metanarrative. So, whereas at one time Bibles were commonly purchased to translate the individual into the interpretative community, now the Bible is all too frequently interpreted by focus-group commentators to translate individuals into their self-referential market sectors. Such an approach has moved beyond missiological contextual accommodation to shameless capitulation to our narcissistic culture. Consumer surveys are taken. Consumers would like the Bible to say “x” and “y” and the marketplace gives them what they want — techniques for personal enhancement and self-affirmation in an isolating context – in other words, law instead of gospel. The reason they do so emerges from the fact that publishing corporations define readers as “consumers,” not “Christians.”*

– John Bombaro

Pastor Jess Smith  
Sunday School at 9:00 am  
Worship at 10:15 am  
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1355 Douglass Road  
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[www.ProvidenceBaptist.us](http://www.ProvidenceBaptist.us)

**July 25, 2010**

*Please enter reverently and silence all communication devices.  
Parents with crying children may use the conference room.*

**Preparation for Worship**

*A Prayer of Moses the man of God.*

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.”*

*Psalm 90:1-2 (ESV)*

*Prelude to Worship.....Amelia Kelly  
Glen Harper*

*Chiming of the Hour*

*Worship in Music ..... Callie Dixon & Kyle Hatchett  
“I Need Thee Every Hour”*

**Invocation**

*“Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
as when fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!”*

*Isaiah 64:1-2 (ESV)*

*\*Call to Worship..... All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name  
(page 97)*

*\*Scripture Reading.....Zechariah 1:1, 12:1*

*Confession of Sin and Pastoral Prayer*

**Adoration**

*“Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!”  
Psalm 117 (ESV)*

*Hymn..... Be Thou My Vision (page 382)  
\*O, How I Love Jesus (page 529)*

*\*Scripture Reading..... Matthew 23:29-39*

*Worship in Tithes and Offerings.....Amelia Kelly  
Glen Harper*

**Exposition**

*“Then Philip opened his mouth,  
and beginning with this Scripture  
he told him the good news about Jesus.”  
Acts 8:35 (ESV)*

*Pastor Jess Smith.....Zechariah 1:1, 12:1*

**Consecration**

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts,  
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if  
one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has  
forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which  
binds everything together in perfect harmony.”  
Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV)*

*\*Hymn of Commitment ..... Saved, Saved! (page 530)*

**Benediction**

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”  
Romans 15:13 (ESV)*

*Postlude.....Amelia Kelly  
Glen Harper*

*\*Congregation please stand*