



MARS HILL AUDIO

Journal

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Journal 101

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- 3 **Paul Spears**, on why Christian scholars need to understand their disciplines in ways that depart from conventional understanding
- 4 **Steven Loomis**, on why education needs to attend more carefully to nonquantifiable aspects of human experience

Disc 2

- 1 **James K. A. Smith**, on how education always involves the formation of affections, and how the form of Christian education should imitate patterns of formation evident in historic Christian liturgy
- 2 **Thomas Long**, on how funeral practices have the capacity to convey an understanding of the meaning of discipleship and death
- 3 **William Cavanaugh**, on the distinctly modern definition of "religion," and how the conventional account of the "Wars of Religion" misrepresents the facts in the interest of consolidating state power

The issue date for Volume 101 is January/February 2010.

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Understanding Cultural Change

James Davison Hunter's *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World** (2010) is published by Oxford University Press. Various responses to and outgrowths of the book's main themes may be viewed at www.faithfulpresence.com. Hunter was a student of Peter L. Berger, and mentions several of Berger's works in his bibliography, including *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion** (Doubleday, 1969), *The Heretical Imperative: Contemporary Possibilities of Religious Affirmation* (Doubleday, 1979), and (with Brigitte Berger and Hansfried Kellner) *The Homeless Mind: Modernization and Consciousness* (Vintage, 1973). The theme in Hunter's book (and James K. A. Smith's) about moral communities shaping the outlook and disposition of their members is developed in Hunter's book *The Death of Character: Moral Education in an Age without Good or Evil** (Basic, 2000). Here Hunter's work has affinities with that of Philip Rieff, whose book *The Feeling Intellect: Selected Writings** (Chicago, 1990) is mentioned in the bibliography of *To Change the World*. See also Rieff's *The Triumph of the Therapeutic: Uses of Faith after Freud** (Chicago, 1966). Peter Leithart's *Against Christianity** (2003), quoted by Ken Myers, is published by Canon Press. Leithart's (Protestant) take on Church and culture displays William Cavanaugh's suspicion about separating "religion" from "society." Catholic theologian David Schindler argues that "the Christian's—and the Church's—relation to the world must be understood in terms of God's relation to the world, as he has established that relation in Jesus Christ." He develops what that implies in his book *Heart of the World, Center of the Church: Communion Ecclesiology, Liberalism, and Liberation* (Eerdmans, 1996). Lesslie Newbigin's *Truth to Tell: The Gospel as Public Truth** (Eerdmans, 1991) and *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society** (Eerdmans, 1989) present a clarifying vision of how the Church can address the needs of the *polis* without becoming captive to partisan powers.

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Education and Formation

*Education for Human Flourishing: A Christian Perspective** (2009) by Paul Spears and Steven Loomis is published by InterVarsity Press. James K. A. Smith's *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation** (2009) is

published by Baker. In the preface to his book, Smith explains that it is the first of three volumes on "cultural liturgies." The second volume will look more deeply at questions of philosophical anthropology with special attention given to "the emerging dialogue between phenomenology, cognitive science, and social-scientific reflection on practiced formation." The third volume will look at current issues in political theology. During the interview, Smith alluded to a book by Stanley Hauerwas on higher education; that book is *The State of the University: Academic Knowledge and the Knowledge of God** (Blackwell, 2007). Hauerwas describes his book as "an analysis of the university's role in the formation of knowledges that often make it difficult for Christians to make rational sense of what we believe both for ourselves as well as for those who do not share the practices of our faith. Indeed I fear too often university curriculums make it impossible for anyone, Christian and non-Christian alike, to make sense of the world in which we find ourselves." The relationship between reason and the affections discussed in these conversations is developed fully in James R. Peters's *The Logic of the Heart: Augustine, Pascal, and the Rationality of Faith** (Baker Academic, 2009).

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Other Works Mentioned

Thomas Long's *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral** (2009) is published by Westminster/John Knox Press. William Cavanaugh's *The Myth of Religious Violence** (2009) is published by Oxford University Press.

The **MARS HILL AUDIO** Journal is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The Journal is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

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