



Volume

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more on

J. R. R. Tolkien

Matthew Dickerson's *A Hobbit Journey: Discovering the Enchantment of J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle-earth** (2012) was published by Brazos Press, as were his books *From Homer to Harry Potter: A Handbook on Myth and Fantasy** (2006) and *The Mind and the Machine: What It Means to Be Human and Why It Matters** (2011). Dickerson's *Ents, Elves, and Eriador: The Environmental Vision of J. R. R. Tolkien** (2006) and *Narnia and the Fields of Arbol: The Environmental Vision of C. S. Lewis** (2009) were published by the University of Kentucky Press. Among the books discussed by Dickerson in *A Hobbit Journey* are Bradley J. Birzer's *J. R. R. Tolkien's Sanctifying Myth: Understanding Middle-earth** (ISI Books, 2002); Jared Lobdell's *The Rise of Tolkienian Fantasy* (Open Court, 2007); and T. A. Shippey's *J. R. R. Tolkien: Author of the Century* (Houghton Mifflin, 2000). Shippey is also the author of *The Road to Middle-Earth: How J. R. R. Tolkien Created a New Mythology** (Rev. ed. Mariner Books, 2003) and *Roots and Branches: Selected Papers on Tolkien** (Walking Tree Publishers, 2007). Lobdell also wrote *The World of the Rings: Language, Religion, and Adventure in Tolkien** (Open Court, 2003), a revised edition of his 1981 *England and Always: Tolkien's World of the Rings*. Lobdell is the editor of *A Tolkien Compass** (2nd ed. Open Court, 2003). Humphrey Carpenter's *J. R. R. Tolkien: A Biography** (Houghton Mifflin, 1977) remains the classic biography. Stratford Caldecott's *The Power of the Ring: The Spiritual Vision Behind The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit** (Crossroad, 2012) is a revision of his earlier book, *Secret Fire*. Caldecott, a former guest on the *Journal*, has a number of essays posted online about Tolkien, including one at his organization's website, www.second-spring.co.uk, called "Over the Chasm of Fire: Christian Heroism in *Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*."

more on

Liberal arts & the aims of learning

*Liberal Arts for the Christian Life** (2012), edited by Jeffrey Davis and Philip Ryken, was published by Crossway. Other recent books discussing a Christian understanding of education include: Luigi Giussani, *The Risk of Education; Discovering Our Ultimate Destiny** (Crossroad, 1995); Paul J. Griffiths, *Intellectual Appetite: A Theological Grammar** (Catholic University of America Press, 2009); Stanley Hauerwas, *The State of the University: Academic Knowledges and the Knowledge of God** (Blackwell, 2007); and James K. A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation** (Eerdmans, 2007). In 1987, literature professor Marion Montgomery gave a series of lectures at

Disc 1

1 Introduction

- 2 **Matthew Dickerson**, on the likenesses between Beowulf and three of Tolkien's heroes, and on how (despite Peter Jackson's rendition) *The Lord of the Rings* is more interested in virtue than in military exploits
- 3 **Jennifer Woodruff Tait**, on how assumptions about the nature of moral knowledge compelled Victorian Methodists and others to substitute grape juice for wine in celebrating the Lord's Supper
- 4 **Jeffrey Davis & Philip Ryken**, on why the liberal arts ought to be recognized as a calling that enriches Christian living

Disc 2

- 1 **Robert P. George**, on the 2013 Supreme Court cases addressing same-sex marriage
- 2 **Robert P. George**, on the differences between the historic view of marriage as a conjugal and comprehensive relationship and the "revisionist" view
- 3 **Robert P. George**, on the consequences of redefining marriage

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Erskine College about education. Those lectures were revised and published as *Liberal Arts and Community: The Feeding of the Larger Body* (LSU Press). Montgomery stressed the role the language has in helping us understand the world and in uniting us as communities. "If you have a sense of a higher calling for the mind than its being a repository for trivia," Montgomery declared, "there is hope not only for you but for the community whose life is your responsibility." Montgomery believed that higher education had forgotten its higher calling. "The academy is charged with perfections of the intellect in community, so that the central concerns and recognitions might indeed be central to community. . . . Professors are first and foremost stewards of a common property, for which by the nature of their office they must bear a common concern. . . . Colleges are music and dance masters to the mind; they direct community, insofar as mind directs spirit, in a significant dance of life. Otherwise, we shall degenerate into a race in pursuit of life, which always eludes us. Then, as we know, life becomes a rat race. . . . Up to a certain point in Western Christendom life was seen as a dance. After that point, life became a race. We have outrun ourselves toward vaporous goals, a line of progress disoriented from the circular dance."

Other Works Mentioned

Jennifer Woodruff Tait's *The Poisoned Chalice: Eucharistic Grape Juice and Common-Sense Realism in Victorian Methodism** (2011) is published by the University of Alabama Press. *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense* (2012) is published by Encounter Books. An anthology edited by Robert P. George called *The Meaning of Marriage: Family, State, Market, & Morals* (2006) was published by Spence Publishing.

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