



UNDER THE STEEPLE

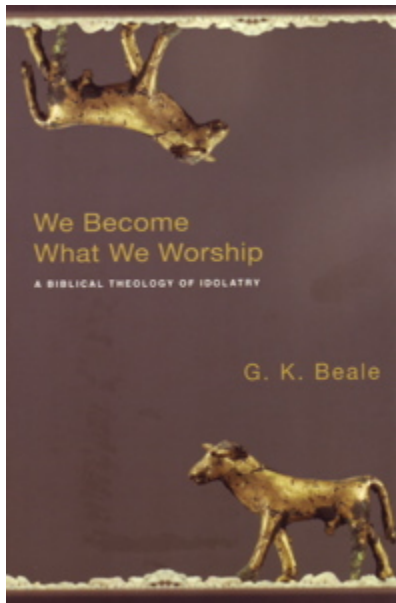
September, 2009

Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church
Lake Worth, Florida

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you some thoughts that have been percolating in my head from one of the books I have recently finished reading. The name of the book is *You Become What You Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*, by G.K. Beale.

The premise of the book is this: what we revere (or worship), we resemble, either for ruin or restoration (307). The book traces this theme throughout the Bible showing again and again how the people of Israel and NT believers are described as taking on the attributes of the idols that they are worshiping. Why do we do that?



God has made humans to reflect him, but if they do not commit themselves to him, they will not reflect him but something else in creation. At the core of our beings we are imaging creatures...It is not possible to be neutral on this issue: we either reflect the Creator or something else in creation (16).

Because we have been created by God to worship our allegiance is going to go somewhere. When we worship the one true God we will reflect him. When we worship idols, however, we end up becoming like them. We see this clearly spelled out in Psalm 115:4-8:

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. ⁶ They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. ⁷ They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. ⁸ Those who make them

become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Similarly, in Hosea 9:10 we read the Lord saying that when the Israelites began to worship the false god, Baal, they became “as vile as the thing they loved.” In other words: “Israel showed their likeness to this god of sexual immorality by becoming sexually immoral and then becoming as detestable as their god (105).”

Kate and I recently saw the film *There Will be Blood* starring Daniel Day Lewis. Lewis plays Daniel Plainview, an oil man who is seeking his fortune during the California oil boom of the late 19th and early 20th century. The film tells the dark story of this man’s quest for wealth. My initial reaction to the story was one of disappointment. I was left feeling that there was nothing about Plainview that drew me to him. Dennis Haack, of Ransom Fellowship, describes the film by saying, “Greedy souls are dissected in plain view on the screen, hard souls for whom truth is a weapon, wealth is a god, and power is embraced in an unrelenting push to win, regardless of the cost.” As I was thinking about the film it occurred to me that what I saw on the screen was exactly what G.K. Beale was talking about in his book.

In 1 Timothy 6:10 we read that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. What struck me is that for Daniel Plainview it was his love of money that caused him to do all kinds of evil. It drove him to kill two men who were out to make a quick buck off him. It drove him to “adopt” an orphan boy as a means of getting money from prospective investors (exploiting the child). But when the child was accidentally made deaf he sent him away. It drove him to reject this adopted son when he was older because he had decided to start his own drilling company. Plainview no longer saw him as a son, he was now the competition. It drove him to deceive an entire town by downplaying the wealth that was sitting under their feet (which was rightfully theirs). He exploited them and robbed them of their wealth.

Haack ends his review of the film with the following: “‘The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it,’ Flannery O’Connor said. *There Will be Blood* reminds us that what we worship, in commerce or in religion, will define what we will be like.” Upon further reflection of the film I have realized that while the story itself has nothing of redemption in it, the shape of Plainview’s life cries out for something more. As a Christian it points us not only to the truth that we become what we worship. It points us to the truth that any “god” other than the God of the Bible will ultimately only destroy us.

If you would like to read Dennis Haack’s full review of There Will be Blood or his other reviews of books, music, art, or film visit www.ransomfellowship.org. Senior Pastor, Rev. Omar Ortiz

YAKKING WITH THE YOUTH

Children are a delight from God. Yet, we do not find people coming to children to ask them their opinions on specific matters. In Matthew 11:25, Jesus spoke these words: I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.” Sometimes, I am flabbergasted at things that children say – sometimes their words are full of humor, other times their words are full of wisdom.

I give you a list of the “wise” things that have come from the mouths of babes.

Sit at their feet so that you may learn:

1. No matter how hard you try, you can’t baptize cats.
2. When your mom is mad at your dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don’t hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. You can’t trust dogs to watch your food.
5. Don’t sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
6. Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic-tac.

While these ideas are humorous, we are given opportunities to learn from children. Earlier in the book of Matthew, Jesus teaches His disciples by saying, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). When I was working as an intern at a church in Delhi, Louisiana, I gave a children’s sermon on meekness. Upon asking the children what they thought meekness was I received this answer from the mouth of a five year-old: “Meekness is strong enough to be gentle.” I was astounded and taken aback by the clarity of this child’s definition. Here was an opportunity for me to learn from a child.

It is interesting that Jesus says that the world belongs to those who are meek, not the strong and reckless. He isn’t calling His followers to be weak individuals who can do nothing.

Instead, He is telling us to develop an attitude of humility and submission to God, of which Jesus Himself is the perfect example. I would encourage you to be people who strive after meekness, looking to God the Father as His little children.

Jay Forester

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

The new Wednesday night study begins on Sept. 9th. Our ladies will be using the workbook on ‘*Job: Lessons in Comfort*’ by Frances Bennett.



“Our Call to Encourage”
Fall LOPC WIC Women’s Retreat
September 25-26, 2009

Special Guest Speaker
Brook Breed

Schedule:

<i>Friday, Sept. 25</i>	<i>Saturday, Sept. 26</i>
6:30-9:00pm	8:30am-3:00pm
Dessert Reception & Session I	Continental Breakfast,
Catered Lunch,	Sessions 2 & 3,
Music and Q&A	

Registration - \$45
Register Early! Deadline is September 16.
Retreat will take place at LOPC

OUTREACH STORY

“THE ONE MAN CHOIR” by Pascal Amouzou

As the time our choir resumes its activities is approaching,
 I come across a story I would like to share with you.

In a monastery, were living a few monks who spent most of their time worshipping God. The monastery was so remote that they seldom receive any visits. In a snowy cold night of December, a lost frozen and hungry traveler happened to knock at their gate. The monks took good care of him, happy of the unexpected visit.

The next evening, the monks were singing with their croaking voices in their evening worship when the young man joined them. He had such a wonderful singing voice and was sing so marvelously that before long, the monks had stopped singing to listen to him with admiration. When he informed them of his intention to depart the next day, they begged him to stay, as Christmas was less than a week away. That way, they can improve their worship by offering to God the most beautiful songs He has ever heard

A few days after Christmas, each monk has the same dream in the same night. God appeared to them and asked them why they did not sing to Him any song on Christmas. Lord, they said, we offered to you the most beautiful song ever sung by the most beautiful voice we have ever heard. You are talking of the young traveler, said the Lord. He was not singing for me. He knows he has a beautiful voice and everywhere he goes, he sings for people to admire him, not to worship Me. I sent him to you that night so that you can reach out to him in his pride by your humility. When you sing, you do it to glorify Me and your voices make better music to my ears than his, but you let him go away with his pride. If I wanted to hear his voice, I would have given to each one of you the voice I have given to him.

You may believe that you do not have a singing voice to join the choir, but you know now what it is about for the Lord.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Dear Church Family,

This is the information you can use to prepare your children for what they will learn in class and to review with your child after class. **Teachers and Helpers** can use this information to remember when they are helping. The teachers need to get the material from me the week before. The helpers need to help with keeping the children the paying attention to the teacher and praying for both the teacher and the students during the class. Thank you to all who help. If you feel called to help, please contact Lisa Lennon (433-2540). **All church members** remember to pray for our covenant children and the visiting children. Pray for understanding and no distractions during story times.

In Children's Church we will be learning more about Moses in addition to more things about God.

- Sept. 6th** Story: The Israelites Cross the Red Sea – Exodus 13:17 to 14:31
 What we learn about God: *God is Mighty.*
 Teacher: Tatiana Cardona. Helper: Christy Gauger
- Sept.13th** Story: God Sends Quail and Manna – Exodus 16:1-26
 What we learn about God: *God gives good gifts.*
 Teacher: Lisa Lennon. Helper: Hazel Brown
- Sept. 20th** Story: God Provides Water – Exodus 17:1-7
 What we learn about God: *God is patient.*
 Teacher: Carol Brandt. Helper: Jennifer Wade
- Sept. 27th** Story: God Gives the Ten Commandments Part 1 Exodus 19:16 to 20:21
 What we learn about God: *God is worthy of honor.*
 Teacher: Lisa Lennon. Helper: Mayetta Lee

In Awana on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:15 we have memory verse time, game time, snack time and end time. During the end time the Sparks and T &T's will continue to have

catechism contests and learn some more about what some of the catechism questions mean. The Cubbies will continue to review their Bible verses.

Cubbies Review Verses:

- Sept. 6th** Psalm 27:11 “Teach me Your way, O Lord” John 14:2 “I am going to prepare a place for you” Jeremiah 31:3 “I have loved you with an everlasting love”
- Sept. 13th** Psalm 31:14 “I trust in You, O Lord” Mark 11:9 “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” James 1:22 “Do not merely listen to the word. Do what it says.”
- Sept. 20th** Matthew 1:21 “He will save His people from their sins” Luke 24:34 “The Lord has risen” John 20:20 “The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord”
- Sept. 27th** Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the good news” Revelation 19:16 “He has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords” Psalm 104:33 “I will sing to the Lord all my life”

End Time for Sparks and T & T's:

- Sept. 6th** What is this change of heart called? and Who can change a sinner's heart?
- Sept. 13th** Can anyone be saved through the covenant of life? and Why can't anyone be saved through the covenant of life?
- Sept. 20th** How did you break the covenant of life? and How, then can you be saved?
- Sept. 27th** Whom did Christ represent in the covenant of grace?

Thank you, *Lisa Lennon*

ADS AND ANNOUCEMENTS

Judy Lehtinen would like to rent garage space for storage for her son's small car. He will be out of the country for a year, starting the end of September. Please contact Judy Lehtinen at 561-339-2258 or email her at vainglori@hotmail.com

(Church members are welcome to put ads in the newsletter.

The written ad must be submitted by the 20th of the month. Approved ads will be run for one month only)

REMINDER

Our 6pm Sunday service was discontinued on August 23rd.

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Rev. Omar Ortiz - *Senior Pastor* Mr. Jay Forester-*Assistant to the Pastor*