



Volume

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The practice(s) of education

David I. Smith's *On Christian Teaching: Practicing Faith in the Classroom** (2018) is published by Eerdmans. Smith was the co-author (with Susan Felch) of *Teaching and Christian Imagination** (Eerdmans, 2016). In that book, Smith and Felch argue that the metaphorical images assumed when we think about what teaching is and does will shape how teaching is practiced. And if Christian teachers want to imagine their work Christianly, they can benefit from reflection on images from Scripture that describe and enact what teachers do. In the book, they meditate on three sets of metaphors that reveal something about the task of teaching: journeys and pilgrimages, gardens and wildernesses, and buildings and walls. Smith also collaborated with James K. A. Smith (no relation) in editing the anthology *Teaching and Christian Practices: Reshaping Faith and Learning** (Eerdmans, 2011). In the book's introduction, the editors ask: "Are there present patterns of educational practice that are in tension with the kinds of formation implicitly aimed at by Christian practices such that we need to consider restructuring teaching and learning lest their rhythms be in competition with Christian formation? Could, for instance, our investment in individual ownership and rapid consumption of knowledge be at odds with the attentiveness and receptivity needed to read Scripture well, or might our focus on individual autonomy create tension with the goal of growth in humility?" The Foreword to that book was contributed by Craig Dykstra and Dorothy Bass. Dykstra is the author of *Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices** (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2005). That book dealt more generally with the formative power of practices.

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Evangelical history and politics

D. Bruce Hindmarsh's *The Spirit of Early Evangelicalism: True Religion in a Modern World** (2018) is published by Oxford University Press. Hindmarsh wrote the Introduction to a 1998 reprint of *The Life & Spirituality of John Newton: An Authentic Narrative** (Regent College Press). He is also the author of *John Newton and the English Evangelical Tradition: Between the Conversions of Wesley and Wilberforce** (Oxford, 1996) and *The Evangelical Conversion Narrative: Spiritual Autobiography in Early Modern England** (Oxford, 2005). In the Introduction to the 1996 book on Newton,

Disc 1

1 Introduction

- 2 **David I. Smith**, on how classroom pedagogical practices and the structure of curricular requirements communicate significant meaning
- 3 **D. Bruce Hindmarsh**, on how certain early features of the Evangelical movement in eighteenth-century England display the modern quality of its spirituality
- 4 **Jason Baxter**, on how Dante's *Divine Comedy* conveys a remarkably vivid image of heavenly love and joy

Disc 2

- 1 **John Fea**, on the historical and theological factors that explain the support Evangelicals demonstrated for the election of Donald Trump
- 2 **Laurie Gagne**, on why the difficult writings of Simone Weil are needed by this generation as much as they were by her contemporaries
- 3 **Matthew O'Donovan**, on singing music from the Renaissance with the ensemble Stile Antico

Hindmarsh wrote: "This book seeks to save Newton both from evangelical hagiography and from academic neglect by treating his life and religious thought as a serious subject for scholarly consideration. Set in context, Newton's life helps to illuminate the religious self-understanding of a whole generation who knew themselves as 'evangelical' in a sense much different from those who later sometimes adopted the term as a badge of merely partisan loyalty. . . . Thus, while this book aims to provide a detailed treatment of John Newton as a religious figure, exploiting untapped but extensive archival and antiquarian sources for his biography, it also aims to contribute to the quest to understand the origins and character of the Evangelical Revival in England by using Newton as not just a subject but as a 'site'." • John Fea's *Believe Me: The Evangelical Road to Donald Trump** (2018) is published by Eerdmans. Fea's earlier writings include *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in Early America** (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009); *Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? A Historical Introduction** (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2011); and *Why Study History? Reflecting On the Importance of the Past** (BakerAcademic, 2013).

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Other books mentioned

Jason Baxter's *A Beginner's Guide to Dante's Divine Comedy** (2018) is published by BakerAcademic. The anthology of excerpts from the work of Simone Weil, *Love in the Void: Where God Finds Us* (2018), edited by Laurie Gagne, is published by Plough Publishing House.

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