



Young Adult Ministry

Dear Bethel Church family and friends,

In our present day, the consumption of media is like the breathing of air; we are consuming and consumed. It feels impossible to step away, turn down the noise, or turn off the screen. I would love to encourage you today with some words from C.S. Lewis concerning the restoration of our minds and imaginations as they face this great assailment.

"Do you think I am trying to weave a spell? Perhaps I am, but remember your fairy tales. Spells are used for breaking enchantments as well as for inducing them. And you and I have need of the strongest spell that can be found to wake us from the evil enchantment of worldliness, which has been laid upon us for nearly a hundred years. Almost our whole education has been directed to silencing this shy, persistent, inner voice; almost all our modern philosophies have been devised to convince us that the good of man is to be found on this earth." (Lewis, *Weight of Glory*).

We might replace Lewis's view of education and philosophies with whatever media we most consume, but the premise remains: the world around us is stripping us of our imaginations, creating in us a false worldview. A heavenly imagination is one that seeks to experience every piece of God's creation with the depth of meaning with which God has created all things. This type of imagination is how one is found in the light of true meaning, God revealing the truth of his creation to you in participation with Him. As we participate more and more in this reality, we are shaped in godliness and made like the heavenly Son, Christ Jesus.

Christ explains this reality in his cries to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." (John 17:16) This is why Paul too, makes consistent admonitions in his epistles to "set our minds on things above," (Colossians 3:2) or "be transformed by the renewal of your mind," (Romans 12:2) that "our citizenship is in heaven," (Philippians 3:20) and that we "do not wrestle against flesh and blood." (Ephesians 6:12) This gives us great cause to ask the question, how do I become a participant of heaven? Are these only promises given for our final hope, or are they teaching the believer how to rightly reside in this earthly abode? If the latter is true, then we must look beyond what the world is offering to find reality in the true light of Christ. David Fagerberg writes, "The sacramental person sees the world through the prism of God's 'plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth' (Eph. 1:9-10), but the idolatrous person sinks deeper into his own passions and uses creation only for self-gratification.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, might it be our greatest goal and longing to become more and more like our Savior Jesus Christ? Are we willing to cast aside every weight that hinders us from this holy longing for Christ? Can we internally and externally despise and reject every sin that clings so closely? The author of Hebrews says we must in order to run the race, to become like Jesus. The greatest news of all, for us, is that he is our forerunner! He finished the race, obeyed perfectly, and now is inviting you every single day to dwell in his presence. Let nothing be a hindrance to this wealth and treasure that is nearness to Jesus.

Blessings in Christ our Lord,
Matthew Clay

this week

Sunday's sermon:

The Ministry of Christ

1 Peter
3:18-22

events

Joint Officers Meeting
2/8 at 2:00 pm

GriefShare
2/10 at 1:00 pm

Men of the Covenant
2/9 at 6:30 pm

Men's Bible Study
2/11 at 6:00 am

Circle #3
2/9 at 7:00 pm

Colleen Riddle Circle
2/11 at 11:00 am

Circle #1
2/10 at 10:30 am

Circle #2
2/8 at 3:30 pm

Youth
2/8 at 6:00 pm

Mentors & Moms
2/12 at 9:30 am

volunteer schedule

Infant Nursery
Rebecca Wallace
and Kim Britt

Toddler Nursery
Laura & Macie Clinton
and Mandy Wynkoop

Worship Training
Isak Siemens and
Amanda Brummett