

# Book of the Month

# June 2011

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

***Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation.***  
**James K. A. Smith. Baker Academic. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 2009.**

This is a great read for those who desire to think deeply and Christianly about culture. James Smith reminds us that the transformation of culture involves more than an examination of worldviews. More importantly, it involves examining what we love!

Worship comes before worldview. Smith helps us to understand that all human behavior has a religious dimension and this dimension is expressed in "liturgies" (worship). To illustrate his point he invites us on a tour of "one of the most important religious sites" in our culture today: the mall. Asking us to imagine that we are Martian anthropologists gathering data on the religious habits of 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans, Smith analyzes the "liturgical" behavior of shoppers in the mall. His intent is not to be cute. Rather he wants to help us realize how our desires shape our liturgies, how our liturgies shape our true beliefs and how our beliefs form our culture.

Smith's passion is to help Christians become more astute about the real purpose of education. It is not merely about the transmission of ideas and information, but "about the formation of hearts and desires... shaping our hopes and passions... the transforming of our imagination rather than the saturation of our intellect." Smith believes that the ultimate purpose of Christian education is first of all not "about what we know, but about what we love" (p. 18).

Pastor Stan Key