

# The Gatekeeper

Volume 39.24

March 8, 2010

## Christian scholar, theologian and author Witherington blasts 'consumer mentality' in worship

BY PAUL F. SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS – Ben Witherington III pulls no punches when it comes to the culture’s increasing consumer mentality of worship, in which the people in the pews attend church for what they can get from a service, instead of to truly worship a holy God.

“A consumer mentality as an approach to worship is a sin,” Witherington said. “It’s a mistake.”

Witherington, a professor at Asbury Seminary and the author of a numerous books, made the remarks Feb. 25 during a chapel message at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Witherington was on the NOBTS campus as a featured speaker at the seminary’s Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum, an annual event that draws some of the world’s top theologians to dialogue on issues of faith. This year, Witherington debated Catholic scholar John Dominic Crossman on the topic, “The Message of Jesus: What did He really teach?”



In his chapel message, Witherington used verses from Revelation 1 and 4 as his primary texts, buttressed by Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1. In the passages three men of God are granted a vision of true worship, something increasingly missing in 21<sup>st</sup> century churches. For John and Ezekiel—their encounter with God and their true worship experience came not in the church, but in exile. Ezekiel was in the desert of Iraq. John was on the isle of Patmos. [READ MORE](#)

### PERSONAL EVANGELISM

SOUL WINNING BLITZ March 25, 2010  
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

**WHAT?** To prepare our hearts for campus revival (March 30- April 1), assist local churches, and fulfill the Great Commission in the region.

**WHERE?** Meet at the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health for orientation at 2:30 p.m.

**WHO?** Anyone interested in fulfilling the Great Commission locally.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Contact Dr. Preston Nix or Dr. Jake Roudkovski

**SAVE THE DATE**

Campus Revival  
March 30, 31,  
and April 1  
Dr. Chuck Kelley,  
NOBTS President,  
preaching



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