

Friday digest

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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New today from the *Century*:

- [John Suk](#): "On a journey through North America, my wife and I attended many churches. At one the pastor insisted repeatedly that 'the meaning and purpose of life is to have a personal relationship with Jesus.' The claim irked me." (subscription required)
- Amy Frykholm on [sex trafficking and changing laws](#): "The first photo in the series was invariably of a young girl, maybe with a mischievous smile or a rebellious glare, but with a decided look of innocence. By the end of the series, that same face was battered, bloated and bruised."
- I consider [the Wal-Marting of Wal-Mart](#): "With consumers focused on thrift, the Dollar Palace is to Wal-Mart what Wal-Mart once was to Sears: the bargain alternative for folks with less to spend."
- Victor Anderson [reviews Willie James Jennings](#): "In modern imperialism, race, colonization and Christianity have been so embedded with one another that their connections have seemed natural, and Christian theologians have participated in the construction of this imperialism. Willie James Jennings's book is a genealogy of their participation."