



The Scholé Way with Christopher Perrin

Appendix B: The Meaning and Pursuit of Wisdom

Outline:

In this lesson, Dr. Christopher Perrin explores the concept of wisdom as it has been understood in the classical and Christian traditions. He examines the Greek and Latin terms for wisdom, their distinctions, and how wisdom is both a philosophical and theological pursuit, culminating in Christ as the true *Sophia* of God.

"Christ is the power of God and the wisdom (Sophia) of God." – 1 Corinthians 1

Defining Wisdom in the Classical Tradition

- The challenge of defining wisdom precisely
- Wisdom and virtue as the chief ends of education
- The distinction between cosmic wisdom and practical wisdom

The Greek and Latin Words for Wisdom

- *Sophia* – Comprehensive, cosmic wisdom, understanding the harmony of the cosmos
- *Phronesis* – Practical wisdom, knowing how to act in real circumstances
- *Sapientia* (Latin) – The equivalent of *Sophia*, the pursuit of higher knowledge
- *Prudentia* (Latin) – The equivalent of *Phronesis*, wisdom applied to life's choices

The Relationship Between Wisdom and Virtue

- *Phronesis* (prudence) as one of the cardinal virtues
- The necessity of perceiving reality correctly in order to act virtuously



- The role of experience in developing practical wisdom

Wisdom in the Thought of Aristotle and the Greeks

- Aristotle's belief that wisdom is reserved for the gods, and men can only approximate it
- The idea that wisdom comes with age, experience, and study
- The search for wisdom as the highest goal of philosophy

The Transformation of Wisdom in Christianity

- Christ as the fulfillment of the Greek search for wisdom
- 1 Corinthians 1: Christ as the power and *Sophia* of God
- How Christ embodies both practical wisdom and cosmic wisdom
- The Christian call to seek wisdom through discipleship

The Educational Implications of Christian Wisdom

- Learning as an act of seeking Christ, the true wisdom of God
- The idea that all study should be a prayer to the truth
- The transformation of classical learning through the revelation of Christ