



The Scholé Way with Christopher Perrin

Appendix C: Education for the Next Life

Outline:

In this lesson, Dr. Christopher Perrin explores the writings of Basil the Great on *scholé* and the purpose of education. He examines Basil's argument that true education is preparation for eternity, contrasting this with the modern focus on job training and earthly success. Through contemplation and the careful study of both Scripture and classical literature, education shapes the soul for eternal life.

"Enjoy scholé and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10 (Septuagint translation)

The Eternal Purpose of Education

- Basil's claim that education is preparation for the next life
- The contrast between modern job-focused education and classical Christian education
- The importance of ordering education according to what is eternally significant

The Paradox of Practicality

- The assumption that heavenly-mindedness is of no earthly good
- Basil's argument that those who seek truth, goodness, and beauty are most transformative
- Chesterton's observation: "Pragmatism is a matter of human needs, and one of the first of human needs is to be something more than a pragmatist."

Putting First Things First



- C.S. Lewis on the danger of prioritizing secondary goods over primary ones
- The role of education in shaping the soul before training the mind
- The challenge of orienting oneself toward eternity in a world of distractions

The Biblical Vision of Education

- The contrast between *bios* (physical life) and *zoe* (eternal life)
- Colossians 3:1-4 – setting the mind on things above
- The Christian's call to seek wisdom as participation in Christ's eternal life

The Role of Classical Literature in Christian Education

- Basil's view on studying pagan authors with discernment
- The "bee analogy" – gathering truth while avoiding poison
- The idea that all truth is God's truth, whether in Scripture or classical texts

The Call to a Contemplative Life

- Basil's exhortation to preserve *scholé* for the school of eternity
- Rejecting distractions and the overemphasis on sensory pleasures
- The importance of leisure, silence, and contemplation in Christian education