



Course: Awakening Wonder: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty With Dr. Stephen Turley

Lesson 4: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in the Latin West

Outline:

“Just as the science and art of agriculture depend upon chemistry and botany, so the art of education depends upon physiology and psychology.”

Edward Thorndike

“It is through entering into the inner recesses of the soul as it is informed by the Christian Scriptures that we come to know God as infinitely resplendent in Trinitarian life.”

Dr. Steve Turley

“Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient and ever new! Late have I loved you! And, behold, you were within me, and I out of myself, and there I searched for you.”

St. Augustine

St. Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430 AD)

- He discovered a desire within himself for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, and he believed that it is our desire for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty that makes us fully human.
- He believed that the human soul was made in the image of God, and, through encountering God, the soul comes to know that “God is Truth,” and his self-nature, as an Image of God, is then restored.
- He made a distinction between scientia (knowledge related to temporal existence) and sapientia (wisdom related to eternal existence). Augustine believed that the soul was trapped in scientia due to the effects of the Fall and recovers sapientia in Christ.
- He introduced the Christian doctrine of ordo amoris (things are not evil in and of themselves but become evil when their order is abused). God is understood as the summum bonum in a hierarchical order of goodness and reality. Sin is due to a disordered love. Only God is worthy of being loved in and of Himself. Every good is subordinated to God as the supreme good.
- He believed that Beauty was the harmony of the cosmos and the ladder to Divine life

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274 AD)

- Doctrine of the Transcendentals: “Identifying properties of perfection in which all things participate to some degree as a necessary condition for their existence.”



- Being → Unity → Truth → Goodness (They entail each other and cohere into a synthetic vision of Divine life. “Being” is the most basic transcendental).
- Microcosmic - human being; Macrocosmic - world
- Beauty as an extension of the Good
- Proportion (symmetry), Integrity (does not lack or have excess), and Clarity (luminosity)
- Beauty refers to both the complex of the cosmos and to the movement of the cosmos back to God.