



Leadership and the Liberal Arts

With Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lecture 10: Three Thinkers

Outline:

Three Thinkers

- Seneca
 - He was born about the same time as Christ in 4 BC.
 - He writes epistles. In his first epistle he says that time is something that belongs to you, but that we also don't use our time well.
 - We are always in the process of dying. The days in the past have already died. He says that he can tell you the cause and manner of how I am wasting time.
 - If you are young man, learn how to use your time well.
 - From Psalms, we should number our days for they are evil. Paul says we should redeem the time because the days are evil.
 - In another letter on groundless fear, he says that the person who is strong and faces fears has been challenged previously. Do you fear things that could happen? Have you ever panicked about things that aren't realities yet?
 - Dangers are often imagined.
 - How ought you to deal with the next imagined fear?
 - Where is the prudent balance of anticipation of what could go wrong versus being prepared?
 - Interrogate the evidence that you have to be sure you have proof of the problem.
 - It is the idle report that sometimes causes us the most disturbance.
 - We need to temper our fear with hope.
 - Do the people who you work with need to be reminded of this?
- Augustine
 - The Confessions, Books I-III
 - He opens with praising God.
 - Do you see your work as praise for the delight of God?
 - If you are to be a restful leader, are you resting in God who has created you to be on who praises?
 - Augustine sees all of his life as already belonging to God. This should characterize your life – confessing, praising, and resting in God.
 - In anything good, God is already there.



- Jonathan Edwards
 - He is thinking about living wisely as Aurelius was doing.
 - Resolve never to lose one moment of time.
 - Resolve to live with all my might while I do live.
 - Have a pattern in your life to live well according to a purpose.
 - Resolve never to do anything which I should be afraid to do in the last hour before death.
 - Resolve that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.
 - Resolve to maintain the strictest temperance in eating and drinking.
 - Think about the life that is to come. Here is the difference the Christian tradition in facing death. Education is preparation for the next life.
 - Study the scriptures.
 - Resolve to inquire every night before I go to bed whether I have acted in the best way I possibly could in regard to eating and drinking.
 - Resolve to ask myself if I could have possibly done better.