



Leadership and the Liberal Arts

With Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lecture 3: Basil

Outline:

Basil the Great

- He is known as being the founder of Eastern Monasticism.
- Benedict reads Basil's rules about how to start a monastery.
- His most famous book is his *Address to Young Men Studying Greek Literature*.

What does Jerusalem have to do with Athens? What does Christ have to do with the academy?

- Tertullian thinks we should leave pagan learning behind.
- Clement of Alexandria says that Greek philosophy and literatures was used to lead the Greeks to the Christian faith. He is not afraid of Greek literature.
- Basil combines these two concerns. There are some things we should eschew.
 - Plato thought that children should need read the Iliad and the Odyssey.
- Basil uses the metaphor of the bee, which means that Christian young men ought not to read certain Greek literature that praise the vicious and there are others that praise the good.
- Basil wants the young men to learn to care for their souls, and so be discerning in what you read.
- Basil says that you are in a contest between your earthly life and your heavenly life. When was the last time that you thought of education as a preparation for the next life?
- Something about reading literature that praises the good enables you to make some honey for your heart.
- We filter. We discern. We discriminate.
- Anything that is true, good, and beautiful comes from God.