



Scholé Learning with Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lesson 2: Scholé in the Classical Tradition

Outline:

Review

- Scholé is “an undistracted time to study the things that are most worthwhile.”
- The Puzzle Analogy and the Principles of Pedagogy both include scholé! (2:10)
- In The Global Achievement Gap, Tony Wagner conducted a study of government, military, and business leaders who included “curiosity and imagination” in their list of Seven Survival Skills.
 - Scholé is crucial for work, learning, and citizenship; it allows us to think, reason, and communicate effectively.

Early Beginnings of Scholé

- Homer (10:35)
 - Homer (800 BC) recommended scholé to cultivate excellence in human beings; his method of scholé included storytelling, contemplation, and good meals with friends.
- Plato (12:24)
 - Plato (428-348 BC) was the first great educational theorist.
 - Plato described early education as *mousike* (music)—that which is inspired by the Muses; a “musical” education included poetry, literature, plays, music, and dancing.
 - For Plato, *the world was a living museum accessible through the practice of scholé*; however, this was only available to a select few.
- Aristotle (15:08)
 - Aristotle (384-322 BC) was a student of Plato.
 - Aristotle saw scholé as *a spark of the divine in humans*; to engage in scholé was to be like the divine gods who had time for leisure and contemplation.
 - Unlike Plato, Aristotle believed in a democratization of scholé, in which more people could engage in scholé with like-minded friends.

Scholé in the Classic Tradition (20:00)

- Josef Pieper (1904-1997; a German Catholic philosopher)
 - Pieper’s *Total World of Work* describes a life of work without scholé; if work consumes our lives and squeezes out scholé, it becomes the enemy.
 - In our digital, technological age, we face a similar problem—it can be difficult to withdraw from the “total world of work” to engage in scholé!
- Greek Definitions and Words (23:30)



- **Ascholia** - want of leisure; occupation, business, industry
 - Greeks valued scholé as a primary goal in life—when work was necessary, it was ascholia, or the opposite of scholé.
- **Ponos** - task work, hard work, toil, drudgery; suffering, grief, sorrow
 - Scholé was what Greeks worked for; this was distorted by the concept of slavery, when slaves took on most ponos.
- **Diagoge** - passing of time, pastime, amusement, recreation
 - Aristotle saw amusement activities as a chance to refresh and recharge a person's body and soul (such as gymnastics).
- **Thaumazein** (wonder) led to **eudaimonia** (happiness)
 - This process paved the way for **theoria**, or an “intellectual seeing” that happened with the **nous**, a part of the mind that discerns deep, first principle things.
- **Kerdos** - profit making; gaining wealth (not virtue for the Greeks; virtue involved scholé)
- **Paidia** - play, child-like (pediatrician, pedagogy)
- **Paideia** - education (the full cultivation of a human being; attaining virtue)
- **Mousike** - education given to children; seeing the world as a living museum

Final Thoughts (33:22)

- In Politics, Aristotle expresses that scholé pursues the noble things of this world; because of this, work is inferior to scholé, although both are necessary.
- “**Work, Play, and Scholé**,” expresses a balanced trio of human activities! All 3 are needed for a harmonious life.
- Educators must recognize the important role of play and scholé, alongside work, in the lives of students.