

STUDY GUIDE

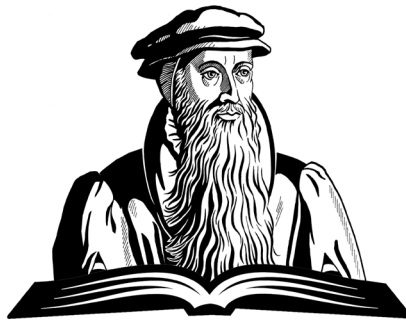
for

Classical Christian Education

Video Lecture Series
by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

LECTURE #11

Benefits of Classical Christian Education



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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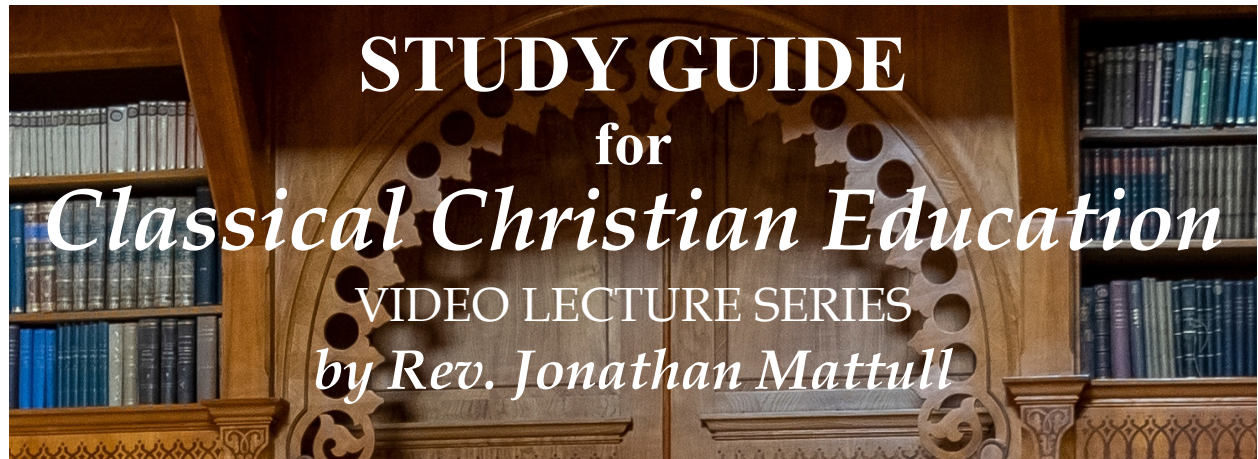
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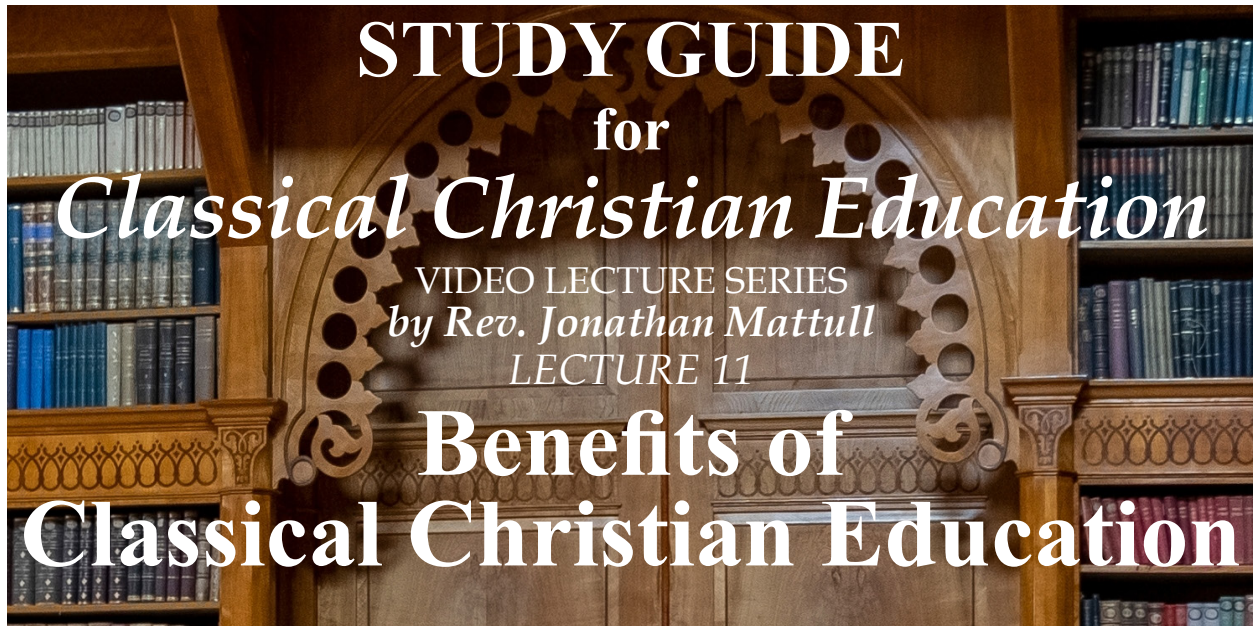
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2. Christian Commitments in Education
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4. Reading Authors from Antiquity with Discernment and Benefit
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Introduction

With this lesson, we take up some of the benefits that the Lord provides through Classical Christian Education. There are more than we can handle in one lesson, but I do hope to set before you some of them, in order to encourage you to press on in your pursuit of Classical Education. It may be that you are a single parent, or you're a Christian teacher, or an entire school, or a group of families, and you're thinking through beginning such a thing. And when you really start to look at it, you start to feel the burden and difficulty of all that's before you. You have many more questions than we can answer in our series, and you have many difficulties that are before you. It's helpful in such a moment to step back and to remember that all of those difficulties are worth your pursuit because there are many benefits that you're pursuing.

Theme

The Benefits of Classical Education

Key Points

Introduction.

- a. God alone is the one who is able to provide any of these benefits.
- b. Classical Christian Education is a means that God uses.

1. The Benefits for the Individual.

a. Wisdom.

- 1) The student learns what man is, what man can be or do, and how we are to think, how society is set up, what justice is.

- 2) He learns that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
 - 3) He learns to how carry himself, speak wisely, think well and carefully.
 - b. Eloquence—language.
 - 1) The student learns to speak truly, beautifully, persuasively.
 - 2) He learns to promote the cause of truth well.
 - c. Piety, the outworking of the fear of God.
 - 1) The student becomes one who treasures God’s Word.
 - 2) He becomes one who is devoted to prayer and public worship.
 - 3) He develops a life devoted to God.
 - d. All three benefits together bring maturity for service to God and service to others.
2. The Benefits that Come to the Family.
- a. Benefits to the student’s immediate parental family, or to the group they belong to.
 - 1) There will be benefits to the student’s spouse and children.
 - 2) The benefits do not eliminate family friction or brokenness.
 - b. Classical Christian Education influences the culture of the home.
 - 1) The family needs to participate in a variety of ways.
 - 2) Engaging in meaningful conversations about truth, beauty, and goodness.
 - 3) Parents can take an active interest in the process, to tease out what’s being learned.
 - 5) The home becomes a place where these things are nurtured and matured. Instead of a family focused on the passing trends of the day, the family can be engaged in the lasting subjects of our past, present, and future.
3. The Benefits for the Church.
- a. Students and their families will bring benefit with them to the church.
 - b. Benefits immediately enjoyed by the church.
 - 1) Children and families with greater attention to the written and preached Word.
 - 2) Children and families are better equipped to understand Scripture.
 - 3) It cultivates the attention span, and reasoning ability, and thinking ability.
 - 4) Children will be familiar with Scripture, and the history of the Bible.
 - 5) Preachers will be greatly encouraged to see young ones attending upon God’s Word.
 - 6) Classical Christian Education provides a seedbed of opportunity for pastors and elders.
 - c. The benefits which may potentially be enjoyed in the church.
 - 1) Students may be converted and one day serve as pastors, elders, or deacons in the church.

2) All the duties and skills of a good pastor, all the virtues of excellence, wisdom, eloquence, and piety, are all taught in the Classical Christian school.

4. The Benefits for Society.

a. All these same benefits extend to all of society.

1) Each student brings their mastery of wisdom, eloquence, piety, and maturity to whatever role they fill in society.

2) We need a society where people on every level, in all roles, are committed to virtue.

3) Classical Christian Education aims at benefiting the individual, the family, the church, and all of society, to the glory of God.

5. Conclusion—Classical Christian Education is a long-term investment, and it can be wearying, but with great encouragement.

Study Questions

1. This lecture gives us three main benefits of Classical Christian Education for the individual. What are they, and how are they different from health, wealth, and prosperity?

2. Please describe wisdom, and give some examples of how it would be seen in an individual.

3. What is eloquence, and how is it a great benefit in every area of life? Please give an example.

4. Please give a portrait of a pious individual. What practices are needed to cultivate piety in an individual? What is the end benefit of all these three benefits for the student?

5. What realistic things about family life must we bear in mind when talking about the benefits that Classical Christian Education offers to the family?

6. What benefits are there for a family which engages in deep and meaningful conversation about truth, beauty, and goodness? How can family members contribute?

7. How can the culture of Classical Christian Education influence the culture of the home? How can that impact the family for good?

8. What benefits of Classical Christian Education can be immediately enjoyed in the church? What are the church's responsibilities in these things?

9. What are the potential benefits for a student of Classical Christian Education, who in later years, goes into the ministry and becomes a pastor?

10. Which of these many benefits extend to society? What kind of citizens are truly needed in society? How can Classical Christian Education be a means to that end?

Further Study

1. What is the right understanding of the relationship between Christians and the world? How would you instruct children in this regard?

2. Rev. Mattull says that Classical Christian Education is a long-term investment. How is this an encouragement to those who grow weary in this area? How can the church be supportive in the promotion of Classical Christian Education?
