

# STUDY GUIDE

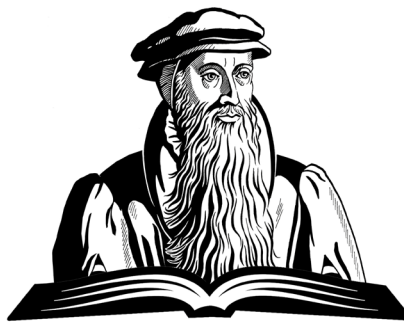
for

## *Classical Christian Education*

Video Lecture Series  
*by Rev. Jonathan Mattull*

LECTURE #12

## Navigating the World of Education Today



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

© 2025 by John Knox Institute of Higher Education

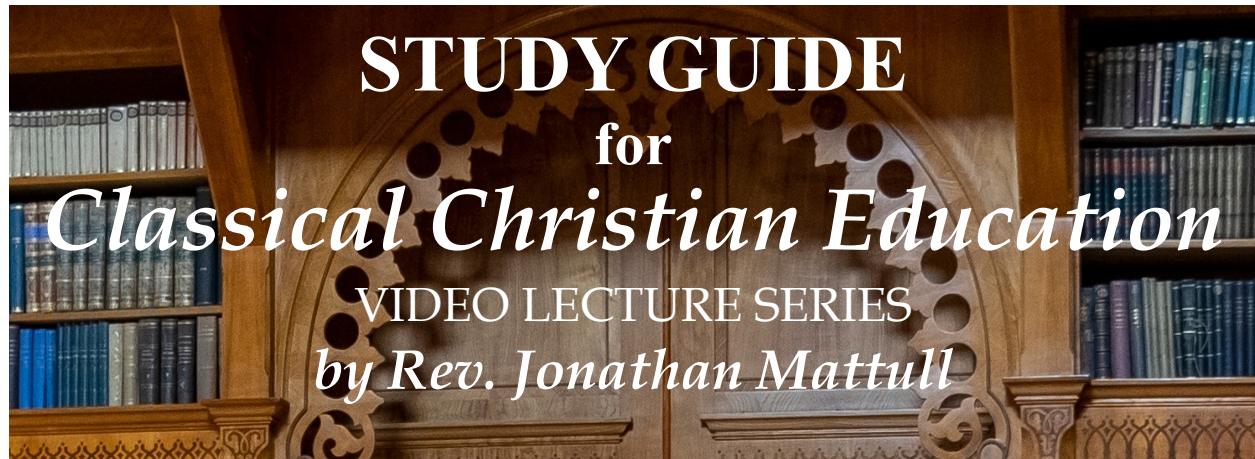
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means for profit, except in brief quotations for the purposes of review, comment, or scholarship, without written permission from the publisher, John Knox Institute, P.O. Box 19398, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-19398, USA.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

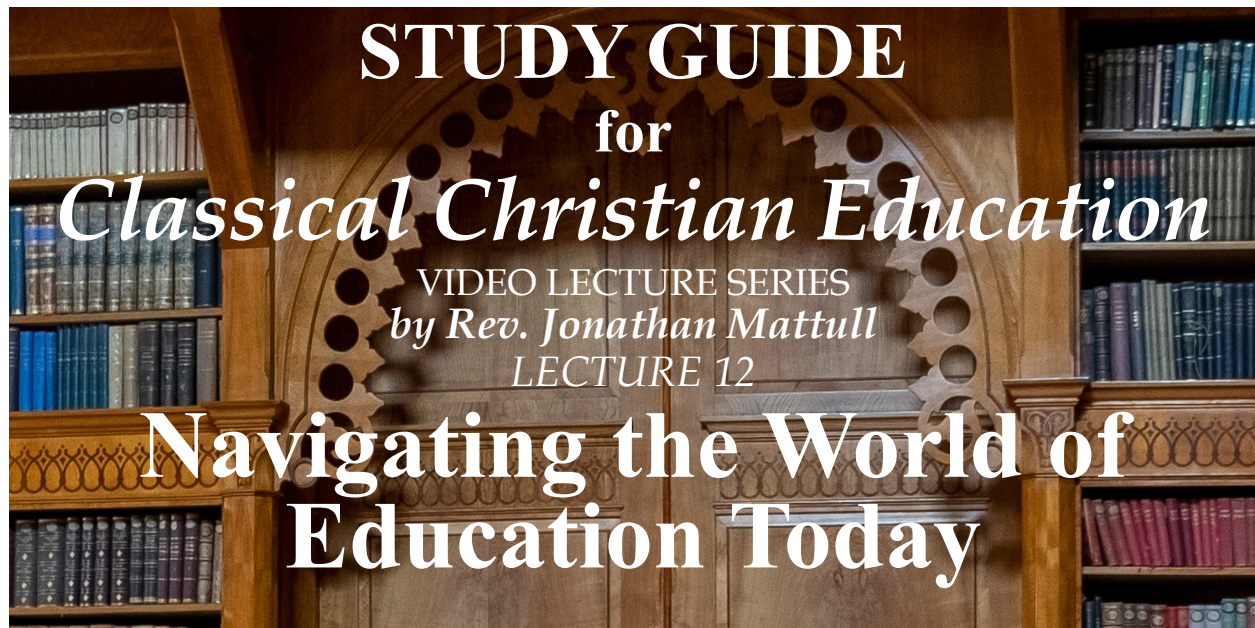
Visit our website: [www.johnknoxinstitute.org](http://www.johnknoxinstitute.org)

Rev. Jonathan Mattull is minister of the gospel at Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church, in St. Louis, Missouri, a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), Presbytery of the United States of America.

[stlpresbyterian.org](http://stlpresbyterian.org)



1. An Introduction to Classical Christian Education
2. Christian Commitments in Education
3. Classical Elements for Education from Antiquity
4. Reading Authors from Antiquity with Discernment and Benefit
5. How Christ Transforms Classical Education
6. The Liberal Arts in Christian Education
7. The Importance of Language in Classical Education
8. Historical Overview of Classical Education
9. Learning from Our Heritage: Education from the Protestant Reformation
10. Potential Dangers in Classical Christian Education
11. Benefits of Classical Christian Education
- 12. Navigating the World of Education Today**
13. Getting Started with Classical Christian Education in the Home or School
14. Continuing the Quest: Life-long Learning
15. Remembering the End: Serving the Lord to God's Glory



### **Introduction**

The Lord calls us to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). We realize that this is more than giving them a Bible lesson occasionally, or even, though vitally important, bringing them to church to hear the gospel preached. The Lord would have us provide an entire and comprehensive culture for them to discern the truth of God, and the reality of his holy law, and the rich provision of grace in Jesus Christ. When this begins to register in the heart and mind of parents and churches together, they begin to realize that education must be carefully considered. Many questions begin to arise. “How can I be sure that this form of education is the right one? Which curriculum should I use for my child, or for my class, or for our school? Is Classical Education actually suitable for today’s modern needs?” Well, in our lesson today, I would like to try and answer some of the primary questions that have been asked to me and to others with regular frequency.

### **Theme**

Navigating the World of Education Today.

### **Key Points**

1. *The Question of Practicality*—Is Classical Christian Education relevant in today’s fast-paced technologically-driven world?

a. Remember that Classical Education is aimed at developing mature humans.

1) The advances of technology expose what great need there is for using it in a wise, just, self-controlled, and courageous way.

b. Embedded in Classical Education is an appreciation for science and math, and consequently, technology.

1) Four of the seven Liberal Arts touch on science and math—*the Quadrivium*.

c. The differences are easily exaggerated, but the principles and foundations are needed.

1) Ancient scholars like Euclid and Archimedes laid the foundations for using technology, the way of discovering insights, the way of developing technology, and for implementing them to the benefit of others.

2) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is required today, and Classical Education provides the ability to think clearly, to learn quickly.

2. *The Question of Elitism*—How do I make sense of the Western origin of Classical Education and its primary focus upon the higher classes?

a. The question of Western origin.

1) Classical Education was taking place among diverse cultures and people, East and West from the beginning.

2) Classical Education can easily be transplanted to other cultures.

3) Neither Classical Education nor Christianity are meant to make you a Westerner.

b. The question of elitism.

1) God has given different gifts and abilities to everyone, in every society.

2) In ancient Greece and Rome, Classical Education was for the elite, not the poor.

3) The Christian church was a great catalyst in moving Classical Education to people of every walk of life.

4) The early stages of a Liberal Arts education provides the student with the basic education needed to help them become mature adults, in whatever vocation the Lord should call them to.

5) It should not be expected that every child goes to college or university.

3. *The Question of Choice*—How do I begin to navigate the ever-increasing options of curriculum available today?

a. There is no such thing as the “Perfect Curriculum.”

b. Several principles to work through these options:

1) Start with prayer.

2) Be clear in your mind what the end goal of education is.

a) Review some lessons.

b) Write down a simple statement of your end goals: wise and eloquent piety.

c) Start with the goal for an age level and work backwards to the age where you are starting.

3) Set a deadline by which you need to have a curriculum in place. This helps you know how much time you have to do the remaining steps.

4) Research and assess your options.

a) Don't just rely on the publisher's description and videos. Research the internet.

b) "Will this curriculum help me to reach the goal that's been identified; or will it hinder me from reaching that goal?"

f c) Assess the costs; make sure it fits your budget. You may need to ask the church or help with costs.

5) Select and implement the curriculum.

a) Do not seek to make adjustments the first time you start. Take notes and revisit things at the natural breaks. Perhaps reach out to the publisher or the teacher. Wait until the end of the semester, ask questions again, and think about making changes or enhancements.

6) Pray and adapt. You prayed at first, but continue to pray each step of the way.

**Study Questions**

1. How would you answer the arguments that ancient Greeks and Romans knew nothing of modern computers or smart phones?

---

---

---

---

2. Does Classical Education oppose modern technology or does it give it a good foundation? Please explain your answer.

---

---

---

---

3. What advantage does a Classical Education give to students today who are facing the use of modern technology? What about STEM requirements?

---

---

---

---

4. How would you answer those who say that Classical Education is only for a Western culture? Or even those who say that Christianity is only a Western religion? How was the Christian church a catalyst in moving Classical Education to other cultures in the world?

---

---

---

---

---

5. How do you view the possibility that Classical Education can be easily transplanted into other cultures? Do ancient Eastern religions emphasize similar virtues as those Cardinal Virtues taught in Classical Education?

---

---

---

---

---

6. In ancient Greece and Rome, Classical Education was only for the elite. How did this change with the coming of Christ into the world? What does the Bible teach about this?

---

---

---

---

---

7. When researching the many different choices to begin a Classical Christian Education, is it possible to find the “perfect curriculum? What are the six principles suggested in the lecture for working through your options?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

8. How can stating your the goal of education be important in selecting which curriculum to use? What difference would it make between choosing a curriculum rooted in the Protestant Reformation, or one rooted in Roman Catholicism?

---

---

---

---

---

---

9. Rev. Mattull suggested, “When we start with a goal, we should also start to work backwards.” Please briefly explain how this works in planning the curriculum. Why do you need to set yourself a deadline for when you need to have your curriculum in place?

---

---

---

---

---

10. What questions should you ask yourself when researching various Classical curriculums? How is cost another very important aspect of researching and assessing curricula? What can you do if the one you like does not fit your budget?

**Further Study**

1. In the lecture, Rev. Mattull gave us six principles to navigate the many questions about which Classical Christian Education curriculum to use and how to implement it. Which of these principles were helpful to you? Are there any in particular which you think you will utilize in the future?

2. Based on the Great Commission given in Matthew 28, verses 19 and 20, Christianity has been going into all the world. Up until the early twentieth century, it brought with it Classical Christian Education wherever it has gone. In your experience, how has this affected the part of the world where you live today?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---