

STUDY GUIDE

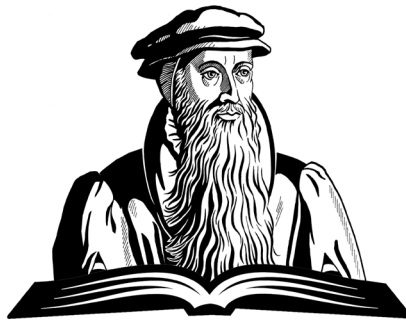
for

Classical Christian Education

Video Lecture Series
by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

LECTURE #14

Continuing the Quest: Lifelong Learning



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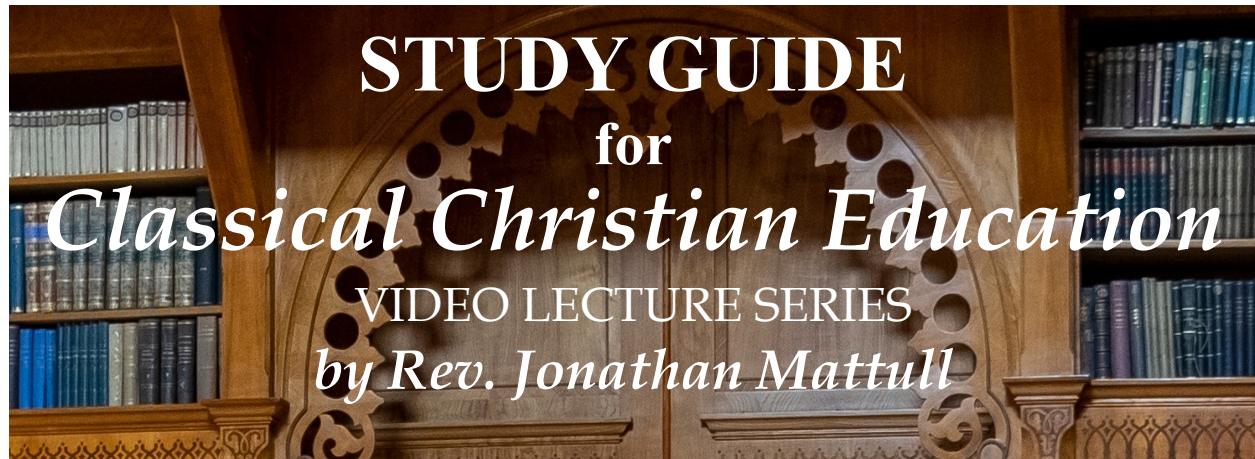
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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

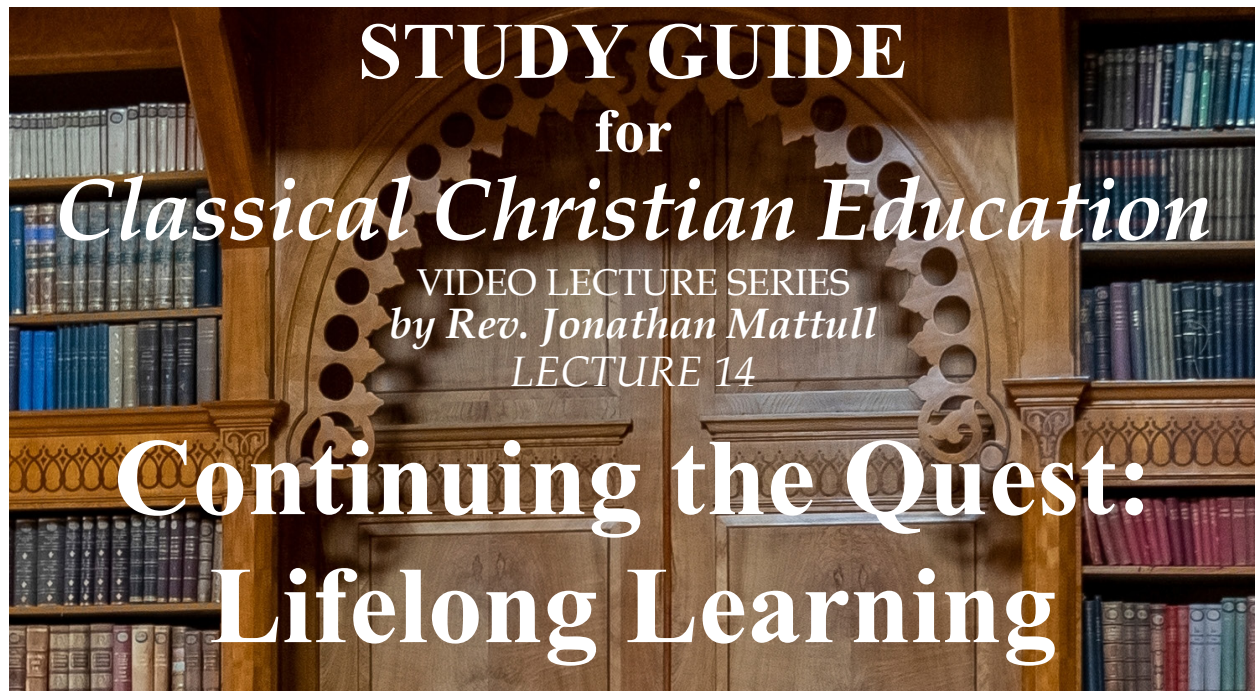
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1. An Introduction to Classical Christian Education
2. Christian Commitments in Education
3. Classical Elements for Education from Antiquity
4. Reading Authors from Antiquity with Discernment and Benefit
5. How Christ Transforms Classical Education
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

While we often think of education as the season of teaching focused upon children and young adults, we ought to see that education, truly understood, is a lifelong calling. You never graduate from this calling in this world. We gain clarity by remembering that true education is ultimately about cultivating maturity, and that according to the image of God, as made known to us in the Scriptures. So in this lesson, we'll consider ways to continue this quest, even after one has passed through primary and secondary education.

Theme

Continuing the Quest: Lifelong Learning

Key Points

Introduction.

a. Individuals need to continue learning after they finish school at age 18.

1) We need to more fully embrace the virtues—"a wise and eloquent piety."

1. Why We Should Continue this Quest of Lifelong Learning.

a. First and foremost, the Lord calls us to continue this question for education.

1) Christians are disciples of Christ, called to a pursuit of maturity

a) Philippians 3:12-14; 2 Peter 1:3-8; Matthew 16:24-26.

2) The pursuit of maturity demands growth of understanding and skill, exercised to God's glory.

b. To ignore this continued pursuit is to dehumanize ourselves.

2. How We May Continue this Quest.

a. Live out your discipleship in Christ.

b. Commit to regular reading.

1) The Bible extensively with meditation and study.

2) Weighty and time-tested Christian books by early church fathers, Scottish Covenanters, English Puritans.

a) Augustine: *Confessions, City of God.*

b) Anselm: *Why the God-Man.*

c) Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ.*

d) Martin Luther: *Bondage of the Will; The Freedom of a Christian.*

e) John Calvin: *The Institutes of the Christian Religion.*

f) Wilhelmus à Brakel: *The Christian's Reasonable Service.*

g) John Bunyan: *The Pilgrim's Progress.*

h) John Owen: *The Glory of Christ, The Mortification of Sin.*

i) Samuel Rutherford: *The Letters of Samuel Rutherford.*

j) William Guthrie: *The Christian's Great Interest.*

3) Sermons of M'Cheyne, Charles Spurgeon, Martin Lloyd-Jones.

4) Works of wisdom written by unbelievers and pagans.

a) Homer: *Iliad, and Odyssey.*

b) Virgil: *Aeneid.*

c) Shakespeare.

d) Milton.

e) Plato: *Dialogues.*

f) Cicero's speeches; *Laelius de Amicitia*

g) Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics; Politics; Ethics; The Organon; Rhetoric.*

c. Regularly reflect and pursue those truths held forth to you.

d. Commit to serving. There can be no real virtue without service to God and community.

e. Encouragements to learning Latin and Greek.

Study Questions

1. What is your understanding of the statement that education is a lifelong calling? Why is it that we can hardly call a person "educated" who has just graduated high school?

2. What is the meaning of the biblical term “disciple”? How are Christians disciples? What does that require of them?

3. What are the three passages Rev. Mattull gave us in the lecture which instruct us about the pursuit of maturity.

4. Rev. Mattull says, “To ignore this continued pursuit is to dehumanize ourselves.” What does he mean by this, and how does it apply to continuing our quest for education?

5. What is necessary for personal growth and maturity for the Christian?

6. Why is reading and studying the Bible so important to growing and maturing? How can we best benefit from the time we spend reading the Scriptures?

7. What are some of the weighty and time-tested Christian books mentioned in this lecture? Which of them have you already read and how did they benefit you? Which authors do you want to add to your reading list?

8. Which of the suggested pagan authors have you read, of those mentioned? What benefits did you receive by reading them? How do you exercise discernment when reading them? Which authors or books do you plan to add to your list?

9. Rev. Mattull advised us to “read unto practice,” meaning we should look for essential truths and put them to practice in our lives. What essential truths have learned in your reading, and how have you been able to put them into practice in your life?

10. Why is service in community an important part of growing in virtue and maturity? Why is it not possible to practice any of the virtues in isolation from others? How does our growth in maturity become a blessing to others?

Further Study

1. Rev. Mattull gave us much encouragement to learn the Latin and Greek languages at the end of the lecture. Does that stir you up to start learning these languages? Do you have a plan to start? Perhaps it would be helpful to have a study team so you could work on a language with others. Follow the advice given, and take your time, and you will receive a good harvest.

2. Our goal in education is to grow in virtue, knowledge and skill, not to just finish a reading list, nor do we want our children or students to just cover the list. What are some practical ways or methods you plan to use for reading through the excellent books listed in this lecture?
