

Chapter 15 – “Conclusions / Just In Case”

Video Transcript

I’m sure this has been a pretty wild ride for most of you. Trying to wrap your head around 4 Greeks shaping an entire civilization is pretty amazing.

In his book, *The Cave and the Light: Plato versus Aristotle and the Struggle for the Soul of Western Civilization*, Arthur Herman wrote, “An editorial in *The New York Review of Books* recently asked: ‘Do the Classics Have a Future?’

Herman went on to say,

“The real question is: ‘Will the classics ever leave us alone?’”

Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, and Democritus are so embedded in Western culture that we truly cannot divorce ourselves from them no matter how hard we try.

But Thomas Aquinas was wrong when he decided man’s intellect is not fallen and can arrive at the truth of God without the aid of Scripture. The Bible is our only hope of arriving at the truth, and it needs to be the center-piece of our very lives. Worldview is not what you *say* you believe. The best indicator of what you believe, is what you do.

Ideas matter. They have consequences.

So I am begging you to follow Martin Luther in his declaration on *sola Scriptura*. Scripture alone should be our guide. Not man’s wisdom, not Greek wisdom, not politics, not even culture — nothing but the Holy Spirit guided teachings of the Bible. As Luther is said to have closed his defense of his writings before Charles the 5th, “Here I stand. I can do no other.” He then closed with, “So help me God. Amen.”

I hope you can say that of your own stand on Scripture—that you desire no other way of doing things, and that you cannot do other than what it says.

To a certain extent, that's the whole point of this class—to help you look at the influences of men on how the Church interprets Scripture, and to urge you in the direction of Martin Luther: *sola Scriptura*.

Scripture alone should be your guide, and even when listening to sermons, search Scripture and your knowledge of Scripture to discern whether what is being said is true to God's Word. That's what the Bereans were doing in Acts 17:10-11. They were making sure that even what the Apostle Paul was saying matched what Scripture said, and they were considered more noble for doing so.

What does the future hold? A dystopian apocalypse? The coming of Christ as King? If you read the Bible, both are coming, but as John wrote in 1 John 3:2 & 3,

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

For those of you who were convicted about your use of technology, please be sure to read the "In Case There's Something" section at the end of Chapter 17. Make sure you find an accountability partner, and feel free to email me (ron@ronsumner.net).

God bless you.