

SEQUITUR SYNOPSIS

February 2024

By Lee Chemin



CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS

- **PROSPECTIVE PARENT MEETING** MARCH 5, 2024
- **PARENT COFFEE** MARCH 20, 2024 @ 8 AM IN THE LIBRARY
- **EASTER BREAK** APRIL 1-4, 2024
- **SENIOR THESIS NIGHTS** MAY 6-7, 2024—SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE NIGHTS OF SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS. MORE DETAILS TO COME.
- **SPRING CHAPEL** MAY 15, 2024 @ 9 A.M. CHAPEL WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY OF CHURCH OF THE KING
- **SENIOR GRADUATION** MAY 15, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M. GRADUATION WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY OF CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO



HeightsCast: Forming Men Fully Alive Teaching Sovereign Knowers

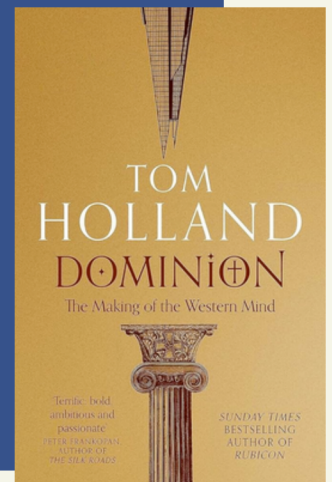
In this episode, Michael Moynihan, of The Heights School, offers "some helpful insights into the principles that should guide our teaching, as we lead our students to becoming seekers of truth, rather than consumers of information produced by others."

WHAT WE'RE READING

Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind

A non-Christian elaboration on the idea of Cornelius Van Til that "A little child may slap his father in the face, but it can do so only because the father holds it on his knee."

Tom Holland shows how all of Western Civilization is based on Christian principles and morality, and that even those that rail against it do so from a Christian foundation.



Conferences:

ACCS REPAIRING THE RUINS

June 19-22, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

repairingtheruins.org

CiRCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 17-20, 2024 | Charleston, SC

circeinstitute.org/events/a-contemplation-of-prudence/

We are looking into hosting a remote viewing of this conference



CiRCE's annual online Dwell Conference for women: mothers, homeschooling mothers, teachers, women in all stages of life.

Over four sessions in April, participants will contemplate Psalm 90, and be encouraged to continue the good work that is before them as they seek to nurture their families and create a home in which the beauty of the Lord dwells.

more info:

<https://circeinstitute.org/events/2024-dwell-online-conference/>

REPETITIO MATER MEMORIAE

EVERY MONTH, I USE THIS COLUMN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS I HEAR REPEATEDLY FROM PARENTS. THIS MONTH'S SYNOPSIS COMES FROM THE QUESTION "I SEE THAT MY CHILD IS REPEATING A (BOOK, YEAR OF LATIN, YEAR OF WRITING, EXERCISE IN RECITATION, ETC). WHY DO YOU ASK STUDENTS TO REPEAT MATERIAL THAT THEY'VE ALREADY LEARNED IN A PREVIOUS YEAR?" THE ANSWER LIES WITHIN THE CLASSICAL PRINCIPLE OF REPETITIO MATER MEMORIAE, OR, REPETITION IS THE MOTHER OF MEMORY.

THERE ARE MYRIAD PRACTICAL REASONS TO REPEAT CONTENT FROM PREVIOUS YEARS. SOME I'VE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF TEACHING ARE: MEMORY IS FALLIBLE, SO WE NEED TO REPEAT MANY TIMES BEFORE WE REMEMBER ACCURATELY, WE WANT STUDENTS TO REMEMBER WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED OVER LONG PERIODS OF TIME, WE NEED TO COMBAT THE MEMORY DULLING EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA. ALL OF THESE ARE TRUE. BUT, AS WITH ALL THINGS CLASSICAL, THE ANSWER AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL OTHER ANSWERS IS "BECAUSE WE ARE TRAINING CHILDREN TO LOVE THE RIGHT THINGS." AND REPETITION IS A MOTHER - IS THERE A BETTER AND MORE RIGHT THING TO LOVE THAN A MOTHER?

AT ITS CORE, REPETITION IS A SEARCH FOR WHAT ONE PREVIOUSLY FOUND AND LOVED. THE LATIN WORD LITERALLY MEANS "A SEEKING AGAIN." HUMAN BEINGS HAVE THE TENDENCY TO LOSE WHAT WE LOVE, AND TO FORGET WHAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER. THUS, WE MUST SEEK OUT WHAT IS LOVELY AGAIN AND AGAIN, LIKE THOSE WHO WANDER IN THE DESERT LOOKING FOR THE WELL, OR THE WOMAN IN LUKE'S GOSPEL WHO LOST ONE OF HER TEN SILVER COINS. NO ONE WOULD CLAIM THAT A WRITING CURRICULUM OR A MATH TEXTBOOK IS THE SAME AS DISCOVERING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOL, THE CHOSEN CURRICULUM AND DECISIONS TO REPEAT IT ARE DECISIONS TO RETURN TO SKILLS AND IDEAS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST WORTHY OF INTELLECTUAL LOVE AND FOCUS.

IN HIS UPCOMING BOOK, CHRIS PERRIN ADDRESSES A COMMON CONCERN WITH REPETITION. HE SAYS, "IT IS TRUE THAT REPETITION, REVIEW, AND RECITATION CAN BE TURNED INTO DREARY EXERCISES THAT FAIL TO CULTIVATE WONDER, LOVE, AND ATTENTION IN STUDENTS. ANY GOOD PRINCIPLE OR PRACTICE CAN BE DISTORTED AND MISAPPLIED. WE COULD EASILY RE-TEACH A LESSON OR A BOOK WITHOUT CULTIVATING LOVE. BUT LET US CONSIDER WHAT REPETITION AS A PRINCIPLE REALLY IS. IT IS NOT MERE REPETITION FOR REPETITION'S SAKE. IT IS NOT TEACHING THE SAME THING, THE SAME WAY, OVER AND OVER. IT IS NOT FORCING STUDENTS TO DO WHAT'S UNPLEASANT AND IRRELEVANT TO THEIR LIVES BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS "GOOD FOR THEM" LIKE EATING BROCCOLI OR TAKING MEDICINE."



The Lost Drachma (La drachme perdue) by James Tissot

SINCE WE ARE CAPABLE OF FORCING BROCCOLI, IN OUR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PARTNER WELL WITH PARENTS AND THEIR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES, IF YOU NOTICE THE SCHOOL HAS MADE A DECISION TO REPEAT A TEXT OR A LESSON, IT IS LESS WORTH ASKING "WHY THE REPETITION?" BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE ANSWER ABOVE. IT IS MUCH MORE VALUABLE TO ASK "IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPETITION TO RETURN TO WHAT IS MOST WORTHY OF LOVE?" OR, "IS THIS TEXT YOU PROPOSE TO REPEAT TEACHING A CENTRALLY IMPORTANT SKILL OR IDEA?" THOSE QUESTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE THE SILVER AND GOLD WE HOPE TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN AS AN INHERITANCE.