

Student Life Newsletter

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER EDITION

Upcoming Events

- 8th Grade field trip
Nov. 9th
- No School Nov. 10th
- High School Theater
Production
Nov. 16th-18th
- Thanksgiving Chapel
Nov. 21st@1:30 in the
WEC
- Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 22nd-24th
- 11th Grade GCU Trip
Nov. 27th
- 8th & 9th Grade Café
Night Dec. 7th @
6:30 in the WEC
- Junior High & High
School Christmas
Party Dec. 13th

Seniors

- Senior Consults Nov.
13th-17th
- Elk Scholarship
www.arizonaelksociety.org
- Email: scholarships@arizonaelksociety.org



“So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building .”

~1st Cor. 3:7-9

Cultivating Virtue: Meditating on the Excellent and Praiseworthy

By Mr. Chris Orr

Webster defines “cultivating” as “preparing for the raising of crops or loosening and breaking up the soil for growing plants”. We understand that for a field to grow, it requires loosening and tilling the soil, removing weeds, adding fertilizer, and maintaining a consistent supply of water. As we go about this school year, the hope to “foster the growth of virtue”.

Then what is virtue. Philippians 4:8 says, “if anything is virtuous and praiseworthy, meditate on these things”. The Greek word is *arete* meaning “moral goodness”. In Greek philosophy, arete or virtue is often connected to *phronesis* (practical wisdom) and leads to *eudaimonia* or human flourishing. This connects closely to Augustine’s description of virtue as rightly ordering loves or loving everything in creation according to its proper relationship with God. If anything is of moral value or goodness, we should meditate or think deeply on such things.

So to put our theme together, “we are striving to foster the growth of moral goodness or rightly ordered loves by meditating or thinking deeply on things worthy of our thought, “things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and of good reputation.” But we are not to stop there, as Philippians 4:9 adds to this, if we “practice these things, the God of peace will be with us.” Warren Wiersbe puts these ideas together like this, “Peace involves the heart and the mind. God will keep the one in perfect peace whose mind remains on Him; because this one trusts Him (Isaiah 26:3).

Wrong thinking leads to wrong feelings and before long the heart and the mind are pulled apart, and we are strangled by worry and fear.

We must realize that thoughts are real and powerful, even though they cannot be seen, weighed or measured. We must bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5)... Right thinking is the result of consistent meditation on the Word of God.

Ephesians 4:17-32 points out the importance and the interconnectedness of the heart and the mind. The nations walk in the futility (uselessness) of the mind and their hearts are hardened and callous to the true, good, and beautiful. But you, Christ follower, did not learn or understand Him or His ways like this. The Christ follower rather renews the mind, putting off the old and putting on the new and is tender-hearted to what is true, good, and beautiful, willing to genuinely love and forgive others as a reflection of what Christ has done for us. The Christ follower with the renewed mind and the tender heart replaces falsehood with truth. The Christ follower does not sin by letting the sun go down on his or her anger, but deals with it while it is still day to leave the devil no opportunity to get a foothold. The Christ follower does not steal or cheat, but works honestly in their labor in order not only to provide for themselves, but for others. He or she replaces unwholesome words with edifying words. The Christ follower puts away bitterness, wrath, and slander and replaces it with kindness, forgiveness, and compassion.



TRINITY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL