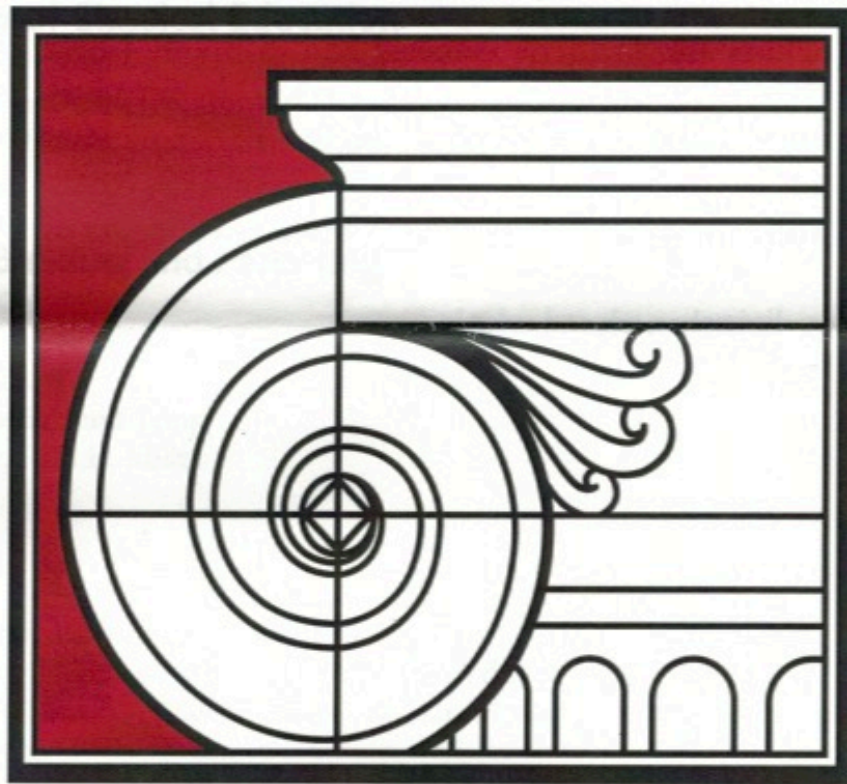


RECOMMENDED READING LIST



ROCKBRIDGE

A C A D E M Y

OUR MISSION

To assist parents in providing students with an extraordinary education, by means of an integrated curriculum, pedagogy, and culture, which are distinctly classical and distinctly Christian, that pursue goodness, truth, and beauty in all spheres of life, while viewing these as elements of a divinely ordered whole.

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ROCKBRIDGE ACADEMY RECOMMENDED READING LIST

(rev. May 2019)

Theory of Classical Education

- *Classical Me, Classical Thee*, Rebekah Merkle
- *Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child*, Cheryl Swope
- *Beauty for Truth's Sake: On the Re-enchantment of Education*, Stratford Caldecott
- *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, Douglas Wilson
- *The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis

Methodology of Classical Education

- *The Seven Laws of Teaching*, John Milton Gregory
- *Teaching to Change Lives*, Dr. Howard Hendricks
- *Repairing the Ruins*, Douglas Wilson, Editor

Community Building and Parenting

- *Peacemakers*, Ken Sande
- *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Parenting*, Paul Tripp
- *Age of Opportunity*, Paul Tripp
- *A Praying Life*, Paul E. Miller

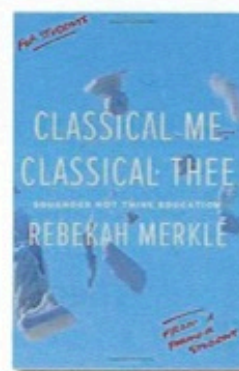
Enrichment

- *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, Eric Metaxas
- *Martin Luther: A Spiritual Biography*, Herman Selderhuis
- *Invitation to the Classics: A Guide to Books You Have Always Wanted to Read*, Louise Cowan, Os Guinness
- *Honey for a Child's Heart*, Gladys Hunt
- *How to be Free From Bitterness*, Jim Wilson
- *Reading Between the Lines*, Gene Edward Veith, Jr.

Theory of Classical Education

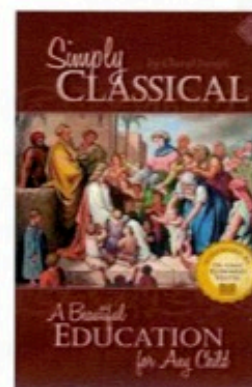
Classical Me, Classical Thee

You know the benefit of a classical education, but does your student? Like the proverbial fish that doesn't know he is in water, your child thinks *his* education is just like everyone else's. He is unaware of the intentionality of the process, the deliberate effort at making him into a certain kind of *person*—not a product, or even a productive person, but a fully orbbed human being equipped to lead others to that end. Written for students by a (former) student, *Classical Me, Classical Thee* is light-hearted and—most importantly for busy high-schoolers—very short. It has a simple goal: to explain why your students are doing what they do [a classical Christian school].



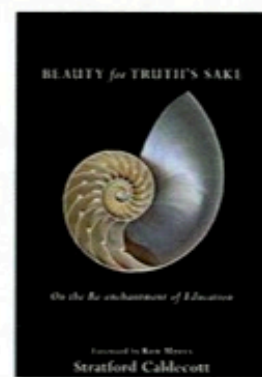
Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child

In her book *Simply Classical: A Beautiful Education for Any Child*, Cheryl Swope paints a beautiful picture of what classical Christian education is, and how it can benefit any child, including those with special needs. While some may argue that classical education is best suited for high achieving students, Mrs. Swope gives real life examples of how the Trivium can be adapted to meet children where they are developmentally whether in school or in a homeschool setting. Mrs. Swope also shares helpful information on educational evaluations, special education terminology, and modification ideas for children with special needs. Whether you have a special needs child, are a teacher, or just want to understand classical education better, *Simply Classical* is an informative, well written book that will be a valuable resource to have on your bookshelf.



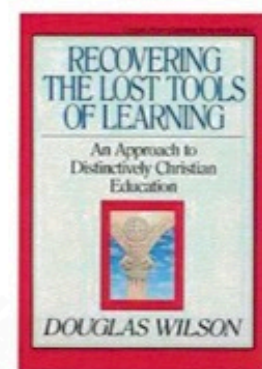
Beauty for Truth's Sake

Go online and read the gushing reviews of this book for yourself. The following comments from Ralph McInerny at University of Notre Dame are reflective of many, "[*Beauty for Truth's Sake is*] a book that addresses the soul, mind, spirit, and will. It is an extended meditation on the sources of becoming more human that inevitably relate humanity to God. It is about education, spiritual maturing, and a lifetime vocation of learning. It is a wise book, an inspiring book, a beautiful book." Author Stratford Caldecott does all this in a scant 160 pages. This book offers a high return on a small investment of time and effort. Go get it!



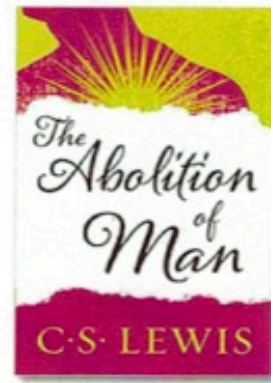
Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning

Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning is a seminal book of the classical Christian school movement. Published in 1991, the book remains a foundational treatise on the value of what Dorothy Sayers identified in her 1940 essay as the "lost tools of learning." In a few short years after publication, the book spurred the formation of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) and the establishment of more than one hundred like-minded schools. Author Doug Wilson, a founding board member and teacher in the Logos school in Moscow, ID pinpoints weaknesses inherent in today's mainstream education, then expounds the strengths and benefits of the classical model known as the Trivium. If you are new to classical Christian education, this book is a great place to start!



The Abolition of Man

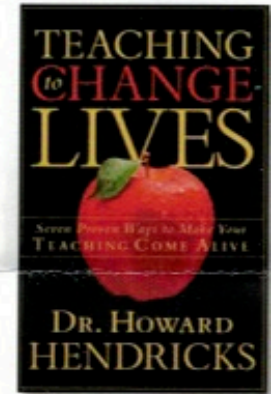
"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.... By starving the sensibility of our pupils we only make them easier prey for the propagandist when he comes." Thus, C. S. Lewis carries on his argument against an education driven by "men without chests"—men who assert their intelligence, but whose heads are no bigger than others: it is only their shriveled hearts that make them so. In *The Abolition of Man*, Lewis begins by decrying the kind of literary instruction that many of us were subject to: an instruction that focuses on technique and ignores—even deplores—the emotional attachment and moral instruction that good literature (and good history and good philosophy and good math) promote. This short book, written before Lewis finally succumbed to the call of Christ, is both an excellent defense of and a call to delight in what is true, beautiful, and good, wherever that may be found.



Methodology of Classical Education

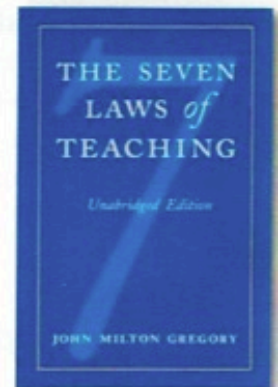
Teaching to Change Lives

How does one become a great teacher? Open the pages of this book by Dr. Howard Hendricks from Dallas Theological Seminary. His words will transform your teaching. Dr. Hendricks has taken the proven "Seven Laws of Teaching" from John Milton Gregory and infused God's Word and a sense of humor. This book was the answer to one teacher's personal prayer, "Lord help me teach my class in a way that will give my students a passion for God's Word!" Within a few weeks of this prayer, God put this book in the teacher's path. Perhaps this is *your* prompting. Pick up a copy. You won't be disappointed. May this book challenge and inspire you as it has so many. Happy reading!



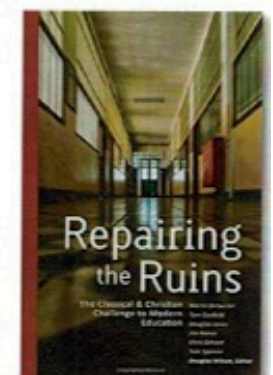
The Seven Laws of Teaching

John Milton Gregory's classic work first published in 1884 is mandatory reading for Rockbridge teachers and should be part of the curriculum for all schools training teachers. That it is still being reprinted (the 10th printing was in 2003) is a testimony to the timeless value of the author's Biblical wisdom contained within its pages. There are times when the old ways are the best ways and this book is one of those. Of note, this book isn't just for the teaching profession: it is also an excellent training manual for pastors, Bible teachers and Sunday school teachers.



Repairing the Ruins

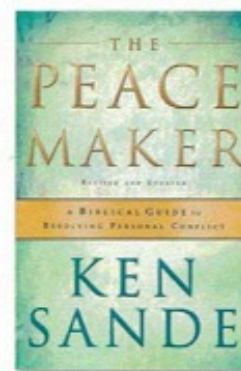
This is an excellent volume of essays by various authors and edited by Douglas Wilson presenting the philosophy and practical "how to's" of classical Christian education. Anyone interested in recovering excellence in education will benefit from reading this book. Wilson clearly demonstrates the need for Christians to return to their God given duty to train up their children in the ways of God in order to have a biblical worldview. What he says is profound and enlightening, and he expresses it in a logical way that will cause you to think deeply about education.



Community Building and Parenting

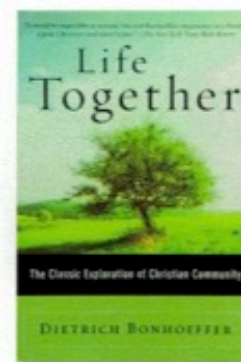
The Peacemaker

Ever heard someone comment that they love everything about their community—except the people? Did you laugh and nod knowingly? Enter *The Peacemaker*, Ken Sande's "comprehensive and practical theology for conflict resolution designed to bring about not only a cease-fire but also unity and harmony. Sande takes readers beyond resolving conflicts to true, life-changing reconciliation. Biblically based, *The Peacemaker* is full of godly wisdom and useful suggestions that are easily applied to any relationship needing reconciliation." Because we know any Christian community is also a community of recovering sinners, we highly recommend this valuable resource for navigating and resolving the inevitable conflicts that arise where important relationships exist.



Life Together

The back cover of this slim volume explains how "This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship." We would only add a hearty, "Read it!"



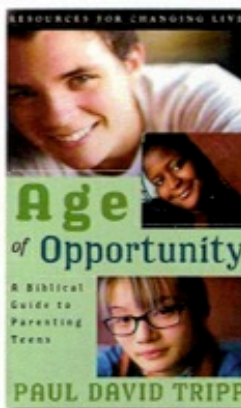
Parenting

Feeling pressure to do everything *right* as a parent? Who doesn't? But who can? Only God and, thankfully, he gives wisdom and grace generously. In this transformative book, Paul Tripp takes parents through 14 Gospel-grounded principles that jettison the to-do list in favor of the "big-picture view of God's plan for us as parents." In a genre that is overflowing, *Parenting* is one book that can save you the effort of reading many others.



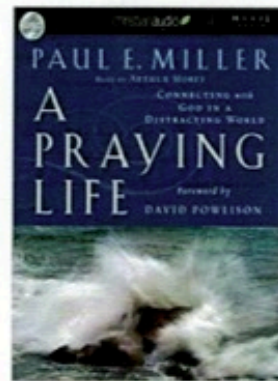
The Age of Opportunity

Paul Tripp doesn't pull any punches in this outstanding book that challenges parents to be more deliberate and intentional about their parenting. The primary emphasis of the book is getting through to parents that raising children is not about how they look, how well they score on some standardized test, or how many touch-downs they score, but ultimately if they have a heart for God. Tripp first deals with the perspective of parents on this issue refocusing them on what is really important, and then he dives in to encourage parents to pursue their teens and accept this stage of parenting as a God-given opportunity instead of dreading it and working to avoid it at all costs. One theme constantly running through *Age of Opportunity* is the emphasis given to conversation—parents making the effort to talk with their children. This is an outstanding, easy-to-read, biblically sound, challenging and encouraging book.



A Praying Life

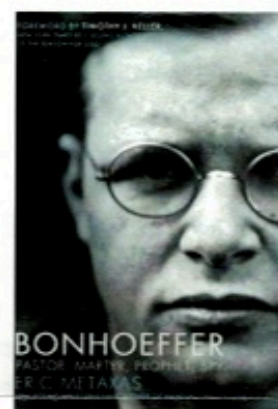
Author Paul Miller explains how a healthy young child has no embarrassment about asking for things—loudly, repeatedly, and with full assurance that this father hears him and will answer. Even more, the child is unashamed to tell his friends that he's asking and expecting his father to come through in a big way. The child sees his dad as Superman. *A Praying Life* calls us to return to that childlike attitude toward our Heavenly Father. He reminds us that asking is a principle of the kingdom. It is good for us to ask for help and forgiveness, among other things. When we do, we come near to God. We can ask with boldness, right in the midst of real life. If you have forgotten how to do this, let this book be a refresher.



Enrichment

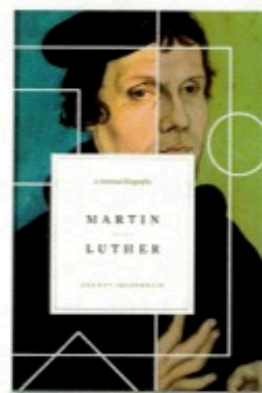
Bonhoeffer

We all need inspiration. Surely the heroes of the Bible are a constant source and placed there as a picture of a powerful God continually willing to use his image-bearing creatures to purpose good and combat evil. In Dietrich Bonhoeffer we recognize that inspiration is a call to action. Author Eric Metaxas “presents Bonhoeffer’s heart-wrenching decision to leave the safe haven of America to return to Hitler’s Germany, and sheds new light on Bonhoeffer’s involvement in the famous Valkyrie plot and in ‘Operation 7,’ the effort to smuggle Jews into neutral Switzerland.” These decisions ultimately led to Bonhoeffer’s execution in a Nazi concentration camp. Metaxas’ book is a “deeply moving narrative of one man’s incredible moral courage in the face of monstrous evil.” Read and respond.



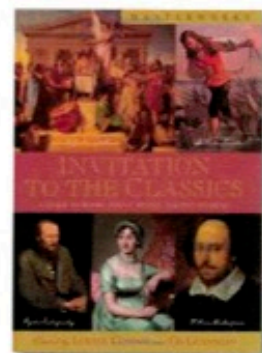
Martin Luther

“Combining Luther’s own words with engaging narrative designed to draw the reader into Luther’s world, this spiritual biography brings to life the complex and dynamic personality that forever changed the history of the church.” So reads the book jacket for another inspirational figure, eminently human like us—fearful and flawed, yet used of God to effect arguably the most pivotal event in church history. As one critic states, “The complexity of Luther is staggering, but Herman Selderhuis has given us a detailed portrait of the reformer that captures both his blemishes and the beauty of his faith in Christ. This book is a fascinating read about one of the most significant figures of history. Both students of Christian history and admirers of Reformation theology will find it helpful.” What are you waiting for?



Invitation to the Classics

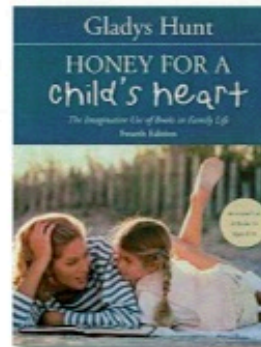
When you just can’t make up your mind what to read, look here: The “authors of this lively collection, believe that the classics are indispensable for an understanding of Western society and human nature. Editors Os Guinness and Louise Cowan gather over 50 brief essays by a number of respected Christian literary scholars that extend invitations to readers to experience anew or for the first time the wonder and the beauty of selected classics. Each essay contains a biographical and historical sketch, a summary of the work being considered, sugges-



tions and bibliographies for further study and questions raised by the text about the interaction of Christian faith and society. The selections range from the *Iliad* to Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* and Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*. Genres covered range from Shakespeare's plays and Milton's epic poetry to Martin Luther's theological writings and Alexis de Tocqueville's travel writings." If the prospect of delving into the vast Western Canon seems daunting, let this book lead the way.

Honey for a Child's Heart

Revolutionize your child's love of reading! This long-time favorite by Gladys Hung encourages Christian parents to read to their children and gives specific recommendations. It includes both classic and current literature and provides recommendations for babies and children up through age 12.



How To Be Free From Bitterness

Bitterness is a root that has defiled many. There are, however, biblical principles we can apply to the problem of bitterness. This collection of essays edited by James Wilson addresses this theme. The first essay is the centerpiece and worth far more than the price of this book. Wilson goes in to a careful analysis of what bitterness is, how to detect it, how it affects us, how the non-Christian world deals with it (ineffectively), and how Christians are to respond. Other essays deal with related topics, especially bitterness toward parents. It is clearly written and gives clear and practical guidance for dealing with bitterness based on Scripture.



Reading Between the Lines

Here is a guidebook for those who want to learn how to recognize books that are spiritually and aesthetically good—to cultivate good literary taste. Gene Edward Veith, Jr. presents basic information to help book lovers understand what they read—from the classics to the bestsellers. He explains how the major genres of literature communicate. He explores ways comedy, tragedy, realism, and fantasy can portray the Christian worldview. These discussions lead to a host of related topics—the value of fairy tales for children, the tragic and the comic sense of life, the interplay between Greek and Biblical concepts in the imagination, and the new "post-modernism" (a subject of vital importance to Christians). Veith provides clear insight and sound logic in urging readers to really look at what is explicitly on and in the pages of literature.

