



## Introduction to Classical Education with Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lesson 12: How to  
Read Well (Dr. Perrin's  
Top 55 Books on  
Classical Ed)

### Outline:

You are what you read

- Repent and read.
- We read to access wisdom of those who have gone before us.
- Authors from the past live in books and can live in us (from *Sailing Around the Room* by Billy Collins).
- Petrarch collected lost letters of Cicero and he wrote letters back to Cicero. He began to write confessions back to Augustine.

Read Well

- Read slowly to possess books. Aquinas said to beware of the man of one book. It is better to read a few books and to read them well.
- Lectio Divina/Attentive Reading: This is a Christian tradition of reading, meditating, and contemplating on scripture passages.
- Skimming: C.S. Lewis said that we ought not to feel obligated to read every chapter of every book. Determine what we should actually take in.
- Reading on a Schedule: We should map out our reading. The majority of the books that you read should have been carefully selected and planned for (80% should be planned, and 20% should be whatever you want).
- Reading Syntopically: Read several books at once integrated by a common theme or topic.
- Reading with Others: Be in reading groups to discuss and enjoy perspectives of others.
- Taking Notes Well: Write notes and page numbers in the front of the book, read notes at front to recall the essence of what the book had to give. Write in your books.