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more on

Higher Education

*The Future of Christian Learning: An Evangelical and Catholic Dialogue** (2008) by Mark Noll and James Turner is published by Brazos Press. Stanley Fish's *Save the World on Your Own Time** (2008) is published by Oxford University Press. In his introduction to the interview with Mark Noll, Ken Myers alluded to comments by Josef Pieper and Robert Jenson. The book by Pieper he was referencing is *Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power** (Ignatius, 1992), in which Pieper observes: "The natural habitat of truth is found in interpersonal communication. Truth lives in dialogue, in discussion, in conversation." The Robert Jenson citation was to an essay in his 1995 book, *Essays in Theology of Culture** (Eerdmans), which contains several insightful essays developing a theology of education. These include a 1979 article entitled "What Academic Difference Would the Gospel Make?" which begins: "Clearly, Christian claims must make some difference to higher education, since the history of higher education since the mid-seventeenth century is almost entirely the history of attempts to escape them." He later argues that "conversation between the gospel and our sundry pursuits of worldly knowledge must be important to both sides—if, that is, the gospel is true. . . . If the gospel is true, there can therefore be no human pursuit to which it is irrelevant, and so no department of a college or university that cannot with profit to its own enterprise confer with the gospel's messengers." In "The Triunity of Truth," Jenson argues that if colleges and universities are not concerned with the unity of truth, "they will not be communally concerned with anything else." He goes on to argue that "the question of the unity of truth is inescapably a *theological* problem." Other essays in this volume include "On the Renewing of the Mind: Reflections on the Calling of Christian Intellectuals," "The Intellectual and the Church," "Hope, the Gospel, and the Liberal Arts," and "The Political Arts and the Churchly Colleges." The Wendell Berry essay cited by Ken Myers after the Stanley Fish interview is "The Loss of the University," which is contained in *Home Economics** (North Point Press, 1987). The numerous observations from Mark Schwehn about Max Weber are from Schwehn's book, *Exiles from Eden: Religion and the Academic Vocation in America** (Oxford University Press, 1993). Schwehn is also the editor of an anthology of readings on teaching and learning called *Everyone a Teacher** (Notre Dame, 2001). Mark Noll's co-author, James Turner, has written at least two

Disc 1

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Mark Noll**, on how Christian higher education is aided by a commitment to something like "Christendom," a commitment to the assumption that the Gospel has consequences for all of life and all of social experience
- 3 Stanley Fish**, on how university professors should refrain from bringing their own political, philosophical, and religious commitments into the classroom

Disc 2

- 1 James Peters**, on how Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Pascal, and many others had an understanding of the nature and purpose of reason quite different from the common modern understanding
- 2 Scott Moore**, on cultivating an understanding of politics that goes beyond mere statecraft, and on the limits of the notion of "rights"
- 3 Makoto Fujimura**, on how his work as a painter is enriched by writing, why artists need to cultivate an attentiveness to many things, and how visual language expresses experience

* An asterisk means that the book is in print; if you wish to purchase it from our friends at Splintered Light Books, call

other important books on the shape of higher education. One is *Language, Religion, Knowledge: Past and Present** (Notre Dame, 2003). One of the themes of the essays in this book is the effect of academic specialization on the fragmentation of knowledge and the encouragement of the assumption that knowledge is necessarily fragmentary. In Turner's analysis, this development in higher education intersects with "the splintering of the Protestant framework that traditionally encased American colleges." The other book by Turner, co-written with Jon H. Roberts, is *The Sacred and the Secular University** (Princeton, 2000), which examines more closely this link between secularization and specialization in education. The exchange between Stanley Fish and Fr. Richard John Neuhaus on religion and liberalism was contained in the February 1996 issue of *First Things*; the text of this exchange is available at the magazine's website. See also Stanley Fish's blog entry for September 2, 2007, called "Liberalism and Secularism: One and the Same."

Other Works Mentioned

James Peters's *The Logic of the Heart: Augustine, Pascal, and the Rationality of Faith** (2009) is published by Baker Academic. Scott Moore's *The Limits of Liberal Democracy: Politics and Religion at the End of Modernity** (2009) is published by InterVarsity Press. Makoto Fujimura's *Refractions: A Journey of Faith, Art, and Culture** (2009) is published by NavPress. The *First Things* symposium on "The End of Democracy?" was published in November 1996. Spence Publishing released two anthologies prompted by this debate, *The End of Democracy?* and *The End of Democracy? II*.

The **MARS HILL AUDIO** *Journal* is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The *Journal* is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

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