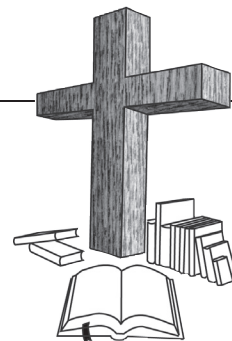


LOGOS LIGHT

Logos Studies Newsletter
Spring Term 2009



Walk Theology

by Gary Hough

No doubt all of us can cite examples of things-in-combination that help or hinder our God-given, essential human functions – desirable human activities. Sometimes two good and desirable things, in immediate combination, are at cross-purposes with our at-the-moment goal. The eminently quotable Winston Churchill once said, “*The most difficult things for a man to do are to climb a mountain leaning towards you, to kiss a girl leaning away from you, and to make an after-dinner speech*”.

As an avid, even aggressive, swimmer from a very young age, in those early days in the ocean surf of Southern California, I remember my mom’s maxim repeated daily (for she was usually at the beach too), “Wait an hour after lunch before swimming again or you’ll get cramps and drown”. Incidentally, over the years, last I heard, it had been reduced to 15 or 20 minutes. So, food: good; swimming: good, but not too closely combined.

Similarly, as Sir Churchill remarks, thinking – and teaching – is best not done on a full stomach. And, near as I can tell, wisdom has it that you can’t have good sex on a full stomach (“full stomach” in the sense of your own being too full!). The stomach, for digestion’s sake, uses blood presently needed elsewhere, just as the swimmer’s muscles and the thinker’s brain aren’t getting the circulation that the full maw demands.

I’ve reason to believe that good, clear thinking is helped appreciably while walking. This combination is what makes the peripatetics, the walking teachers, the peripatetics.

The Greek word is a compound word: the preposition, *peri*, meaning around, and *pateo*, walk, or *patos*, path. The peripatetics were those teachers known for their method of teaching while walking. The most famous prototypes were Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. The ancient Israelite rabbis also used the method, culminating in Jesus, who is, no doubt, the Teacher of Teachers. The gospels are replete with such phrases as, “And while [Jesus and the disciples] were on their way, they were discussing...”

I’ve enjoyed this experience thousands of times over the past 30 years of teaching all sorts of people. C.S. Lewis thrived on peripatetic discussions with friends, walking in the countryside, exploring the “highlands of thought, agreeing and disagreeing thunderously.”

His earlier (by a generation) kindred spirit, G.K. Chesterton, said that Christians of whatever tradition or denomination finally accept the Apostle’s Creed as essential, but the rest, all the elaborations and sectarian parsings, are up for debate and argumentation ‘til kingdom come. It can be fun, good sport and profoundly edifying; yea, life changing!

Would you join us? Can you argue, as in discuss simply, peaceably and persuasively, what you believe and why? Or do you prefer to listen to others doing so? That’s good too! And by all means, all religious and atheistic perspectives are welcome. We’ll meet at the Oak Creek McDonald Forest trailhead on these beautiful Spring afternoons at 3:30 on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays (beginning April 14) and walk for an hour or two. *You choose which day(s) are*

continued on back...

Spring Quarter Offerings

Peripatetics

Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays
Beginning April 14
3:30 pm, Oak Creek Trailhead

St. Francis of Assisi

by G.K. Chesterton

Reading and discussion group
Thursdays, beginning May 7
7:00 - 9:00pm, Ella Hirsh’s House

About Us

Logos Studies is a nondenominational Christian ministry receiving no government or university funding and relying solely on volunteer contributions for support. To learn more about our activities or how you can help, please call or write: (541) 754-3256
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Editor's Note

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best for you. Please call 754-3256 by 2:30pm whenever you plan to join us.

Sometimes, with St. Francis, we may simply end up walking in silence, listening to the bird song and the frolicsome music of the creek.

There are no prerequisites other than liking the exchange of beliefs and ideas, and enjoying this lovely land.

The trailhead may be found by heading West on Harrison. Continue West from 53rd (Harrison has become Oak Creek Rd.), bearing to the right at the "Y" (about two miles from 53rd), and continuing North on Oak Creek Rd. for about a mile to the gate.

St. Francis of Assisi

Reading Group: Enjoy the "Merry Month of May" with St. Francis, God's Clown.

We'll read a biography of St. Francis by G.K. Chesterton, *St. Francis of Assisi*, at Ella Hirsh's house on Thursday evenings in May, beginning May 7, from 7 – 9pm. Call 754-3256 for more information.

LOGOSLIGHT



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*"God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."*

--1st Corinthians 1:25

