

Serious Conversations about the West Post-Forum Seminar

Although it is fashionable to downplay the great texts from European culture, they still speak powerfully to our identity and our thought. In this Post-Forum Seminar we shall inductively discuss portions from some of the most significant books that have marked the West. Drawing-out their implications for a better understanding of how Europeans conceive of life, we will suggest positive ways to respond with the Gospel, using apologetic persuasion. Below are the excerpts we will ponder. Ideally participants should read the entire book(s); but these are the minimum selections.

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Two confessions, two worldviews:

Augustine, *The Confessions* Books I-IV (best, the Pine-Coffin translation; others are OK)
Albert Camus, *The Fall*, pp. 3-71 (Vintage - O'Brien translation)

Two from the dawn of modernity

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 15-21
Martin Luther, *The Freedom of the Christian*, entire (the Tranvik translation is good)

Two on being good without God

Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, V/5 ("The Grand Inquisitor")
Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, III/125 ("The Madman")