

MY ORTHODOX NOTEBOOK
ANSWERS TO PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORTHODOX WAY OF
LIFE

No. 7 - On Spiritual Reading

Question 1: WHAT IS REAL EDUCATION?

Everyone today talks about the importance of “education,” and billions of dollars are wasted, billions of precious hours of human time are wasted, on an educational system that grows worse and worse every year. Why is this?

IT IS BECAUSE THE TRUE FOUNDATION OF ALL EDUCATION IS THE WORD OF GOD, AND THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT ‘EDUCATORS’ DENY AND DRIVE OUT OF THE SCHOOLS. THUS ALL ATTEMPTS AT ‘REFORMING’ EDUCATION ARE USELESS AND DOOMED, AND THEY WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO GREATER AND GREATER DARKNESS AND CHAOS IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND THE LIFE OF SOCIETY IN GENERAL.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS? THE FIRST STEP IS A SIMPLE ONE, TOTALLY WITHIN OUR CONTROL: WE MUST ESTABLISH THE DAILY HABIT OF READING THE WORD OF GOD, THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS, AND OTHER SPIRITUAL READING.

Our holy father, St. Nikodimos of the Holy Mountain, says that the study of Divine Scripture is the highest and truest science:

“Divine Scripture is the Divine Science that makes us more educated than all the philosophers, more wise than all the moralists and political theorists; and it alone transforms us from carnal, natural, and wretched into holy, spiritual, and blessed.” (from *Spiritual Exercises*, p. 284 of 1800 Venice edition).

No matter how smart or educated we think we are, we will be moral and spiritual idiots if we never read the Holy Scriptures and other sacred writings. We are rational sheep in the flock of Christ, and we **MUST** exercise our **MINDS** in reading sacred writings in order to understand, to be inspired by, to be transformed by, and, in short, to practice, our Faith.

The idea that a person can become or remain a true Christian merely by accident of birth, by inertia, out of habit, without study and without understanding,

