**Space Coast Fellows Book Club:**

 **The Life of the Mind**

**Who: Everyone is invited** to join the Space Coast Fellows & Rev. Dr. Jason Carter

**Location & Time :** 2:00–4:00 pm, Once/Month, select Sunday afternoons

**Purpose:** These books are not my “favorite” books nor are these books the ones that singularly “marked” my life spiritually.[[1]](#footnote-1) These are books that you might not read during your earthly pilgrimage yet for a seasoned pastor pointing you to *tolle lege, tolle lege* (“take up and read, take up and read”). Several of them are classics. Classics which not only are accessible to modern Christians but also are books which have shaped saints in the church for centuries. C.S. Lewis is famous for recognizing the “chronological snobbery” of the modern age (i.e. “recent is better”). The church is no exception.

Thus, we endeavor to read three of the five greatest theologians in the history of the church: Augustine, Luther, and Calvin.[[2]](#footnote-2) Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together and Cost of Discipleship* are quickly becoming “modern classics” of the 20th century. *Christ and Culture* by Richard Niebuhr became a veritable cottage industry for various syntheses, rebuttals, and follow-ups about how believers relate to the nebulous “culture” all around them; a typology can be helpful in an age of contentious divisiveness.

The Space Coast Fellows program centers on the intersection and integration of “work & faith”. Thus, *Every Good Endeavor* by a modern Reformed author (Tim Keller) who worked in the heart of New York City is a good place to start. Finally, Henry Nouwen takes you down into the heart; any number of his books are “soul food”; *Return of the Prodigal Son* and *Wounded Healer* are two good places to start as any.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Classics**

September 15 – *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

October 20 - *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Work and Faith**

November 3 – [*Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Work*](https://www.amazon.com/Every-Good-Endeavor-Connecting-Your/dp/1594632820/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=3EX55O4MLCP64&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.ayLrKwj7L_YnXEa7I9mywmWmxFP4mhbU48UvjXdTrHSj1FDJO1Cg2IPuLIcWj2QyaNG0Rnev-acC5NTJSV8c_2sbEp2YnXhKsfseKAUGGFrrg0z3al69BCB5L_gb1a-kQFG97GkQ0J1dAOtNosF6eHDaGHXnfEx8NFTtZqpXOo6MpAW59nDTOa272SN3PzNkHQ0mK-4EHlwowxsniwQrtIN8ZdTrIJ1YMfFrvmtImGQ.By14BqrEBlsFZDUBJWgCBLuVU-lC_2xq5V9QeGg1JpY&dib_tag=se&keywords=every+good+endeavor&qid=1724787374&s=books&sprefix=every+good+endeavor+%2Cstripbooks%2C111&sr=1-1) by Tim Keller (led by Rev. Elmer)

**Classics:**

January 19 – *Confessions* by Augustine of Hippo (led by Dr. Todd Bates)

February 16 – *Bondage of the Will* by Martin Luther or *Selected Biography* of Martin Luther

**Christ & Culture**

March TBD – *Christ and Culture* by Richard Niebuhr[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Spirituality Classics:**

April TBD – *Return of the Prodigal Son* & (last chapter of) *Wounded Healer* & by Henri Nouwen

1. Books about Jesus that “marked” my view of Jesus include *Jesus and the Victory of God* (NT Wright) and *Gentle & Lowly* (Dane Ortlund). Books on prayer include *A Praying Life* (Paul Miller), *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home* (Richard Foster), and *Prayer* (O. Hallesby). C.S. Lewis, John Piper, Henry Nouwen, and Larry Crabb (*Papa Prayer, Pressure’s Off, Shattered Dreams*) are all authors who have profoundly shaped my spirituality and faith at different seasons of life. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. St. Thomas Aquinas and Karl Barth would like to have a word with you about rounding out your top five. In addition, Jonathan Edwards is generally considered “America’s greatest theologian”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. We could have gone with *Compassion, Way of the Heart, Reaching Out, In the Name of Jesus, Intimacy.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Other Option to Consider - *How (Not) to be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor* by James K.A. Smith [↑](#footnote-ref-4)