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## Disc 1

### 1 Introduction

- John Milbank**, on the necessity of re-marrying philosophy and theology, and the failure of liberalism to do justice to human nature
- Adrian Pabst**, on the “metacrisis” of liberalism, and how a post-liberal alternative places social order ahead of the State and the Market
- Glenn W. Olsen**, on Christopher Dawson’s understanding of culture and religion

## Disc 2

- Rupert Shortt**, on how scientism misunderstands God and divine action
- Oliver O’Donovan**, on the centrality of love in Christian ethics, the neglected virtues of friendship, and the anti-individualistic consequences of “the common good”
- David Bentley Hart**, on translating the New Testament, and on the delight he enjoys in writing fiction

\* An asterisk means that the book is in print; If you wish to purchase it from our friends at Eighth Day Books, call 1.800.841.2541.

more on

### Liberalism & the politics of virtue

*The Politics of Virtue: Post-Liberalism and the Human Future*\* (2016) by John Milbank and Adrian Pabst is published by Rowman & Littlefield. Adrian Pabst is the editor of *The Crisis of Global Capitalism: Pope Benedict XVI’s Social Encyclical and the Future of Political Economy*\* (Wipf & Stock, 2011). He is also the author of *Metaphysics: The Creation of Hierarchy*\* (Eerdmans, 2012). In “The Gift of Ruling: Secularization and Political Authority,” in *New Blackfriars*, Vol. 85, No. 996 (March 2004), John Milbank observes: “Liberalism is peculiar and unlikely because it proceeds by inventing a wholly artificial human being who has never really existed, and then pretending that we are all instances of such a species. This is the pure individual, thought of in abstraction from his or her gender, birth, associations, beliefs and also, crucially, in equal abstraction from the religious or philosophical beliefs of the observer of this individual as to whether he is a creature made by God, or only material, or naturally evolved and so forth. Such an individual is not only asocial, he is also apsychological; his soul is in every way unspecified. To this blank entity one attaches ‘rights’, which may be rights to freedom from fear, or from material want. . . . The pure liberal individual, as Rousseau and Kant finally concluded, is rather the possessor of a free will. Not a will determined to a good or even open to choosing this or that, but a will to will. The pure ‘nature’ of this individual is his capacity to break with any given nature, even to will against himself. Liberalism then imagines all social order to be either an artifice, the result of various contracts made between such individuals considered in the abstract (Hobbes and Locke) or else as the effect of the way such individuals through their imaginations fantastically project themselves into each other’s lives (roughly the view of the Scottish Enlightenment).”

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### Christopher Dawson

Glenn W. Olsen’s *Supper at Emmaus: Great Themes in Western Culture and Intellectual History*\* (2016) is published by Catholic University Press of America. Olsen’s “Why We Need Christopher Dawson” was published in *Communio*, Spring 2008. See also his essay, “American Culture and Liberal Ideology in the Thought of Christopher Dawson” (*Communio*, Winter, 1995) and his introduction to the new edition of

Dawson’s *The Crisis of Western Education*\* (Catholic University Press of America, 2010). Dawson’s daughter, Christina Scott, wrote a highly praised biography: *A Historian and His World: A Life of Christopher Dawson, 1889-1970* (Sheed & Ward, 1984).

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### Oliver O’Donovan

Oliver O’Donovan’s three-volume “Ethics as Theology” is published by Eerdmans. They are *Self, World, and Time: An Induction*\* (2013), *Finding and Seeking*\* (2014), and *Entering into Rest*\* (2017). His 1988 *Resurrection and Moral Order*\* (Eerdmans) is the first of a pair of book-ends completed by this trilogy; the earlier volume stresses the objectivity of the Christocentric moral field in which we make decisions, while the late trilogy is organized around the theological virtues, thereby affirming the work of the Holy Spirit in ethical reflection and action (in O’Donovan’s own words, “Pentecost and Moral Agency”). In the interim came (among others) *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the Roots of Political Theology*\* (Cambridge, 1996) and *The Ways of Judgment*\* (Eerdmans, 2005). Also note *Common Objects of Love: Moral Reflection and the Shaping of Community*\* (Eerdmans, 2002), perhaps the best introduction to his work.

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### Other books mentioned

Rupert Shortt’s *God Is No Thing: Coherent Christianity*\* (2016) is published by Hurst & Company. David Bentley Hart’s *The New Testament: A Translation*\* (2017) is published by Yale University Press.

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.

If you would like more information about our work, consult our website at [marshillaudio.org](http://marshillaudio.org).

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