



November 2020

Dear listener,

Every year at this time, we invite our listeners to give subscriptions to the **MARS HILL AUDIO** *Journal* to friends, family members, colleagues, and fellow church members and leaders. With these annual invitations there comes a letter-cum-homily crafted to inspire such gifts. Most of these letters make the point that the cultural challenges we face require the sort of thoughtfulness that **MARS HILL AUDIO** has always striven to foster.

This year, let me allow others to make the case for me, two thinkers who have been guests on the *Journal* more than once. First, philosopher D. C. Schindler, who, in a recent article, observed that “times of crisis such as the one in which we live demand a deep diagnosis.” He went on to lament the lethal shallowness that characterizes our time:

Kierkegaard worried that his age was going to swallow itself up in reflection; our age is closer to settling the planet Mars than it has ever come to the experience of reflection. We have not pondered sufficiently the significance of the fact that our public discourse, our collective deliberation of the *res publica*, takes place most commonly now via an activity called “tweeting.”

Second, moral philosopher Oliver O’Donovan wrote in the Introduction to his 2013 book *Self, World, and Time* that “it is the doom of modernity to be bound up in an ever over-simple knowingness about itself! Our own age is the hardest of all ages to understand. It is composed of a mass of popular ideas and perceptions, often difficult to document though they are as familiar as the air we breathe, which acknowledge no duty to be consistent with each other.”

If we hope to make our way faithfully, hopefully, and lovingly in such a world, we need habits of thoughtfulness and the company of wise guides. It has always been the goal of **MARS HILL AUDIO** to introduce such guides in the hope of encouraging such habits.

I hope you agree with me and many other listeners that the *Journal* is a thoughtful gift — in more ways than one.

Advent blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ken Myers
Host and Producer