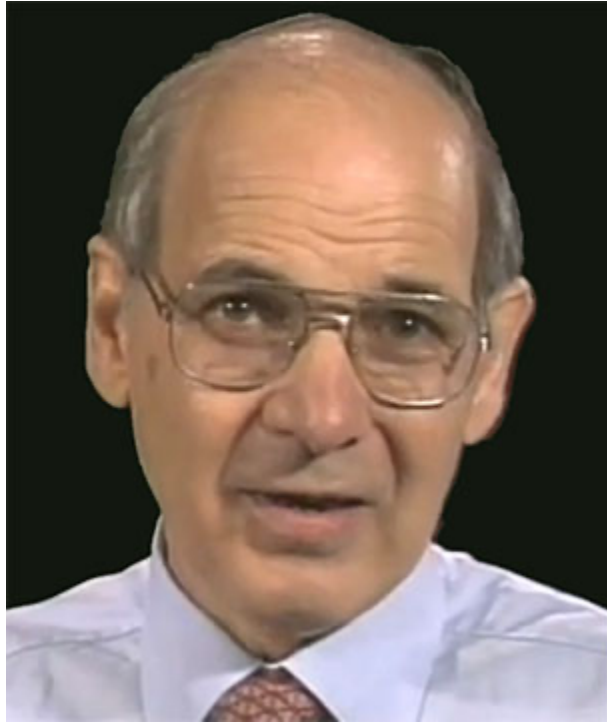


The Eight Deadly Thoughts



On Spiritual Theology -

... one of the things I found there, through all spiritual writers,

that is people who are concerned with bringing to fullness, in our lives, the work of Christ,

and that's the work of God the Holy Spirit, that is why it's called spiritual theology,

to bring the work of Christ to fullness in our lives.

All of them agree that after we are converted we can expect ourselves to be assailed by Eight Deadly Thoughts.

Doctor Diogenese Allen

Video link: https://commons.ptsem.edu/id/0397-2157V_local

“The Eight Deadly Thoughts”, takes its name from one of the chapters in *On Practice* by Evagrius Ponticus (c 346-399), a Desert Father. Dr. Diogenes Allen adopts the same name for this series. Before approaching the content, Professor Allen would approach the context, the genesis of idea. The first video in the series Dr. Allen provides:

Context – a brief sketch of the life of Evagrius

Context – Dr. Allen’s personal genesis, what led him to study spiritual theology – unprepared to make a spiritual evaluation

Content – “Eight Deadly Thoughts:”

- Gluttony – related to the appetites,
- Lust – to desire the
- body of a person and not to desire the person,
- Avarice “Our needs for material goods suggest to the mind a lengthy old age.” “I will not be able to provide for myself.”,
- Sadness – a form of self-pity – all the things I could have become,

- Anger with Sadness “are concerned with our relation to other people”,
- Acedia – discouragement at lack of progress – apathy, boredom,
- Vainglory – wanting the notice of our achievements by others,
- Pride – we take full credit for our achievements – failing to credit God

Content – Gregory shifts “deadly thoughts” to “deadly sins” – Dr. Allen’s retains focus on the eight thoughts of Evagrius – I see this as a quantitative change.

Content – Practice, how to overcome these ‘Deadly Thoughts’ – Lectio Divina – divine reading – 4 steps: read, meditate, pray and contemplate

Diogenes on Spiritual Theology – ” ... one of the things I found there, through all spiritual writers, that is people who are concerned with bringing to fullness, in our lives, the work Christ, and that’s the work God the Holy Spirit, that is why it’s called spiritual theology, to bring the work of Christ to fullness is in our lives. All of them agree that after were converted we can expect ourselves to be assailed by eight deadly thoughts.”

In studying spiritual theology Diogenes considers the shift from “How can we know and love God” to “What can we know about God.” Again Professor Allen looks to the early Church through The Age of Enlightenment. And that is ‘knowing how to love God’ rather than ‘knowing about God.’

Dr. Allen, in the guise of a country parson, cautions us that these thought are not sin when they come. We can still repent, turn from the thought before we take further action. Dr. Allen asserts Christ was tempted and did not sin. These thoughts are temptation. We can repent from these thoughts prior to their becoming sin. This is a benefit.

The body is seen as a benefit. If we were only spirit, our thought would be our action. Thinking deadly thoughts would be equivalent to sin. You have time to repent and turn before you act. You can dwell on these thoughts too long and they can choke off the life of the Spirit in our lives. We can become careless.