



SOPHOMORE HUMANITIES – SUMMER READING

Written Response

Over the summer you read *The Consolation of Philosophy*, a book written by a Christian, medieval philosopher named Boethius. Please read the Penguin Edition with ISBN number 978-0140447804. In this book Boethius tries to come to grips with what another philosopher, William James, called the “live issues”—the issues that make a difference in our lives. Why do I suffer if I know that I don’t deserve it? What does it mean to be really happy? Is there an all-good, all-knowing, all-powerful God? If this God exists then why is there evil in the world? Is everything determined for me, or do I have free will?

Boethius tries to answer these questions without the use of his faith—without the Bible, without the gospel of Jesus Christ. He tries to do so from pure reason alone (with the help of Lady Philosophy of course). This is basically what philosophy is—the love of wisdom.

Think about the question of *ought*. Ought we as Christians do this, go down this path? Should we try and answer these big questions apart from the gospel of Jesus Christ? Or is our faith in the lordship of Jesus Christ really the starting point and really the end point—the only point?

I would like you to write a minimum 1 page essay¹ addressing this last question. This short essay is due the first full week of school.

For this assignment I will be looking for the following:

- 1) A clear thesis statement
- 2) At least two supporting proofs for your claim
- 3) MLA format—the essay needs to be in proper MLA format.
- 4) 2 source citations—following proper MLA source citation guidelines
 - a. I would like one reference to *The Consolation*
 - b. I would like one reference to the Bible²

¹ In addition to minimum one page essay, you will also need to have a Works Cited Page—so really you will turn in a minimum of two pages.

² Hint - Read Colossians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Acts 17: 16-21