All action aims at some good

Every art, science, and choice, Aristotle says, aims at some good. The chief good is the end we want for its own sake, the end that organizes the rest of life.

Happiness is excellent activity

Happiness is not a mood and not a pile of goods. It is the soul's excellent activity, in a complete life, in line with the best virtues we can practice.

Virtue is a formed habit

We become just by doing just acts, and brave by doing brave ones. Virtue is a stable habit, not a single feeling, and it is learned with practice, teachers, and law.

A ONE-PAGE SHEET

The Nicomachean Ethics

Aristotle

C. 340 BC · D. P. CHASE, 1847

"Every art, and every science reduced to a teachable form, and in like manner every action and moral choice, aims, it is thought, at some good:"

BOOK I, CHAPTER 1 · D. P. CHASE, 1847

The mean

For many moral v
courage between
indulgence and a

Friendship

Some friendships
of people who wi
who share a life o

Contemplati

The highest activ
to what is most k
sufficient and the

What a Christian reader should weigh

Aristotle is a careful teacher of habit, the mean, and friendship, and much of that still trains a student well. He has no doctrine of grace, of sin as a broken will, or of ch
a Christian, is God, not a well-formed character alone, however admirable.