

Francis A. Schaeffer: The Early Years, CC587

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Covenant Theological Seminary

Course Information

I. Course Description

Identification of the biblical emphases in the thought and life of Francis A. Schaeffer with focus on the development of his early ministry in the United States and Europe and the founding of L'Abri.

II. Course Objectives

In studying the life and developing ministry of Francis Schaeffer, the objective of the course is to help the student see how God takes "little people" (as Francis Schaeffer would have said), and is able to accomplish great things. In addition, the course aims to enable the student to see the importance of "moment by moment" dependence on the Lord. Rather than presenting a bare biography, the instructor intends to challenge the student's own Christian life and thought.

III. Texts

These books can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order them online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore by visiting www.covenantseminary.edu or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110 (toll-free 877-213-3353).

Required Reading:

Lane, Dennis, Ed. *Letters of Francis A. Schaeffer*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1985.

Schaeffer, Edith. *L'Abri*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1969.

Schaeffer, Francis A. *True Spirituality*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1971.

Supplementary Readings:

Books by Francis Schaeffer:

Basic Bible Studies. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1972.

The God Who is There. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1968.

Escape from Reason. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1968.

Death in the City. Chicago, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1969.

The Mark of the Christian. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1970.

The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1970.

Pollution and the Death of Man. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1970.

The Church Before the Watching World. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1971.

True Spirituality. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1971.

He is There and He is Not Silent. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1972.

Back to Freedom and Dignity. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1972.

The New Super-spirituality. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1972.

Genesis In Space and Time. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1972.

Art and the Bible. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1973.

Baptism. Wilmington, DE: Cross Publishing, 1973.

Everybody Can Know (with Edith). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1973.

Two Contents Two Realities. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1974.

No Little People. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1974.

Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975.

No Final Conflict. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975.

Letters of Francis A. Schaeffer, ed. Lane T. Dennis, Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1985.

Books by Edith Schaeffer:

L'Abri. Worthington, Sussex: Norfolk P. 1969.

Hidden Art. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1971.

Everybody Can Know, (with Francis). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1973.

Christianity is Jewish. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1975.

What is a Family. Old Tappan, NJ: F. H. Revell, 1975.

A Way of Seeing. Old Tappan, NJ: F. H. Revell, 1977.

Affliction. Old Tappan, NJ: F. H. Revell, 1978.

Lifelines. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1978.

The Tapestry: The Life and Times of Francis and Edith Schaeffer. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1981.

Common Sense Christian Living. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 1983.

Forever Music. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 1986.

With Love, Edith. The L'Abri Family Letters 1948-1960. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1988.

Books about Francis Schaeffer

Catherwood, Christopher. *Five Evangelical Leaders*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1986.

Dennis, Lane T. *Francis A. Schaeffer. Portraits of the Man and His Work*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1986.

Parkhurst, Louis Gifford, Jr. *Francis Schaeffer. The Man and His Message*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1985.

Critiques of Francis Schaeffer

Morris, Thomas V. *Francis Schaeffer's Apologetics. A Critique*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1976.

Voss, John E. *Reflections of Francis Schaeffer*. Dallas Theological Seminary, Th.D.: University Microfilms International, 1984.

IV. Class Calendar

Lecture 1: Biographical Introduction (Part 1)

Lecture 2: Biographical Introduction (Part 2)

Lecture 3: Marriage and Seminary Life

Lecture 4: First Pastorates

Lecture 5: St. Louis & the Beginnings of Children for Christ

Lecture 6: Lessons from St. Louis

Lecture 7: Speaking the Truth in Love

Lecture 8: Survey of Europe: Summer 1947 (Part 1)

Lecture 9: Survey of Europe: Summer 1947 (Part 2)

Lecture 10: The Move to Europe

Lecture 11: A Review of a Review (Part 1)

Lecture 12: A Review of a Review (Part 2)

Lecture 13: Modernism, Barthianism & the Ecumenical Movement
Lecture 14: Modernism & Unity
Lecture 15: The New Modernism & the Bible
Lecture 16: The Christian & Modern Art (Part 1)
Lecture 17: The Christian & Modern Art (Part 2)
Lecture 18: The Secret Power & the Enjoyment of the Lord
Lecture 19: The Spiritual Crisis
Lecture 20: Preparation for the Work of L'Abri
Lecture 21: L'Abri is Born
Lecture 22: The Structure of the Work of L'Abri
Lecture 23: The Ministry of L'Abri

V. About the Professor

Associate Professor of Christian Studies and Contemporary Culture and Director of the Francis Schaeffer Institute. B.A., University of Manchester, England; M. Div., Covenant Theological Seminary.

Professor Barrs joined the Seminary Faculty in 1989, having served for 16 years as director of the L'Abri Fellowship in England. He also served as pastor of the International Presbyterian Church in Hampshire. During that time, the church grew from two families to 250 people. Barrs' long and close association with Dr. Francis Schaeffer now holds a special importance for the Seminary as Barrs serves as the director of Covenant's Francis A. Schaeffer Institute.

Professor Barrs' seminary courses include Apologetics, Outreach to Contemporary Culture, Christian Responsibility in Society, Biblical Mission Principles, Pastoral Theology, Worship, Contemporary Mission Challenges, Francis A. Schaeffer: The Early Years, Francis A. Schaeffer: The Later Years, Great Christian Poets, Shakespeare, 20th Century Apologists, and Philosophy Seminar: Epistemology.

Barrs' books include *Being Human, Shepherds and Sheep, Who are the Peacemakers?* and *The Great Rescue*. He is currently preparing two new books entitled *Why Be a Christian?* and *The Christian's Responsibility in Society*.