

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

Father we want to thank You for the comfort and warmth of Your love for us. We thank You for the knowledge each day we have of Your existence and of Your care for us individually. We thank You for Your forgiving us each day, and always receiving us. We thank You, Father that Your creation speaks so clearly of Your existence and power, Your divine nature. And as we begin to think together today about apologetics and how to approach those who are not believers, we pray Father You'll be with us and help us in our understanding. We thank You for the contribution that Francis Schaeffer made in this particular area. We pray You'll give us wisdom in understanding his thoughts and help us to see where they are right, and where they're helpful and biblical. Teach us we pray, in Jesus name, Amen.

Review and Introduction: In the last lecture, the first few years of the Schaeffer's life in Europe was introduced. During those years, a number of articles were written by Francis. Professor Barrs begins an analysis of those articles in this lecture, the first article being entitled "A Review of a Review" from *The Bible Today*.

A Review of a Review (Part 1)

I. Background of the Article

- A. Book reviews and articles by Dr. Oliver Buswell
- B. Book by Dr. E.J. Camell
- C. Debate between Drs. Buswell and Van Til
 - 1. Schaeffer's irenic spirit
 - 2. Definitions
 - a. Evidentialism
 - b. Presuppositionalism
- D. Importance of the article (*Tapestry*, page 314)

II. Schaeffer's First Comment: Areas of Agreement

- A. We cannot argue someone into the Kingdom of God
- B. One cannot by reason alone come to a saving knowledge of God
 - 1. Prejudiced thoughts; man is a rebel
 - 2. The world itself no longer perfect; the world is damaged
- C. Faith is more than knowing the facts—"Bowling before God"
 - 1. An epistemological bow
 - 2. A metaphysical bow
 - 3. A moral bow
- D. It is possible to communicate with unbelievers

III. Schaeffer's Second Comment: Developing an Apologetic

- A. All people have presuppositions
 - 1. Non-believers have presuppositions; a world view that leads to
 - a. Irrationality
 - b. Amoralism
 - c. Personal meaninglessness
- B. Non-believers are very rarely consistent to their world view
 - 1. Rational-value their reason
 - 2. Moral-often choose good
 - 3. Find life meaningful
- C. Their inconsistency is a result of "common grace"
- D. The non-believer lives in tension (board illustration)

IV. Question and Answer Session