

Lecture 15: The New Modernism & the Bible

Father, we want to thank You for this day, for the beauty of it. We thank You for the reminder we had in the lecture we just heard about the wonder of Your creation, that everything You've made demonstrates so gloriously Your power, Your divine nature, Your ability in designing such a marvelous universe. We thank You too Father that You have spoken to us in Your word, that You haven't left us alone, just drifting around in silence and confusion, but that You've spoken so that we may know who You are, who we are and what You've done for our salvation and to bring resolution and reconciliation into our lives. And we pray Father that in what we study together in this hour that You will help us to understand the preciousness of Your word and the truth You've spoken to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Review and Introduction: Having finished an analysis of Schaeffer's article on Modernism from the publication *Here We Stand*, Professor Barrs proceeds to review another article by Dr. Schaeffer entitled "The New Modernism (Neo-Orthodoxy) and the Bible," which was an address given by Dr. Schaeffer at the second congress of the ICCA in Geneva, August, 1950.

The New Modernism & the Bible

I. Introduction: Major Themes in Seed Form

II. Absolute Truth Denied

- A. Classical logic denied
- B. The logic of Hegel utilized
- C. Changes in Modern Science
 - 1. Confidence in reason to the 1900's
 - 2. Einstein and relativity
 - 3. Helsenberg Uncertainty Principle ("The New Modernism..." page 5)
- D. The social sciences
- E. The arts
- F. Summary: The context for the new theology

III. What the New Modernism Produces

- A. Christianity can be true *religiously* even if *historically* false (History vs. Faith)
- B. Theology may be full of contradictions (Logic vs. Faith)
- C. Impossible ever to possess truth (Reason vs. Faith)
- D. Biblical authority denied (Subjective vs. Objective)
- E. Theology becomes relativistic (Unity vs. Truth)
- F. Focus on political involvement (Loss of perspective)
- G. Moral confusion (Moral Absolutes vs. Relative Morality)
- H. No grounds for dismissing Old Modernism

IV. A Plea for Consistency Among Evangelicals

Question & Answer Session (15A) Practical Questions Regarding 'New Modernism'

Introduction: In Lecture 15 Professor Barrs reviewed the article, "The New Modernism and the Bible." In this session he answers two practical questions regarding issues raised in the article.

Question # 1: "What about people who go beyond being simply atheists to feeling that knowledge of or belief in anything is impossible?" (10:00)

Question # 2: "Why has existentialist thinking become so prevalent?" (12:30)