

Lecture 17: The Infiltration of Evangelicalism (II)

Father, we want to thank You so much for what Os has been teaching us last night and today. We thank You for the wisdom You've given him, we thank You for the influence that Schaeffer had on his life. We pray for Your blessing on his work in Washington. We ask You'll be with us now, we pray that You'll help us to understand what some of the important issues are of the moment at which we live. As we think about the church and accommodation to the spirit of the age. We pray for Your wisdom and understanding to examine our own hearts and minds, that we may put ourselves clearly under the authority of Your Word and Your spirit. We pray it for Jesus' sake, Amen.

Introduction and Review: Continuing examination of the practical consequences of religious existentialism for the modern church.

The Infiltration of Evangelicalism (II)*I. A Summary of the Problems**II. The Practical Consequences*

- A. Attack on propositional revelation*
- B. Reluctance to equate the biblical text with the Word of God*
- C. Attack on biblical historicity*
- D. Denial that the Bible speaks truth about the cosmos and science*
- E. Loss of certainty of knowledge*
 - 1. Rejection of confessionalism
 - 2. Response: Incomplete knowledge does not preclude true knowledge
- F. Separation of reason and faith (*Escape from Reason*, 1:258; Appendix to *The God Who Is There*)*
 - 1. Risk of loss of persuasion as an aspect of apologetics
 - 2. Attempt to "avoid the battle" of objections to Christianity
 - 3. Rationalism (relying on reason alone) vs. rationality (validity of reason)
 - 4. Reason as an aspect of faith by God's grace, not a contrast
 - a. God's grace in bringing people to salvation is not limited to direct action of the Holy Spirit on the heart alone
 - b. Faith is a response and commitment to rationally recognized truth, in accord with our creation
- G. Emphasis on the internal testimony as the only test of truth*
 - 1. A one-sided appeal to Scripture
 - a. I Corinthians 15
 - 2. Radical devaluation of apologetics
- H. Adoption of a dialectical view of truth (*The Church Before the Watching World*, 4:125)*
 - 1. No objective truth
 - a. "Dialogue alone matters"
 - 2. Hegelian influence
 - a. Possibility of learning from others, but not relativism
 - 3. "I disagree, and one day we will know who is right"