

Lecture 18: The Infiltration of Evangelicalism (III)

Introduction and Review: Continuing examination of the influence of religious existentialism on the modern church.

The Infiltration of Evangelicalism (III)

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

F. Separation of reason and

G. Emphasis on the internal testimony as the only test of truth

H. Adoption of a dialectical view of truth

I. Drift toward universalism (*The Church Before the Watching World*, 4:126)

1. Sincerity in personal beliefs is what matters

2. Accommodation of the Gospel in presentation, language, and even content

J. Slipping morality

1. “Cultural” biblical statements have no authority

a. Authority shifts to the present culture

b. No permanence

2. Three examples

a. Paul Jewett and “Paul’s phariseeism”

b. Homosexuality in the church

c. Missiologists in other cultures

3. Finding the distinction between biblical morality and western tradition

a. Scripture as the source of “right,” not nature (homosexuality)

b. Awareness of western contributions (the family)

c. Awareness of the human tendency to add to God’s Word throughout history

1) Legalism

2) Christianity suffers in the public view

d. Example of Daniel

1) Importance of discipline

2) “The two chairs”

a) Growing conviction of truth

b) Self-discipline according to *individual* needs