

A Comprehensive Classical High School Study
with special emphasis upon the thoughts and ideas of Dr. Francis Schaeffer

Year III
“The Shift away from Christianity”

WORLD VIEWS *of the*
WESTERN WORLD
Following the Flow of Thought through Western Civilization

RESEARCH - TEACHING SYLLABUS YEAR III
prepared by
David Quine

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God,
neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations,
and their foolish heart was darkened.”

The Apostle Paul, Romans 1:21

20th Century Man

without GOD ... without TRUTH... without MEANING to LIFE ...

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

The Apostle Paul, Romans 1:21

“Actually, you can think of the Fall in three different ways. First there was the original Fall of mankind, which ultimately explains why so many people here and abroad do not know the true God. You can also think of the Fall in terms of nations throughout history knowing the truth but then turning from it. If you had stood in Trafalgar Square or Columbus Circle sixty years ago and asked a thousand people what the gospel is, most of them could have told you. Maybe they wouldn't have accepted it, but they could have told you what it is. However, if you stood today in Trafalgar Square, in Columbus Circle, or between the lions in front of the Art Institute in Chicago, and asked a thousand people what the gospel is, you would find very few who could answer. There was a much greater knowledge of Christianity in past generations. We are living in a post-Christian world today.

“Thirdly, it is possible for individuals to go through this cycle — to know the truth and then deliberately turn away from it. I'm always amazed at the number of famous people who have come out of missionary or ministerial homes, who have known the gospel, and yet later have deliberately turned away.

“So the individual can fall away from the truth. Back of that we see whole cultures falling away. At the beginning stands the original Fall. So why are we in such a mess? What happened? Paul begins his answer by speaking of a time when mankind 'knew God' (Romans 1:21). This was of course absolutely true in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve knew God and had communion with Him. Similarly, there was a time when our European and American culture knew God. Applying it to the individual there are many nonbelievers who were taught about God as children.”

Francis Schaeffer, *The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1-8*

Book of the Ages

The *Chronological Index* given at the end of **How Should We Then Live?** is a listing of the key moments in history and the people who shaped those key moments. Dr. Schaeffer has focused on those significant turning points in Western Civilization. **World Views of the Western World** is an amplification and analysis of many of those key moments of history!

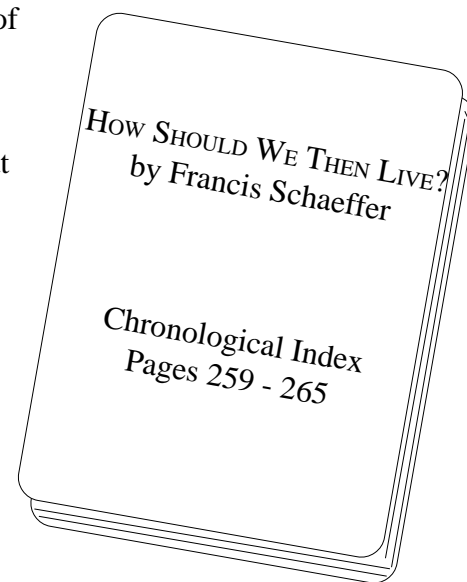
On pages 259 and 260 is a listing of events, periods and people that correspond to **Year I** of **World Views of the Western World**. Add this information to your **Book of the Ages**.

On pages 261 - 263 is a listing of events, periods and people that correspond to **Year II** of **World Views of the Western World**. Add this information to your **Book of the Ages**.

On pages 264 - 265 is a listing of events, periods and people that correspond to **Year III** of **World Views of the Western World**. Add this information to your **Book of the Ages**.

Add other significant people and events to your **Book of the Ages** as you continue your study of **Year III: The Shift away from Christianity** from **World Views of the Western World**.

Turn to the Chronological Index in **How Should We Then Live?** found on pages 259-265.



Week 1

SHIFTS IN SOCIETY

CONTRASTING OUR PAST TO OUR PRESENT

Contrast American life during colonization to the 1840's with life during the 20th century. Describe shifts in education, government, and society. Use what you learned during **Year II** of *World Views of the Western World* to assist you in making this comparison.

COLONIZATION TO THE 1840'S

Refer to World Views Year II

THE 20TH CENTURY

Interview Several People Over 50 Years Old

EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT

SOCIETY

What could have caused such shifts in American life?

COMPARING THE THOUGHTS AND IDEAS OF THE REFORMATION WITH THE ENLIGHTENMENT

American life as described by Alexis de Tocqueville was quite different from 20th century America! Originally, American society rested upon the foundation of the Reformation. Hilary Clinton, shortly after her husband became the President of the United States of America, made this statement: “We have to think in new ways.” This new way of thinking rests upon a different foundation — the foundation of the Enlightenment. To better understand the shifts in our society, it is important to review the differences between the basic ideas of the Reformation and the Enlightenment.

Dr. Schaeffer writes, “The utopian dream of the Enlightenment can be summed up by five words: reason, nature, happiness, progress, and liberty.”

What words would you use to describe Reformation thinking? Refer back to Year II of World Views.

Episode One
Breaking with the Past

Revelation was replaced by ...

Reason was replaced by ...

Romanticism was replaced by ...

Realism was replaced by ...

The Traditional View of Man	The 20th Century View of Man	
Man's Search of Meaning		
The Enlightenment and the	French Revolution	

Philosophers of the Enlightenment and their View of Man

Voltaire

Weeks 2 - 4

Observing 20th Century Shifts in Thought
through Literature

The Loss of Truth —
— The Loss of Meaningful
and Purpose to Life

World Views *of the* Western World

THE 20TH CENTURY

A Novel Approach

Though clearly an oversimplification, Western civilization could be separated into three Major periods: Greek/Roman, Christian, and Modern. The focus of *Year I of World Views of the Western World* was upon understanding the Greek/Roman influences upon the Western world and the emergence of Christianity as the dominate world view.

Year II developed the grandeur of Christianity as we saw the dominance of this world view survive from the 400' s until the late 1800's. During this time people found God and the Bible to give unity and meaning to everything there is.

However, at the end of the 1800's there occurred a major shift in Western civilization. According to Dr. Schaeffer, actually three shifts occurred, and "it was these shifts that made modern man what he is and our modern societies what they are" (*How Should We Then Live?*, page 146). He refers to shifts in science, in philosophy, and in theology. These shifts would be manifested in all aspects of life and eventually define the totality of modern experience. *Year III of World Views of the Western World* unfolds these major shifts and provides an understanding of the consequences these new ideas would have upon the Western world. The 20th century has seen several different world views emerge and influence the culture.

Before we begin a detailed analysis of these shifts, we will give writers, who have embraced the major world views of the 20th century, the opportunity to express these thoughts in novel form. The world views of the 20th century have been classified into four or five categories. The books selected for study illustrate each of these world views. As you read and study each one, look for characteristics of each world view.

Walden Two by B.F. Skinner

This fictional outline of a modern utopia has been a center of controversy ever since its publication in 1948. Set in the United States, it pictures a society in which human problems are solved by a scientific "engineering" of human conduct.

The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway

The tragic tale of an old Cuban fisherman caught in a relentless and agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Told in language of great simplicity and power Hemingway depicts modern man in his search for meaning in the pangs of human emptiness.

The Plague by Albert Camus

A gripping tale of unrelieved horror of survival and resilience, and of the ways in which humankind confronts death. In Oran, a coastal town in North Africa, the plague begins as a series of portents, unheeded by the people. It gradually becomes an omnipresent reality, obliterating all traces of the past and driving its victims to almost unearthly extremes of suffering, madness, and compassion.

Star Wars Episodes IV, V, and I by George Lucas

This spectacular series in full color with surround sound brings the East to the West. In unparalleled drama Lucas brings a totally new dimension to the 20th century Western mind.

Summary Chart of World Views of the 20th Century

	Walden Two by B.F. Skinner	The Old Man and The Sea by Ernest Hemingway
God His Nature		
Universe		
Man His nature		
Ethics/Morality the Basis of		
Cause of Evil		
Death		
Meaning to Life and history		

THREE NEW WORLD VIEWS

Complete the following analysis. To the best of your knowledge fill in the boxes that are incomplete.

ISSUE	WORLD VIEWS				
	Christian	Deism (Transition)	Walden Two	Old Man and The Sea	The Plague
God	Transcendent Immanent Personal Infinite	Transcendent Not Immanent Not Personal Not Sovereign			
Universe	Created by God Open System Abnormal	Created by God Closed System Normal			
Man	Created Free Moral Being	Created Part of Clockwork Not free			
Ethics	Based Upon the character of God	Held to a form of Christian morality			
Death	Life after death	Maybe life after death			
History	Seen and an Unseen	Seen			

20TH CENTURY MAN'S SEARCH *for* MEANING TO LIFE

The three books, **Walden Two**, **The Old Man and The Sea**, and **The Plague**, represent three different world views of the 20th century. These three world views stand in sharp contrast to the Christian world view. Write an essay explaining modern man's search for meaning and purpose to life.

20th Century Man's Search for Meaning to Life

The Introduction - Western Man Cuts Loose from the Biblical World View

The Body

What are the major thoughts and ideas of the 20th century world views?

Compare these ideas against the Biblical world view,
the gauge against which we measure all thoughts and ideas.

How does the world view of deism quickly lead to the world view expressed through the novel **Walden Two** ... to the world view expressed through **The Old Man and The Sea** ... to the world view expressed through **The Plague**?

The Conclusion - Where has Man Ended Apart from the Biblical World View?

You may wish to refer back to "How to Write an Essay" in Year I or Year II of World Views of the Western World.

20th Century Man's Search for Meaning to Life An Analysis

The Introduction
- Freed from the
Biblical World
View -

20th Century
World Views

Contrast these ideas
against the Biblical
World View

Follow the
Journey
from Deism
through the
three world
views

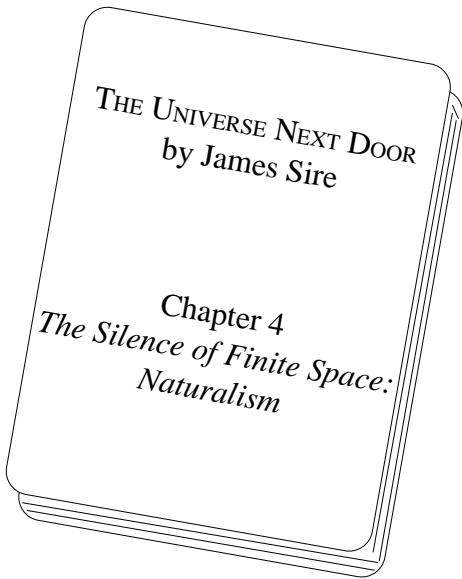
Conclusion
- Where has
man ended
apart from the
Biblical World
View? -

World Views of the 20th Century

THE SILENCE OF FINITE SPACE — NATURALISM

A major shift in thought has occurred in Western thinking. We have moved from the Grandeur of God under the Biblical world view to a totally new view of reality. Theism and Naturalism stand in stark contrast to one another. They are like two great continents. The passage from Theism to Naturalism came about through Deism.

Read *The Silence of Finite Space: Naturalism* by James Sire from **The Universe Next Door**.



Notes, Special Thoughts,
or Questions ...

The Silence of Finite Space:
Naturalism

The Role of Deism ...

Basic Naturalism

- 1.
- 2.

World Views of the 20th Century

THE WEST IN CRISIS

HOPE AND OPTIMISM TURN TO HEARTACHE AND PESSIMISM

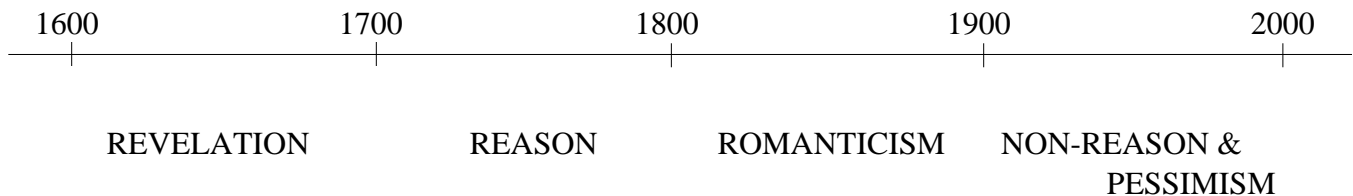
Western society has undergone three major shifts in thought over the past 300 years. The following is an overview of the past four centuries.... Prior to the 1700's people would look to Scripture as the source of Truth and meaning to life. However, during the 1700's Reason (with a capital 'R') would replace Revelation. Mankind separated itself from Revelation as he relied upon his own reason in his search for purpose and meaning. His hope began to center upon himself.

Because man is finite, his reason is limited. It did not take long for man to realize that Reason alone was insufficient to put all the pieces together. However, instead of returning to Revelation, Western thinking pushed further in the wrong direction. Perhaps hope in hope would suffice. Man turns to Romanticism for the answer. But this too would prove empty.

Romanticism was an insufficient base for the intense pressures about to be thrust upon it. Twentieth Century society would be squeezed by five major crisis. The twentieth Century had no real solid basis for the hope offered by Romanticism.

Hope and optimism would quickly turn to heartache and pessimism.

THE AGE OF ...



Research each of the following five events:

- 1 - The Great War
- 2 - The Great Depression
- 3 - World War II
- 4 - The death of John F. Kennedy
- 5 - The Vietnam War

Research each event. Describe the significance of each and explain how collectively they would change man's sense of hope and optimism to heartache and pessimism.

Examining 20th Century Shifts in Thought
in Science ... in Philosophy ...in Theology

The Loss of Truth —
— The Loss of Meaningful
and Purpose to Life

World Views *of the* Western World

THE BREAKDOWN

in Science ... in Philosophy ... in Theology

An Introduction by Francis Schaeffer

To understand where we are today in our intellectual ideas and in our day-to-day lives (including our cultural and political lives), we must trace three lines: the **philosophic**, the **scientific**, and the **religious**... Plato understood that regardless of what kind of particulars one talks about, if there are no absolutes — no universal — then particulars have no meaning. The universal or absolute is that under which all the particulars fit — that which gives unity and meaning to the whole.... What will unify and give meaning to everything there is? ... If there is no absolute moral standard, then one cannot say in a final sense that anything is right or wrong. By *absolute* we mean that which always applies, that which provides a final or ultimate standard. There must be an absolute if there are to be *morals*, and there must be an absolute if there are to be real *values*. If there is no absolute beyond man's ideas, then there is no final appeal to judge between individuals and groups whose moral judgments conflict. We are merely left with conflicting opinion ... But it is not only that we need absolutes in morals and values; we need absolutes if our existence is to have *meaning*- my existence, your existence, Man's existence. Even more profoundly we must have absolutes if we are to have a solid epistemology (a theory of knowing — how we know, or how we know we know). How can we be sure that what we think we know of the world outside ourselves really corresponds to what is there? And in all these layers, each more profound than the other, unless there is an absolute these things are lost to us: morals, values, the meaning of existence (including the meaning of man), and a basis for knowing....

But three shifts came, and it was these shifts that made modern man what he is and our modern societies what they are. First, we will look at the **shift in science**, then the **shift in philosophy**, and later at the **shift in theology**. We have already seen that the Scientific Revolution rested on a Christian base. The early modern scientists believed in the concept of the uniformity of natural causes in an *open system*. God and man were outside the cause-and effect machine of the cosmos, and therefore they *both* could influence the machine. To them all that exists is *not* one big cosmic machine which includes everything. The shift from modern science to what I call *modern modern science* was a shift from the concept of the uniformity of natural causes in an *open system* to the concept of the uniformity of natural causes in a *closed system*. In the latter view nothing is outside a total cosmic machine ... everything which exists is a part of it.

Scientists in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries continued to use the word God, but pushed God more and more to the edges of their systems. Finally, scientists in this stream of thought moved to the idea of a completely closed system. That left no place for God. But equally it left no place for man. Man disappears, to be viewed as some form of determined or behavioristic machine. Everything is a part of the cosmic machine, including people.”

(How Should We Then Live?, page 145-146).

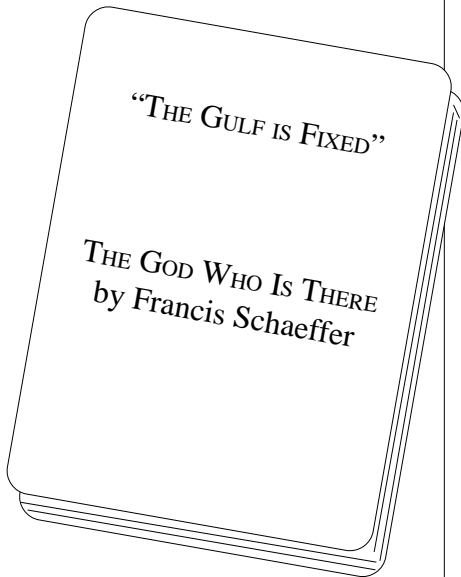
Eight Men Who Changed the Western World ...

THE GULF IS FIXED

An Introduction by Francis Schaeffer

“The present chasm between the generations has been brought about almost entirely by a change in the concept of truth. Where ever you look today, the new concept holds the field. The consensus about us is almost monolithic, whether you review the arts, literature or simply read the newspapers and magazines such as *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *The Listener* or *The Observer*. On every side you can feel the stranglehold of this new methodology — and by ‘Methodology’ we mean the way we approach truth and knowing.”
(The God Who Is There, page 5).

Read “The Gulf is Fixed”
pages 5 - 12 from **The God
Who is There** by Francis
Schaeffer.



Notes or Questions:

Before the Chasm

An Analysis of the Drift Which has Taken Place ...

Europe Before 1890 and the United States Before 1935 ...

EPISTEMOLOGY is ...

METHODOLOGY is ...

Basic Presuppositions ...

Absolutes ...

Antithesis ...

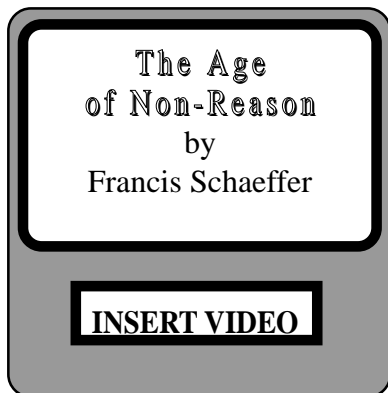
THE SHIFT IN PHILOSOPHY

An Introduction by Francis Schaeffer

Having seen the shift that came in science, let us now examine the shift that came in philosophy. We have already noted that the older philosophic views were optimistic, for they assumed that people would be able through reason alone to establish a unified and true knowledge of what reality is, and that when this happened they would have satisfying explanations for everything encountered in the universe and for all that people are and think.”

(How Should We Then Live?, page 151).

Watch Episode Seven: The Age of Non-Reason from How Should We Then Live?



Notes or Questions:

The Age of Non-Reason

I. Optimism of Older Humanist Philosophers

II. Shift in Modern Philosophy

A. Eighteenth Century

B. Rousseau: Ideas and Influence

1.

2.

3.

THE FIRST STEP

An Introduction by Francis Schaeffer

“It was the German philosopher Hegel (1770 - 1831) who became the man to open the door into the line of despair. Before his time truth was conceived on the basis of antithesis, not for any adequate reason but because man romantically acted upon it.”

(The God Who is There, page 13)

Hegel, The Doorway

Explain What Dr. Schaeffer Meant by this Diagram ...

Earlier Philosophy

—|—

KANT

—|—

The Line of Despair — HEGEL — The Doorway —

—|—

KIERKEGAARD

— / —

SECULAR EXISTENTIALISM RELIGIOUS EXISTENTIALISM

Read Chapter 2 from **The God Who Is There** by Francis Schaeffer.



Notes or Questions:

Transferring Shifts in Thought into Society

PART I:

through **Art and Music**

PART II:

through Government

PART III:

through Economics

The Loss of Truth —

The Loss of Meaningful
and Purpose to Life —

World Views *of the* Western World

Speaking Out to Our Society

Offering Truth —
and Meaning to Life

World Views *of the* Western World

Weeks 26 - 29

An Introduction

SPEAKING OUT

Defending our faith ... “Defense is proper and necessary because in every age historic Christianity will be under attack...The proponents of any position who are alive to their own generation must give a sufficient answer for it when questions are raised about it.”

Francis Schaeffer

Read the selected portions of the Bible.

I Peter 3:15

Acts 22:1

I Corinthians 9:3

II Corinthians 7:11

Philippians 1:7

Philippians 1:16

II Timothy 4:16



Speaking Out!

EVIDENCE *that* DEMANDS *a* VERDICT

“Is there any evidence of a compelling nature that can deliver an individual from the futility of skepticism, agnosticism, and atheism? From the contradictions of postmodernism? Or from the deceptive emotions of mysticism? I believe that there certainly is.”

Josh McDowell

To Everyone A Reason

Clearing the Fog — Explain the Various Misconceptions

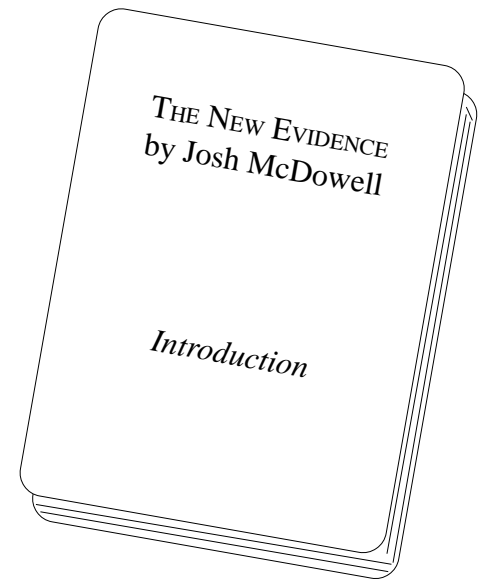
Postmodern World View

Eastern Mystical World View

Atheistic World View

Agnostic World View

Scientific World View



Weeks 30 - 33

Speaking Out!

SEPARATIONS—

Philosophy ... Psychology ... Sociology ... Ecology!

Modern man is swamped with ecological problems ... sociological problems ... psychological problems ... and philosophical problems. The greatest minds have attempted to restore mankind. Rousseau, Kant, Hegel and Kierkegaard in philosophy. Sigmund Freud in psychology ... B.F. Skinner in sociology ... the 'green groups' in ecology. However, because finite man reasons from himself, his answers are finite. Most have given up any hope of finding a unified field of knowledge comprehensive enough to attack all the problems. While he attempts to fix one problem, a dozen others emerge.

MAN IS SEPARATED FROM HIS CREATOR ...



This space-time historic event created, like a domino affect, three other separations.

MAN NOW FINDS THAT HE IS SEPARATED FROM HIMSELF ...

(who am I? where am I from? where am I going? does life have any real meaning?)



MAN IS SEPARATED FROM HIS FELLOW MAN ...

(husband against wife - black against white - nation against nation)



MAN IS SEPARATED FROM NATURE AND NATURE IS SEPARATED FROM ITSELF ...



How can man bridge these separations? Is there a system of thought big enough ... comprehensive enough ... pervasive enough that will restore man to his proper function? Is there any hope for mankind in the 21st century? To what philosophy should he turn? — to the ideas of the far east? ... to the ideas of the Greeks? ... or to the ideas of Christianity?

In an attempt to answer the basic dilemma of man, modern man has created his own system of thought. In schools we study ...

Philosophy — which attempts to find a unity to place all knowledge.

Psychology — which attempts to restore man and the separation he finds from within.

Sociology — which attempts to understand the various cultures so that mankind can live together in harmony on planet earth.

Ecology — which attempts to keep man from destroying the planet on which he lives.

In the previous studies we have seen how Christianity is the only true system for uniting the various fields of knowledge. Things of history, science, and theology are brought together under a unifying theme because God exists and He has spoken regarding these things.

Only Christianity offers adequate and sufficient answers to each separation.

TRUE SPIRITUALITY—

Restoring Man ...

SALVATION: PAST—FUTURE—PRESENT

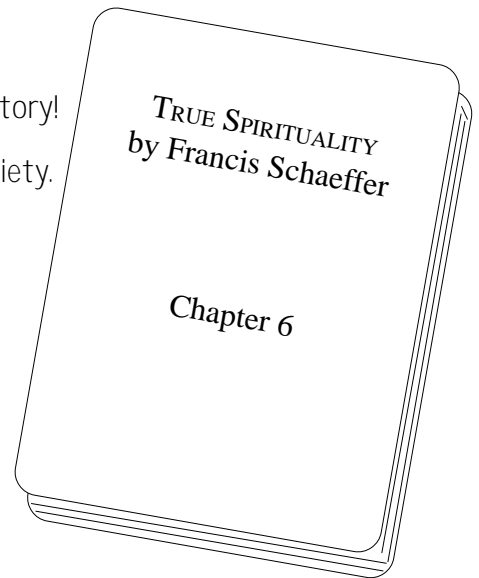
Man and the Universe Became ABNORMAL at the Fall!

Christ — through His life...death...and resurrection won the victory!

Yet today there is neither universal peace for the individual or society.

Question:

Does that mean that between the victory on the cross and the present day, and on to the second coming of the Lord Jesus, God did not intend that there should be any evidence of the reality of the victory of the cross?



Define SALVATION in its full understanding ...

JUSTIFICATION ...

SANCTIFICATION ...

GLORIFICATION ...

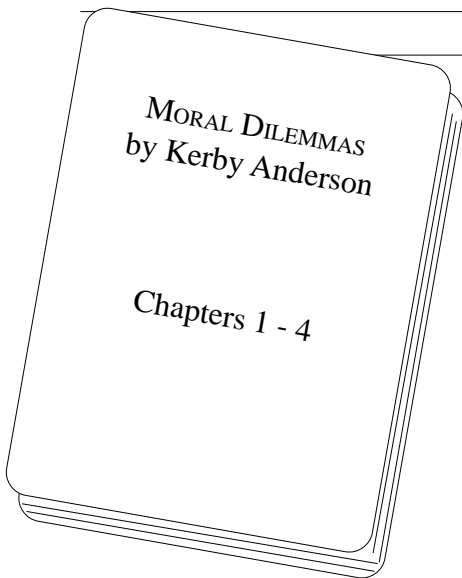
What is the basis of each aspect of Salvation?

How does a person enter into the total reality of Salvation?

Speaking Out!

MORAL DILEMMAS

Restoring Man to Man...



There are many vexing issues facing our society today.

Abortion ...

Euthanasia ...

Genetic Engineering ...

Reproductive Technologies ...

A woman is set against her unborn child ...

A patient with no hope of improvement is set against himself ...

A genetic scientist is set against society ...

These issues are often considered in a course on sociology. "What is sociology? In the classic book **Invitation to Sociology**, Peter L. Berger (1963) presents sociology as a form of consciousness or as a perspective that gives us the theories and concepts to look below the surface of popular meanings and interpretations. Sociologists assume that all human activity has several levels of meaning, some of which are hidden from view. Sociologists are most interested in those hidden from view... Society consists of ... complex ... social interactions — everyday events in which at least two people communicate and respond to affect one another's behavior and thinking. In the process, the parties involved define, interpret, and attach meaning to the encounter. The preoccupation with social interactions is the cornerstone of the discipline of sociology." (**Sociology: A Global Perspective**, page 23, 25).

In the book, **Moral Dilemmas** by Kerby Anderson, he sets out seventeen critical issues facing our society. Consider the issues of abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, and reproductive technologies from **Moral Dilemmas**. Write an evaluation of each of these four issues. The evaluation should take the following form:

First, define the issue.

Second, state the opposing viewpoints of the issue.

Third, find five to ten newspaper or magazine articles related to this topic.

Fourth, write a 'letter to the editor' type response giving the Biblical perspective on the issue.

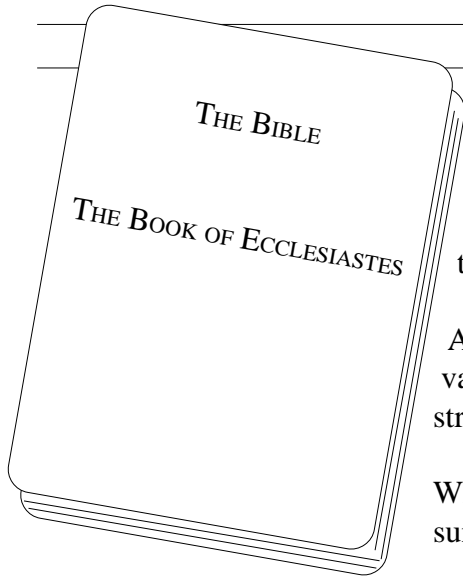
After completing the analysis of these four issues, select three others from the book **Moral Dilemmas**. Read the chapters and make your evaluations.

Week 36

Conclusion...

ECCLESIASTES —

"This too is a grievous evil:
As a man comes, so he departs,
and what does he gain, since he is grasping for the wind?"



Life seems inconsistent, unpredictable, and unfair at times. No matter the generation, no matter the time in history, the righteous and the wicked have the same experiences, face the same trials, grapple with the same problems. And all end up in the grave.

As people grow older they look back and see what a breath, what a vapor, life is. It passes so quickly. What was its purpose? Was what we strove to attain worth it? Did we live as we should have?

What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:3). And what is the conclusion of it all?

(Taken from **Inductive Study Bible**, page 1063)

ECCLESIASTES MAN GRASPING FOR THE WIND

Observations

Read the book of Ecclesiastes.

Make a list of words or phrases that are repeated:

With what attitude does the book open?

Ready to Respond —
Final Papers

Articulating Historic Christianity
into the 21st Century

World Views *of the* Western World