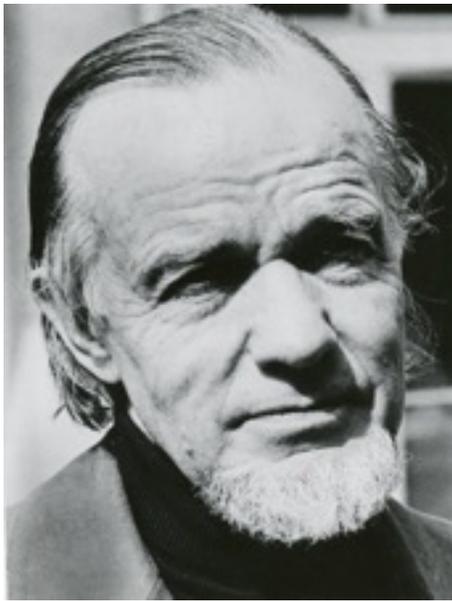


LOOK INTO THE BOOK

(First Things First, Pt1)

January 12-13, 2019 ser3800 Sat Sun E & Sun L

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE



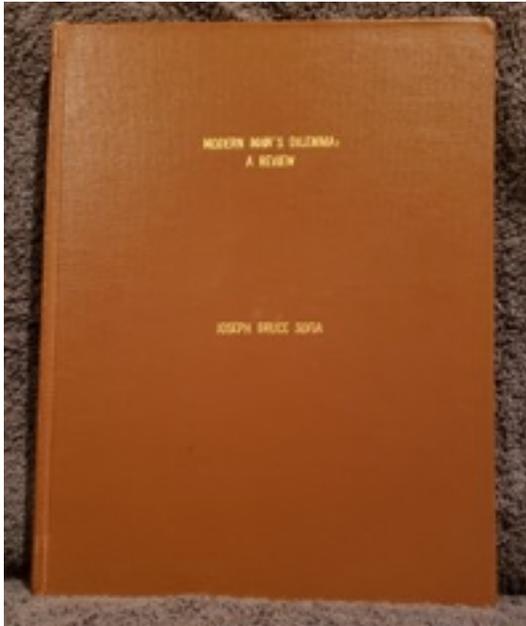
A. The late Dr Francis Schaeffer was born in Germantown Philadelphia on January 30, 1912. ([show photo](#)) He was, and still is, considered one of the great minds in Evangelical Christianity. He is best known for establishing L'Abri in 1955, a spiritual community that attracted thousands of young people from around the world (L'Abri is a French world for Shelter). Dr Schaeffer believed that the word of God contains the answers to society's needs. His first three books are known as Schaeffer's "Trilogy."

The titles clearly define Dr Schaeffer's heart, philosophy and theological beliefs:

The God Who Is There
 Escape from Reason
 He is There and He Is Not Silent

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, isn't that what the Bible is all about? The revelation of a God who is here, a God

who makes sense in an often senseless world, and a God who speaks and is not silent. That's the truth of the Book. And that is why we should "Look Into the Book." Smile!



B. It was the second book in Dr Schaeffer's trilogy that inspired my master thesis, "Relative Truth—Modern Man's Dilemma." (show photo)

The theme of the book was—as truth became relative, that is no longer absolute, so did the standard for life, art and religion. The purpose of Escape from Reason was to return us to the reasonableness of truth as defined in the Word of God, the Bible.

While I was working on my thesis I had an art professor, Dr Herbert Appelson, who pushed me to put the thesis in print form. So, I did. Here's the PG-13 version. (show print)

The print contains many vanities of life, which people look to as answers to finding life's joy—they change, obviously, with each generation. eg: When this etching was done there were no cell phones, no tablets, no computers. In fact, my mother hand typed the entire thesis.

I recall exhibiting the print on campus as part of our final grade. A professor from another College, whom I



knew, kept staring at the print for what seemed like an eternity. I approached him and asked, “Dr A,” (not his real name), “what do you think?” He said, “There must be something I’m missing.” I replied, “Yes, Mr A, and you’ve missed Him all of your life.” [\(show photo\)](#)

BTW: You can purchase both of those prints through HIJACKEDLIFE.COM. Smile!

C. The point of this illustration is that the Bible answers every basic question man asks.

Therefore, it should be our constant companion, for

1. It’s our final authority for life, faith and the practice thereof.
2. It’s the Rock in a world of sinking sand.
3. It’s the only staple in an unstable world.
4. It’s the “never changing truth in an ever changing world.”
5. Most importantly, it’s God’s portrait of Himself.

II. FOR EXAMPLE

A. The first eleven chapters of Genesis, answer these questions and more:

1. **Why am I here?** *Chpts. 1 & 2*
2. **What is my purpose?** *Chpt. 1:27-30; 2:15 & 20; 3:8*
3. **Why do we marry the opposite sex and not the same sex?** *Chpt. 2:18-24*

18 The LORD God also said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make for him a suitable helper.”

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he slept, He took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the area with flesh. **22** And from the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man, He made a woman and brought her to him. **23** And the man said:

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for out of man she was taken.”

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.
4. **Why do we wear clothes?** *Chpts. 2:25; 3:20-21*
5. **Why does man sense his/her need for a Savior?**
Chpts. 3:10; 4:2-5
6. **From where did the different races and languages come?** *Chpt. 11*

5 Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men were building. **6** And the LORD said, “If they have begun to do this as one people speaking the same language, then nothing they devise will be beyond them. **7** Come, let Us go down and confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

8 So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of all the earth, and they stopped building the city. **9** That is why it is called Babel, for there the LORD confused the language of the whole world, and from that place the LORD scattered them over the face of all the earth.

- 7. What happened to the dinosaurs? *Chpt. 7:1-3***
- 8. How did the animals get their names? *Chpt. 2:20***
- 9. How was the earth populated and by whom?
*Chpt. 5***
- 10. Why does each kind produce after its own kind?
*Chpt. 1***

24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, land crawlers, and wild animals according to their kinds.” And it was so. **25** God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that crawls upon the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it.”

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

ALTHOUGH THE SKEPTIC AND EVOLUTIONIST WANT US TO BELIEVE EACH KIND “EVOLVED” OVER MILLIONS IF NOT BILLIONS OF YEARS—the truth is, everything, everything, everything produces after its OWN kind, because God created the Heavens and the Earth and EVERYTHING in them.

B. Listen to what God says about what He has written.

1. **2 Tim. 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness ...
2. **2 Peter 1:20-21** Above all [**R—that means what is about to be said has no equal; it’s trumps everything**], you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



ILLUSTRATION: Recall the prophet Balaam? He was asked by the King of Moab to curse the Israelites. But every time he tried he only blessed them. **(show photo)**

The King of Moab kept offering Balaam a greater reward if he would curse them, but he couldn't because, when speaking for God he could only speak the truth.

Now, the New Testament reveals that Balaam was corrupt and he perished because of his wicked heart (**Joshua 13:22**). **Revelation 2:14** tells us this about Balaam. Here's the setting. The Lord Jesus is speaking to the angel who watches over the church in Pergamos, and he says,

14 But I have a few things against you, because some of you hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block before the Israelites so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. **15** In the same way, some of you also hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Therefore repent! Otherwise I will come to you shortly and wage war against [those who won't repent].

PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION: For years I held to the belief that 2 Peter 3:9 referenced those who were lost and going to hell. The verse tells us that God is not willing that any should perish, but is "long-suffering," wanting

mankind to repent of their sins and give their lives to Him as Lord and Savior. Then one day, when I was in prayer about my own personal disobedience, that's a soft word for sin, the LORD revealed to me that this verse was also addressing me in my disobedience. That God was patiently waiting for me to put away my sin, because if I didn't I'd perish in disobedience. Wow! Was that an eye opener!

That's what Scripture means when it says, point number three, ...

3. *Hebrews 4:12-13* For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul (mind, will and emotions) and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. ...

C. That's why, if we are going to put *First Things First* in 2019, we must start with the Book.

You say, "I don't like to read." Well, I don't like to exercise; and, I don't like to cut out desserts and extra portions...but I do.

LAST WEEK I was greeting people before the Sunday 11:15 service began. I met a couple whose faces I didn't recognize and asked how long they had been attending the Church. They said they had visited a time or two in the past and wanted to start the New Year off right. I asked their names. In reply they asked, "And what is your

name?” **Smile!** I told them Pastor Bruce. The man responded, “*I didn’t recognize you. Did you lose weight?*”
/pause – It’s called getting older – LOL! I responded, “*In 2018 we launched the year with a 40-day fast. I lost 12 lbs and have managed to keep of 10 lbs.*”

That afternoon I received a message on Facebook that read:

Thank you for the warm and hospitable greeting today at church. [Ms S] and I enjoyed the service and look forward to seeing you again. [Mr T]

D. Let’s put this in perspective.

You may not like going to work—but you do. Why?

1. (Most likely) You need the money.
2. It’s therapeutic—it occupies your mind and gives you purpose.

LISTEN, here’s the reality—there are a lot of things we may not like doing, but we do them because they are good for us, or they are a must, that is, a necessity. May I suggest that reading the Bible is indispensable? Listen to Paul’s counsel to his son in the faith, Timothy:

Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15**

I’M NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS OPTION, but if push comes to shove, you can always listen to the Bible on line, or CD (What’s that?—LOL!) or flash drive.

III. LET’S MAKE A DEAL!

A. Here it is! (The deal.) If we're going to put *First Things First* the Bible has to be paramount in the equation.

1. There are 1889 chapters in the Bible.
2. If you read one Chapter a day you will finish the Bible in 5.1 years. So think of it this way. You buy a new car with a five-year loan. At the same time start reading the Bible, Genesis chapter 1. By the time you pay off the car you will have read through the entire Bible. How cool is that?

(Now, if you read two chapters a day, you'll finish the Bible in approximately 2.5 years.)

B. The Psalmist said, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*” Why not let God's word be your guiding light in 2019? That light will NEVER [say “Never”] steer you wrong. Never!

IV. INVITATION

In conclusion, if you've never received Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, start there. Here's how!

Admit – your sins have separated you from God. (*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (*Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22*);

Commit – yourself to His righteous by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (*Isa 53:5; Col 1:22*);

Do it today! (*Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2*).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!