

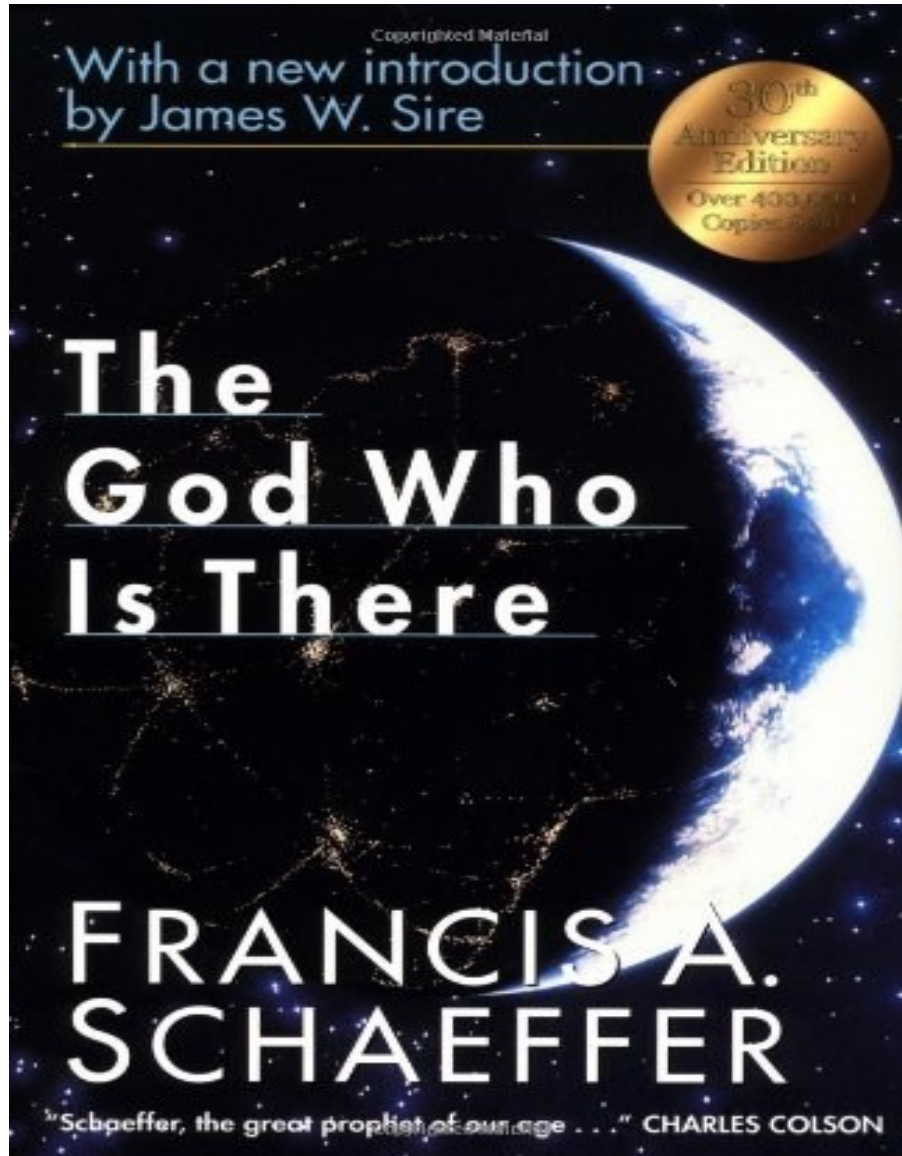
Christian Book Reports 2019

Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class

Jim Hoffman

Who was Francis Schaeffer?

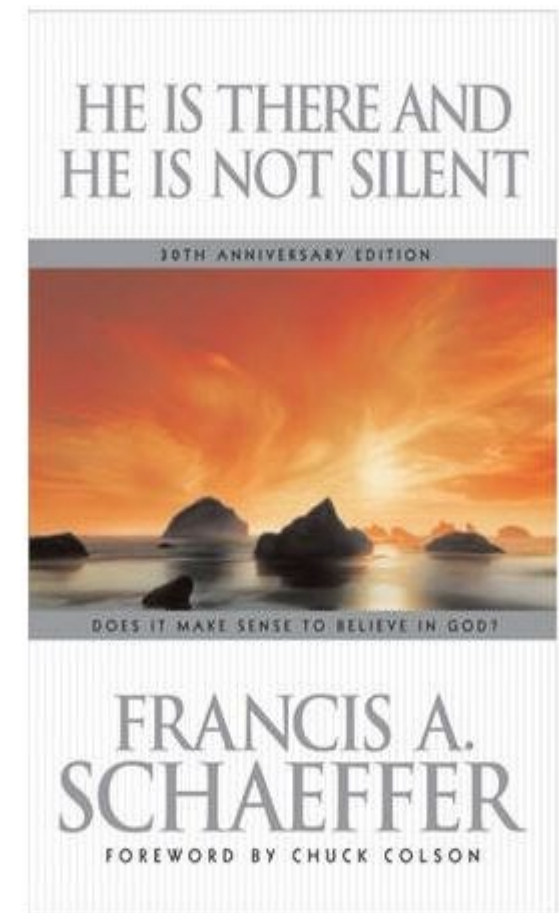
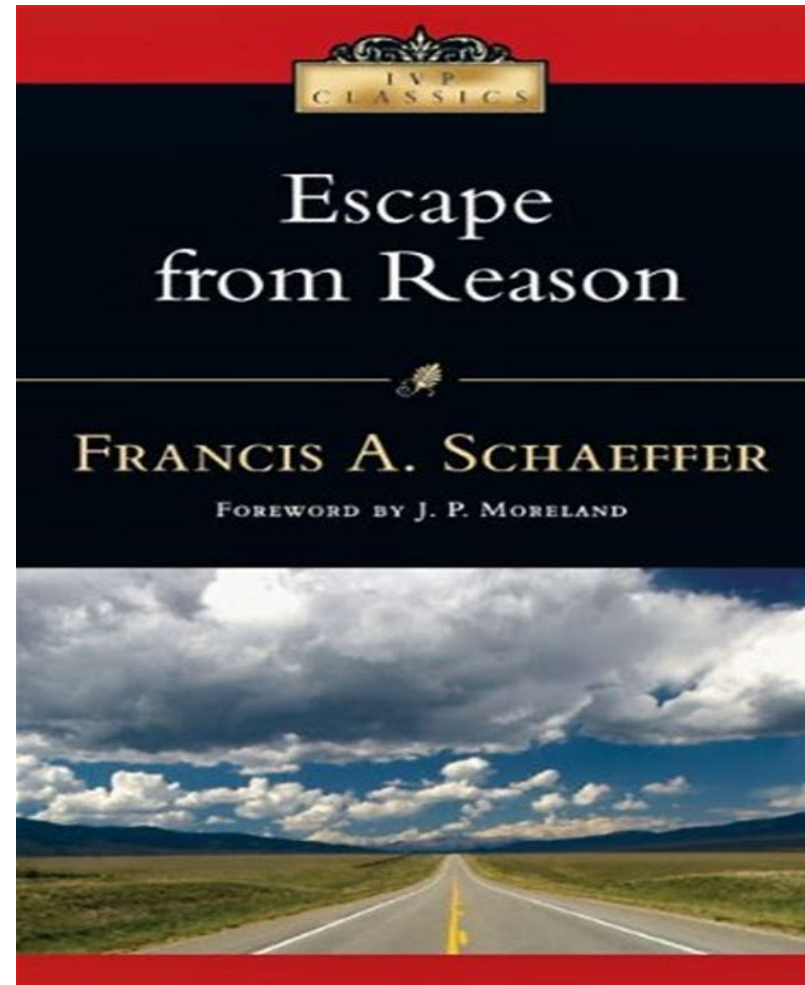
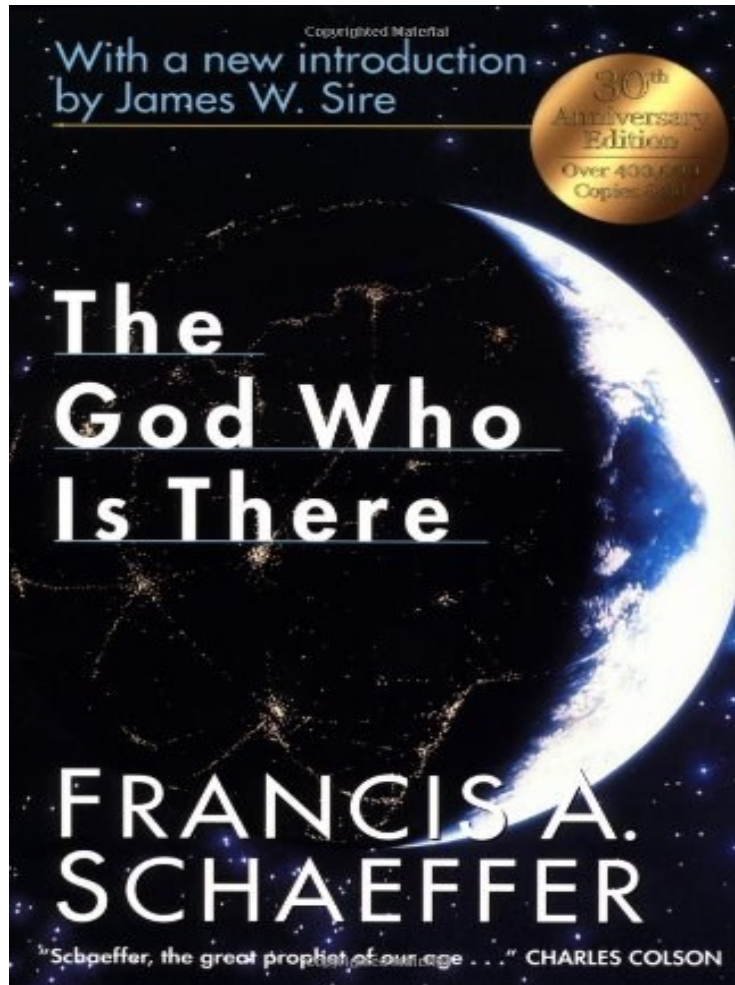
- **His preferred medium was talk**—conversation, whether with an individual or with a large group of people.
- **His attire was quirky and memorable**, dapper in knee-breeches and colorful tops, a goatee beard he wore later in life.
- **Francis Schaeffer was a small man whose giant passion for truth**, for reality, for God, and for the needs of people made him a key shaper of modern Christianity.
- Though he wasn't a scholar in the usually accepted sense, **he pushed those who truly listened to explore more, to learn more, to be more** prepared for living as a Christian and human being in today's post-Christian world.



The God Who Is There

Francis Schaeffer

The God Who Is There - Trilogy



This is actually not a review of “The God Who Is There”, but a sampling of the work Francis Schaeffer was doing in the 1960’s, 70’s, and 80’s.

One of our societal problems Francis Schaeffer sited as a major problem was what we rather clinically call abortion.



Schaeffer's Main Arguments

- Schaeffer argued that these are the values of western civilization in our day ...
 - **Personal Peace**
 - **Affluency**

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- “As long as they (Americans) can have these things (personal peace and affluence), they will give up anything!” Francis Schaeffer
- When Schaeffer used the term “**personal peace**” he was not referring to just living at peace with everyone while holding onto your convictions.
- He was stating that people will become so willing to live free of controversy or struggle or inconvenience that we will give up certain convictions.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- Have we become so obsessed with wanting to live a peaceful and conflict free life that we have stopped caring about others?
- Your problems are inconvenient to me and I would just like to be left alone in my comfort and not be bothered.
- When I ask, “how are you doing?” do I really want to know?

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- Schaeffer contends that the rot that was harvested in the 1960's led many to despair.
- It begs the question – is life really worth living if its only purpose is to accumulate stuff and have fun?
- Because of how God has fashioned us, we will never be content living for self and not for Him.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- If life has no big purpose, if it has no grand design, then why would we ever do anything but eat, drink, and be merry?
- If life has no meaning, mankind is likely to embrace nihilism.
- Nihilism is the rejection of all religious and moral principles, in the belief that life is meaningless.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- So if life has no meaning and I reject morality and religion, then I become my own god and anything goes.
- Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. NASB
- And now you see the real danger in the erosion of morals and values – the devil gets the upper hand.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- The cost of pursuing **personal peace** is we eventually devalue the human being. (pregnancy can be inconvenient)
- As long as we can gain what we are after, we tend not to care what happens to others. (pornographic videos and images are often filled with women who have been drugged against their wills and trafficked)
- As long as I can live free of inconvenience then I don't care about the rest of the world.

Affluence



Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- **Affluence** - This, of course, passes off the idea that the chief end of man in life is simply to accumulate as much wealth as he can, and enjoy as much pleasure as he can, regardless of the consequences.
- When we bow down to the all mighty dollar and make it, and pleasure, the chief end of all that we do, the consequences are staggering.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- In our pursuit of **affluence**, we inherently desire to show off the amount of money we have.
- How sad that a billionaire will spend far more money on a yacht than he will on helping those in desperate need.
- How pathetic that a person will spend \$5 on a certain coffee, but recoil at the cost of supporting a World Vision child.
- In our pursuit of affluence, we have lifted up ourselves and increased our comfort while devaluing others.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- Neither personal peace or affluence are inherently bad. Sometimes a person, living in the will of God and pursuing Him alone, will somehow come across personal peace – a life of near inconvenience.
- He may also come across affluence at times. The danger, as Schaeffer argued, was the pursuit of these things.
- One can thank God when personal peace and affluence are attained, but one should not pursue these things.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- Under the Christian world view, the glory of God is first and foremost in all that we do. This means we must pursue the things of His will, not our desires.
- It means that God may lead us into a life of poverty, or into a life full of controversy. (He gets to choose)
- As Christians the only thing we should expect is that God will lead us where He desires and be with us the entire way – we are not promised anything more than that.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- We are to value the rest of humanity.
- We do not value humanity because it can create a witnessing opportunity, and we do not place value on the human because he could be saved.
- We ought to value humanity because it is intrinsically valuable being made in the image of God.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- In the early 1970's Schaeffer said, "The church has not seen the big picture in society in the last 80 years".
- He said the church has seen the bits and pieces of cultural rot as being separate problems rather than being symptomatic of one big problem.
- The B I G problem was a drifting away from God and seeing Him as the ultimate reality.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- The church throughout the 20th century saw abortion, drugs, sexual permissiveness, euthanasia, and pornography as unconnected problems.
- In fact it was one continuous thread pervading our culture and wearing away at our roots.
- Schaeffer argued that we should focus on the root cause of our societal ills – we have turned away from God.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- Secular humanism replaced Christianity as our dominant belief system with nary a protest from the church.
- When prayer and bible reading were taken out of our schools what did we think would happen?
- We replaced the truths of the bible with arbitrary morals and values based on the best that man can think of.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- America had a great and godly founding based upon the idea that God is the Creator of all and Center of all.
- From that founding came a nation of people that experienced what few in history have ever had – freedom.
- Most of mankind, for most of history, has been enslaved to one degree or another.

Big Thoughts from Francis Schaeffer

- One of the ultimate ironies of the 20th and 21st centuries in America has been that our freedoms and rights have been used to turn us from God.
- Because we can do almost anything we want, we do!
- Too much leisure time, and too much wealth has turned our hearts from God.

What say you?

Next Week
The Bible Jesus Read
Philip Yancey