

The Reformation Part 8 Where are we today?

Intro

We ended with the 60's and the inevitable end of rationalism, that is existentialism.

Rationalism always leads into a dark dead end of "says who?", as reason demands an infinite personal God, the final standard of truth. But without God one runs out of a basis for the rational and right and must resort to an irrational "leap of faith" to what one *wants* to be true, i.e. "existentialism".

"Without an absolute all points become meaningless." J.P. Sartre

"Without a final standard man can only be led by irrational personal preference which will produce the insane and the destructive.

Thus ended the 60s.

What was the Protestant response to the 20th century?

- We withdrew into a "fortress mentality." Us against Them.
- We had gotten burned by getting too close to the world, so we would let the world attend to its own business.
- We became merely an "upper story" religion.

God and the spiritual belonged to us ...

And the "real world" to pagan society.

And that brought the response of "neo-evangelicalism"

- Carl Henry in 1947. The Uneasy Conscience of Modern Fundamentalism.
"we need a 'neo-evangelical'"
- Billy Graham and Christianity Today.
- Apologetics (C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer)
- Creation Science
- The Para-church movement
- Explo '72
- The Moral Majority, The 700 Club, Focus On the Family

Today? Where are we?

What is needed from a modern Protestant?

We *must* have:

1. "Hills to die on"
2. Boldness to live out our faith
3. The commitment to protect and educate our kids.