

## **The Age of Non-Reason Part VII**

The humanism of the Enlightenment focused on man finding the meaning and answers for life beginning with himself autonomous from the God of the Bible.

Over a period of about 250 years each philosopher failed to find an adequate answer and the humanistic ideal eventually died. Pessimism was the logical result.

Fallen human reason could not find satisfying answers for the origin of the universe, the meaning and purpose of life and life after death.

Beginning with a concept that man was basically good (rejecting the fall) and man could find answers himself, they continued to reject the revelation God had given us in Jesus Christ and the record of His saving work contained in the Bible.

The next progression was into the world of Existential thought.

### **Rousseau – Father of Existentialism**

a philosophical theory or approach which emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a free and responsible agent determining their own development through acts of the will.

### **Paul Gauguin – Tahiti - painter**

Noble Savage a representative of primitive humankind as idealized in romantic literature, symbolizing the innate goodness of humanity when free from the corrupting influence of civilization.

### **Marquis de Sade – nature is God – total freedom – advocated cruelty against women**

De Sade is best known for his erotic works, which combined philosophical discourse with pornography, depicting sexual fantasies with an emphasis on violence, suffering, sodomy, crime, and blasphemy against Christianity. He was a proponent of absolute freedom, unrestrained by morality, religion, or law. The words sadism and sadist are derived in reference to the works of fiction he wrote which portrayed numerous acts of sexual cruelty

- No basis for morals or values
- No basis for moral distinctives
- No value system

### **Immanuel Kant**

Kant formulated the positive conception of freedom as the free capacity for choice. It asserts the unconditional value of the freedom to set one's own ends. Autonomy of the will is the supreme principle of morality and a necessary condition of moral agency

### **Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel,**

German philosopher who developed a dialectical scheme that emphasized the progress of history and of ideas from thesis to antithesis and thence to a synthesis.

**Soren Kierkegaard's** theology focuses on the single individual in relation to a known God based on a subjective truth. Many of his writings were a directed assault against all of Christendom, Christianity as a political and social entity.

**Jean-Paul Sartre** was a French novelist, playwright, and philosopher. A leading figure in 20th-century French philosophy, he was an exponent of a philosophy of existence known as existentialism. A leading figure in 20th-century French philosophy, he was an exponent of a philosophy of existence known as existentialism.

**Karl Jasper** The idea of being oneself signified for Jaspers the potentiality to realize one's freedom of being in the world. Thus, the task of philosophy was to appeal to the freedom of the individual as the subject who thinks and exists and to focus on man's existence as the centre of all reality.

**Aldous Huxley** experiments with drugs led him to write several books that had profound influences on the sixty's counterculture. The book he wrote about his experiences with mescaline, *The Doors of Perception*, influenced a young man named Jim Morrison and his friends, and they named the band they formed *The Doors*.

### **Psychedelic Music and Eastern Religions**

**Schaeffer** – part of the blame lies within the church's failure to be “salt” and “light”.

- The church was being compromised by higher criticism
- The church was grandfathered in and had cultural Christianity
- Low ownership of the faith
- Mainline protestant churches were theologically weak
- The gospel had to be amended so it would be accepted by the world
- Religious liberalism rejected the supernatural – Albert Schweitzer – no historic Jesus without the supernatural.

### **Karl Barth**

- Bible is flawed and has mistakes
- Bible can not be trusted to in regard to science and history
- Bible is not a source of absolutes for right and wrong

**Theology with no answer for evil** – Satan, demons, hell, redemption, salvation, all missing

**Paul Tillich** – no certainty of God – only a Word

- Word of God dead
- Content about God dead
- Assurance of a personal God dead

## Genesis 3: 1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You<sup>[a]</sup> shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,<sup>[b]</sup> she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

God: You will die

Satan:

- You will not die,
- your eyes will be opened
- You will be like God
- You will know good and evil

Eve:

- Saw it was good for food
- It was a delight to the eyes
- It would make one wise
- Took....ate....gave

Result:

- Spiritual death
- Separation from God
- Under the dominion of Satan
- Mind fallen – can’t see or enter kingdom unless you are born again
- Governed by world, flesh and devil

The Christian world view give the only plausible explanation to explain life on earth. As Francis Schaeffer has so powerfully stated, with your this understanding man has no ability to find answers to his origin, his purpose, the cause of evil, the solution to cruelty, and eternal life.

