

Exposing Enemies Within the Church: A 7-Session Bible Study Series
Session 7: Social Justice: A Counterfeit Gospel: Part 2

A Reading

With exception of the bracketed portion and the reading assignments, the following text comes from a Christmas sermon preached by Francis A. Schaeffer, a Christian spokesman who, especially during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, urged the church to remain faithful to God's Word. Dr. Schaeffer died in 1984, but his legacy and ministry continue to challenge believers consistently to uphold the truth of Scripture.

LEADER: Why did God come into this world? Only the scriptural answer will suffice: the second person of the Trinity has been born because He loves the world.

FIRST VOLUNTEER: But why did He come this way, as a little baby? Why did He choose to lie in a manger and be cared for by a human mother, with the sweetness but the utter weakness of a newborn babe? He came this way because He came to meet the central need of men. **SECOND VOLUNTEER:** He did not come to overthrow the Romans, though a lot of the Jews would have loved that. If He had, He would have come riding on a great conquering steed. The *central* reason He came was not to raise the living standards of the world. Surely if twentieth-century man were going to vote on the way he would like a messiah to appear, he would want Him loaded down with money-bags from Heaven. **THIRD VOLUNTEER:** He did not come primarily to teach and relieve ignorance — perhaps then He would have come laden with books. An angel had revealed to Joseph the primary task for which He came: "Thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

LEADER: How is Jesus going to fulfill this promise? The fulfillment cannot be separated from Calvary's cross — from the nails, the hammer, the harshness of such a death. Jesus as the Passover Lamb will complete the promise the Jews affirmed in the Passover for 1,500 years. He is going to save His people by His act of Passover obedience.

FIRST VOLUNTEER: [The first Passover was the tenth plague in Egypt where the Israelites had been enslaved for 400 years. In preparation for it, the Israelites slaughtered lambs and smeared their blood across the door frames (the sides and the top) of the entrances to their houses. God's angel passed over each house where he saw the blood but brought death to the firstborn in each dwelling where blood had not been posted (see Ex. 11–12).]

SECOND VOLUNTEER: When we perceive the simplicity and yet the grandeur of what is involved, we are overwhelmed. The second person of the Trinity lies in the manger for a reason. Because He loves the world, He has come not just to eliminate the peripheral results of man's fall (though these will be totally removed at His second coming); He is here to cut the nerve of man's real dilemma, to solve the problem from which all other problems flow. **LEADER:** The "condition of man" is not what modern man thinks it is. **EVERYONE IN THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP:** The "condition of man" is not what modern man thinks it is. **THIRD VOLUNTEER:** Man is a sinner who needs an overwhelming love. Jesus has come to save His people from their sins. This is not to say that He has no interest in these other things now, but we must not get the matters reversed — the central thing is central.

The "condition of man" is not what modern man thinks it is.
—Francis Schaeffer—

Source: Francis A. Schaeffer, "What Difference Has Looking Made? (A Christmas Study)," in *No Little People*, in *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview*, Volume 3: *A Christian View of Spirituality* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1985), 123-124.

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