



Francis Schaeffer: A Retrospective on His Life & Legacy

— A PREFACE —

The Times, They Are A-changin’

Bob Dylan (1941-).

- Since the dawn of recorded music in the early 1900s, popular music has often functioned as a “cultural barometer”.
- The state of contemporary popular music.
- “The Times They Are A-changin’” (1963).



Come gather 'round, people, wherever you roam / And admit that the waters
around you have grown
And accepting that soon you'll be drenched to the bone / If your time to you
is worth saving

Then you'd better start swimming or you'll sink like a stone / For the times they are a-changin'.

Come writers and critics who prophesy with you pen / And keep your eyes wide, the chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon, for the wheel's still in spin / And there's no tellin' who that it's namin'
'Cause the loser now will be later to win / For the times they are a-changin'.

Come Senators and Congressmen, please heed the call / Don't stand in the doorway, don't block up the hall
For he who gets hurt will be he who has stalled / The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows and rattle your walls / For the times they are a-changin'.

Come mothers and fathers throughout the land / And don't criticize what you can't understand
Your sons and you daughters are beyond your command / Your old road is rapidly agin'
Please get out of the new ones if you can't lend your hand / For the times they are a-changin'.

The line it is drawn, the curse it is cast / The slow one now will later be fast
As was present now will later be past / The order is rapidly fadin'
And the first one now will later be last / For the times they are a-changin'.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Optimism, Pessimism, and Reality.

- Rod Dreher, *The Benedict Option* (2017).
 - ▶ “Today we can see that we have lost on every front and that the swift and relentless currents of secularism have overwhelming our flimsy barriers.... The culture has turned powerfully against traditional Christians.”
- **Optimism:** The expectation that the best possible outcome will prevail.
- **Pessimism:** The expectation that the worst possible outcome will prevail.
- **Reality:** The truth of the matter.
 - ▶ A reasonable (faith-based and fact-based) interpretation of what is.
- ▶ **Hope:**
 - ▶ Ps. 147:11 – “The Lord delights in those... who put their hope in his unfailing love.”
 - ▶ Rom. 12:12 – “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
 - ▶ Rom. 15:13 – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.”
- “Hope” v. optimism.
 - ▶ Titus 1:2 – Our faith rests on the hope of eternal life.
 - ▶ I Cor. 15:19 – “If we only have hope in Christ for this life, we are to be pitied more than all other people.” (!)
 - ▶ II Tim. 3:12 – “[E]veryone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

