

### 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'.

The the met one new will later be last 7 for the times they are a changin.			

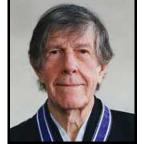
#### The Music of Revolution.

- (1) Vladimir Lenin and "agitprop".
  - ► From Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to Dylan.
  - ► The music of the sexual and political revolutions.
  - ► The drug factor.
  - ► Mind-altering drugs and music: the breakdown of normal cognitive and moral boundaries.
- (2) Theodor Adorno (1903-69) and discordant, dissonant, atonal music.
  - ► A critique of "fascist Amerika."
  - Bertolt Brecht and the "estrangement effect."
  - ► The ultimate goal: spiritual warfare.
- The technology factor.
- Herbert Marcuse and "libertarian socialism."

Theodor Adorno

#### **John Cage** (1912-92).

- "Aleatoric" music: Improvisational and dissonant music based on "structured randomness" in which various pitches and rhythm ("free tempo") are ad libbed repeatedly without any coordination with the rest of the ensemble.
  - ► The affect: Anti-aesthetic "musical" chaos.
  - ► Cage's 1957 lecture, "Experimental Music."
- Francis Schaeffer's critique:
  - Cage's music as an example of the spiritual dissolution and cultural dissonance in modern America.
  - We live in a 'post-Christian' society and culture dominated by secular philosophical presuppositions.
    - The rejection of objective and absolute moral values.
    - A lack of transcendent meaning and purpose in life.



John Cage

FS: "The irony of such a situation is [illustrated] by an event that happened to John Cage, the modern composer who writes music from a theory of chance, random selection.

Leonard Bernstein once offered [Cage] the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Cage directed some of his own chance music and when it was over, he started to take his bows [when] he thought he heard steam escaping from the steam pipes. Then he realized that the musicians were hissing.

"As Cage explains it, it must have been a traumatic experience. But I have often

thought about what I would like to have said to the musicians there that night. I am sure that if one had had an hour with those musicians, he would have found that most of them

really believed philosophically exactly what John Cage believes – that the universe begins with the impersonal [i.e., no Creator God] and [operates exclusively on the basis of time-and-chance]. Why were they hissing, then? They were hissing because they did not like the results of their own [philosophy of life] when they heard it in the medium to which they were sensitive. They were hissing themselves." [*The Church at the End of the 20*<sup>th</sup> *Century*, pp. 22-23.]

#### An Update on Musical Chaos.

- The devolution of popular music: punk rock, heavy metal, rap, hip-hop; "drill music."
- Music, mental and spiritual health.
- Ornette Coleman, "Free Jazz."
- Existentialism: the path to nihilism.
- Chicago, "Elegy" (1971):
  - ► "When All the Laughter Dies in Sorrow" (1970).
    When all the laughter dies in sorrow / And the tears have risen to a flood When all the wars have found a cause / In human wisdom and in blood Do you think they'll cry in sadness? / Do you think the eye will blink?
    Do you think they'll curse the madness? / Do you even think they'll think?
    When all the great galactic systems / Sigh to a frozen halt in space Do you think there will be some remnant / Of beauty of the human race?
    Do you think there will be a vestige / Or a sniffle or a cosmic tear?
    Do you think a greater thinking thing / Will give a damn that man was here?



► "Canon" / "Once Upon a Time" / "Elegy: Progress?"

#### Cultural Suicide.

- Paul Simon, "A Poem on the Underground Wall" (1966).
- NYC, 2022. [Source: https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/new-york-ranked-second-dirtiest-city-in-the-world]

#### A-Changin' Times: The Same-Sex Marriage Controversy.

• United States v. Windsor (2013) and Obergefell v. Hodges (2015).

- The pace of change is absolutely unprecedented.
- The erosion of Christian and Natural Law influences.
- The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA, 1996).

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# Natural Law 20 Basic Principles

- There is a God (or gods, or some unifying power or principle) that is responsible for the existence and maintenance of the universe.
- 2. There is moral law to which we are accountable.
  - Certain attitudes, speech and actions are objectively right and wrong regardless of our personal/ subjective feelings about them.
  - · These moral laws are absolute, universal and transcultural.
- 3. Citizenship obligations to one's society and state.
- The rule of law (either a formal written code or informal customs).
- The sanctity of human life and a prohibition on murder.
- 6. The right of self-defense.
- 7. Private property rights (including one's own body).
- 8. Protection from arbitrary government abuse or coercion.
- The promotion of virtues such as wisdom, honor, courage, and moderation.
- Honesty in normal interpersonal relations and commercial transactions.
- 11. Standards of social decency and propriety.
- 12. The sanctity of marriage.
- 13. Prohibitions on sexual promiscuity.
- 14. Prohibitions on incest and rape.
- Respect for one's parents, ancestors and elders.
- Proper protection and provision for children.
- 17. The value of kindness, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness.
- 18. The primacy of the common good over individual rights.
- 19. The principle of reciprocity and a tacit acknowledgment of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
- 20. The summary principle: "Do good and avoid evil."

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#### **Optimism, Pessimism, and Realty.**

- 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 <u>hope</u> 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 <u>hope</u> 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."

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