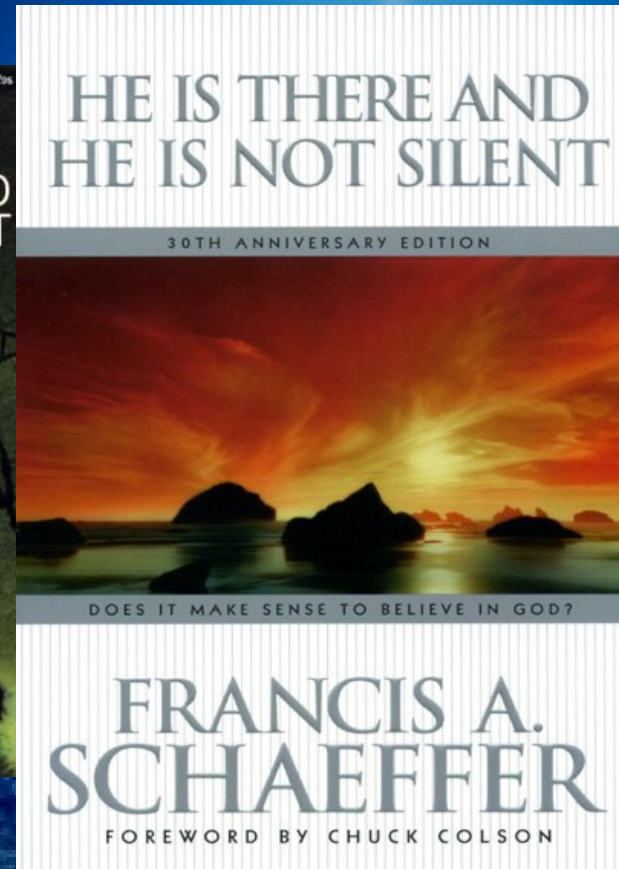
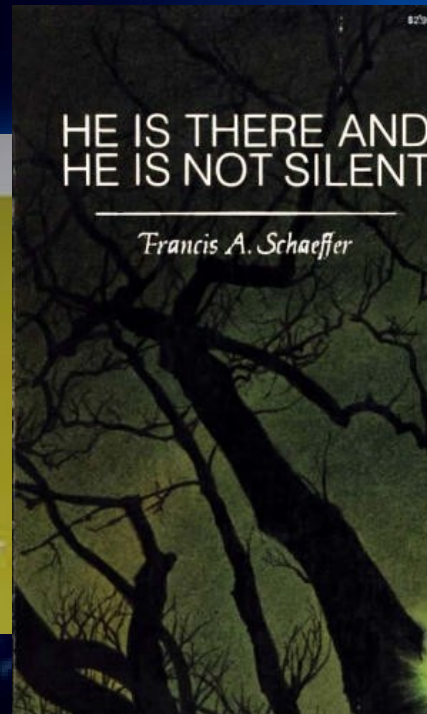


He is There and He is Not Silent

The Metaphysical Questions, Part 2 - "Personal"



Presented at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS redeemer-pca.org -Spring 2015

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Review

- Question 1: “Being”
 - “something is there, rather than nothing” ~ Sartre
- Possible Answer 1 – “There is No Rational Answer: Silence”
 - “The solution of the problem of life is seen in the vanishing of the problem...” ~ Wittgenstein, Tractatus 6.52-6.521
- Where does “silence” leaves us?
 - Various Absurdities: “I have nothing to say, I am saying it, and that is poetry.” ~ John Cage
- Student Observation from last week:
 - “Silence is not nothing, silence is related to the concept of person, and only a person speaks or is silent” ~ Dianne Keech*

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Three Rational Answers

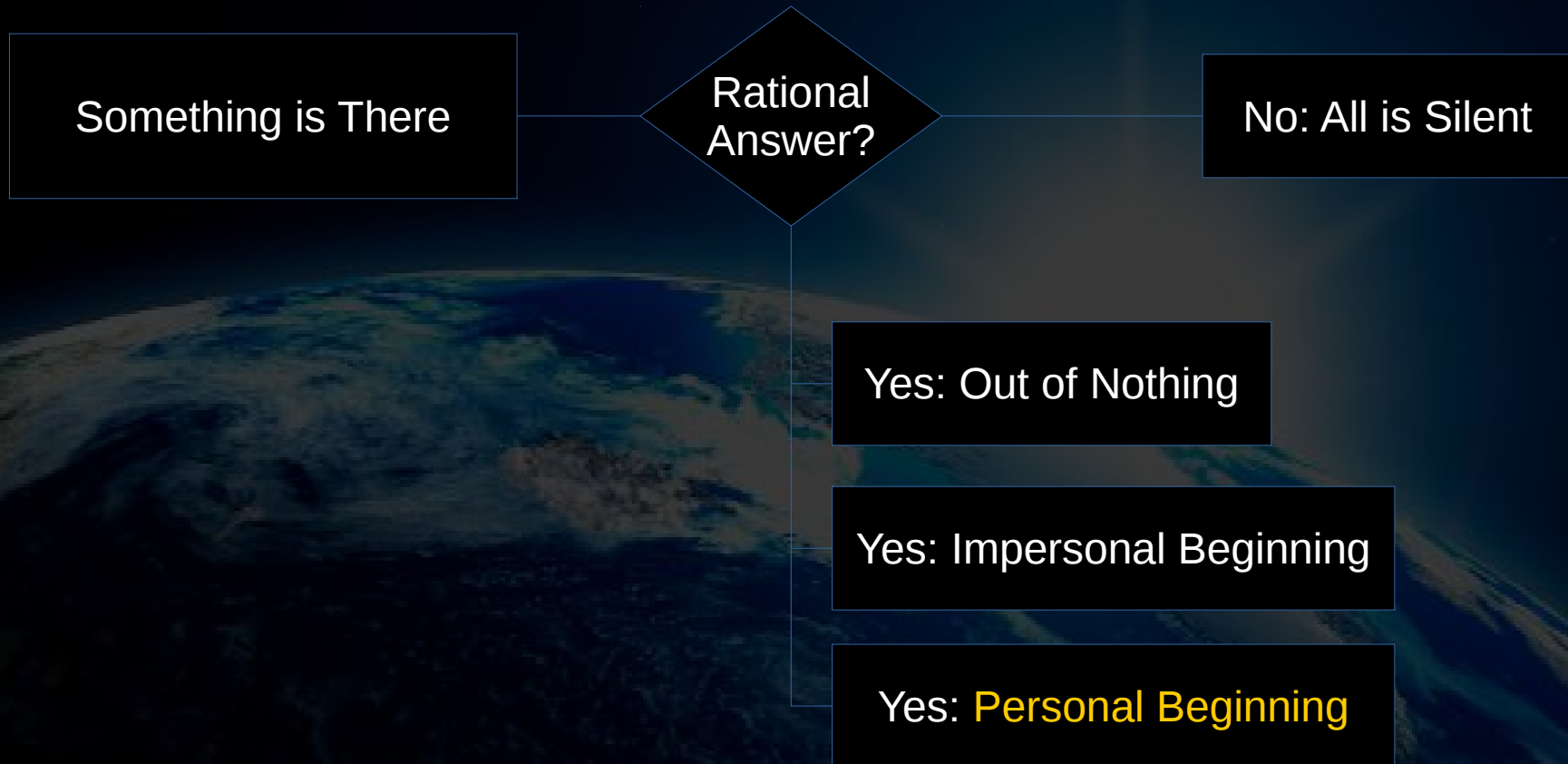
- “Everything that exist came out of nothing”
 - “All that now is had an impersonal beginning”
 - “The third possible answer is to begin with a personal beginning”
-
- “Somebody once brilliantly said that when you get done with any basic question there are not many people in the room. By this he meant that the farther you go in depth in any basic question, finally the choices to be made are rather simple and clear. There are not many basic answers to any of the great questions of life.”
~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

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Four Answers



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Nobody is Home

- “...the basic alienation with which they are faced is a **cosmic alienation**. It is simply this: there is nobody there to respond to you. There is nobody home in the universe.” ~ Schaeffer, *The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century*
- “What marks our own generation. It is the fact that modern man thinks there is **nobody home in the universe**. Nobody to love man, nobody to comfort him, even while he seeks desperately to find comfort in the limited, finite, horizontal relationships of life. But it doesn't go—in his art, in his music, or any other place. In his literature, in his drama, it doesn't go. In the sexual act, in human relationships, he finds only the devastatingly sterile and the ugly. “ ~ Francis Schaeffer, *Death in the City*

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Man & The Impersonal + Complexity

“If we begin with less than personality, we must finally reduce personality to the impersonal. The modern scientific world does this in its reductionism, in which the word personality is only the impersonal plus complexity. In the naturalistic scientific world, whether in sociology, psychology or in the natural sciences, a **man is reduced to the impersonal plus complexity.**” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

- Impersonal complexity=biological machine
(man is made less than man)

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Mankind

- What is the nature (essense) of our existence?
 - Man is finite
 - Man is personal
 - Man is noble
 - Man is cruel
 - Man loves
 - Man appreciates beauty

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Mankind's Infinite-Personal Necessity

- What is the nature (essence) of our existence?
 - Man is finite – **yet mankind needs infinite answers**
“No finite point has meaning without an infinite reference point.”
- Jean-Paul Sartre
 - Man is personal – **mankind needs personal answers**
 - Man is noble – (Three Thoughts from Schaeffer)
 - “man is fallen, but he is not nothing”
 - “Man is a glorius ruin” - “Having been made in the image of God, man is magnificent even in ruin.”
 - Mankind has dignity and value
 - Man is cruel – **mankind needs a forgiveness and a redeemer**

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Lost “Mannishness”

- Man loves – **man requires love**
- Man appreciates beauty – **man needs beauty**
- What does a machine know of love and beauty?
- Are they not just matters of programming?
- “Our generation has nobody home in the universe, nobody at all. Eventually, let us understand this: only a personal comforter can comfort man who is personal, and only one Comforter is great enough: the infinite-personal God who exists—that is, the God of Judeo-Christian Scripture. Only He is the sufficient Comforter.” ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*
- In the next class we further elaborate on the personal-infinite TRIUNE God of the Bible as the answer to the basic philosophical questions.

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Discussion

- Why is only the personal-infinite God big enough?

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Questions/Discussion



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