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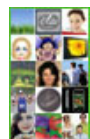
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"...I must preach the good tidings of the kingdom of God..." (Luke 4:43)

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November 22, 2007

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

**Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise. Be
thankful to Him, and bless His name. For
the LORD is good; His mercy is
everlasting, And His truth endures to all
generations. Psalm 100:4-5**

The Golden Compass Points Away From God **Michael Willey**

A few months ago while at the movie theater, my wife and I saw a preview for *The Golden Compass*. It seemed like a great combination of fantasy and action, with a great cast that included Sam Elliott, one of my favorite

actors. It reminded us of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. It turns out, however, that *The Golden Compass* is the anti-*Narnia*. Even though it is being passed off as family entertainment, no family should pay their money to see this film, as it is based upon the first book in a trilogy by Philip Pullman, an avowed atheist. Snopes.com, the website that investigates Internet rumors, confirmed this to be true. The following excerpts are reprinted from the article on www.snopes.com. The entire article, including sources, can be found at: <http://www.snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp>

The Golden Compass, a fantasy film starring Nicole Kidman that is scheduled to be released into theaters on 7 December 2007, has been drawing fire from concerned Christians. The film is based on *Northern Lights* (released in the U.S. as *The Golden Compass*), the first offering in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy of children's books, a series that follows the adventures of a streetwise girl who travels through multiple worlds populated by witches, armor-plated bears, and sinister ecclesiastical assassins to defeat the oppressive forces of a senile God. ...

The series' author, Philip Pullman, is an avowed atheist who has averred that "I don't profess any religion; I don't think it's possible that there is a God; I have the greatest difficulty in understanding what is meant by the words 'spiritual' or 'spirituality.'" Critics of

Pullman's books point to the strong anti-religion and anti-God themes they incorporate, and although literary works are subject to a variety of interpretations, Pullman left little doubt about his intentions when he said in a 2003 interview with *The Sydney Morning Herald* that "My books are about killing God." (Conservative British columnist Peter Hitchens labeled Pullman "The Most Dangerous Author in Britain" and described him as the writer "the atheists would have been praying for, if atheists prayed.") ...

Bill Donohue, president of The Catholic League, has condemned *The Golden Compass* as a "pernicious" effort to indoctrinate children into anti-Christian beliefs and has produced a 23-page pamphlet titled *The Golden Compass: Unmasked* in which he maintains that Pullman "sells atheism for kids." Donohue told interviewer John Gibson on 9 October 2007 why he believes Christians should stay away from the film:

“Look, the movie is based on the least offensive of the three books. And they have dumbed down the worst elements in the movie because they don't want to make Christians angry and they want to make money. Our concern is this, unsuspecting Christian parents may want to take their kid to the movie, it opens up December 7th and say, this wasn't troubling, then we'll buy the books. So the movie is the bait for the books which are profoundly anti-Catholic and at the same time selling atheism.”

Will this movie be blatantly anti-God? No. Will the action and special effects encourage kids to want to read the books? **Of course.** And therein lies the danger. Because if they read the first book, they will want to read the second and then the third book in which, I am told, God is killed by the two children. This movie is yet another example of the media industry wrapping anti-God messages in packaging that is sure to attract kids. NO ONE who loves God and is teaching their children to love God should see this movie. Let's send Hollywood a message of our own: we will not be duped into spending our hard earned money in support of an atheistic movie!

SATAN MET A BRICK WALL
Dalton Key

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
(Galatians 6:9.)

Temptations to forsake good works have ever plagued mankind. Satan has always known that the quickest and surest way to bring a good work to a halt is simply by discouraging the workers. Our enemy, as "a roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8), delights in shrouding any shining ray of hope with dark clouds of doubt and defeatism.

A wonderful biblical example of one who overcame Satan's temptations to quit a worthy work can be found in the Old Testament story of Nehemiah. Nehemiah had not been laboring long in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem before Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, enemies of God's people, heard of it and began a major campaign to halt the work. At first they ridiculed the project. Tobiah dismissed the wall as being so weak that it would fall under the weight of a fox. (Nehemiah 4:3.) But the work continued. These enemies then "conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it", but still the work continued with the workmen holding a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. (4:8,17.) Sanballat and Geshem tempted Nehemiah to take a rest from the work and meet with them on the plains of Ono to talk the matter over. But the invitation was refused and the work continued. (6:1-4.) Finally, ugly and untruthful rumors were circulated in a lastditch effort to discredit the work and the motive behind it. (6:5-9.) But the work continued and the wall was finished in just 52 days. (6:15.)

The keys to Nehemiah's success? Among others, note these: First, "They strengthened their hands for this good work", believing that God would help them. (2:18, 20). And second, "The people had a mind to work." (4:6.) Because the work was perceived as greater than the workers and because it was seen as a work of God to be aided by God, Nehemiah's company "had a mind to work".

They would thus be neither discouraged nor dissuaded.

Satan met a brick wall when he came up against Nehemiah and his workmen. May the same be true of his efforts against our good works as we labor for the Lord today.

The preceding article is reprinted from the November 2007 issue of *Old Paths*. For years, brother Key has been doing a good work with this paper. Subscriptions are free, so if you would like to subscribe to this good paper or support this good work, please write to brother Key at 10th & Rockford church of Christ, 829 S. Rockford Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74120-4696.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear the Word of God - John 8:45; Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - John 3:16; 8:24

Repent of your sins - Luke 13:3, 5; II Peter 3:9

Confess Jesus is the Christ - Rom. 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37

Be baptized for the remission of your sins - Acts 2:38; 22:16

Live faithfully everyday - Matthew 10:22

WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?

Author Unknown

IT IS THANKING GOD for the gift of life
by living it triumphantly.

IT IS THANKING GOD for your talents and
abilities by accepting them as obligations to
be invested for the common good.

IT IS THANKING GOD for all that men and
women have done for you by doing things for
others.

IT IS THANKING GOD for opportunities by
accepting them as a challenge to
achievement.

IT IS THANKING GOD for happiness by
striving to make others happy.

IT IS THANKING GOD for beauty by
helping to make the world more beautiful.

IT IS THANKING GOD for inspiration by
trying to be an inspiration to others.

IT IS THANKING GOD for health and
strength by the care and reverence you show
your body.

IT IS THANKING GOD for the creative
ideas that enrich life by adding your own
creative contributions to human progress.

IT IS THANKING GOD for each day by
living it to the fullest.

IT IS THANKING GOD by giving hands,
arms, legs, and voice to your thankful spirit.

IT IS adding to your prayers of **thanksgiving**,
acts of **“thanksgiving.”**

POINTS TO PONDER

--We ought to live as if Christ died yesterday,
arose this morning, and is coming again
tomorrow.

--What does your life reflect? A confidence in the return of Christ? Or does it tell the world that you are more interested in THINGS of this world?

Man's Obligation to God

1. FEAR HIM (Eccl. 12:13; Heb. 12:28)
 2. OBEY HIM (1 Sam. 15:22; Matt. 7:21)
 3. LOVE HIM (Matt. 22:37, 38; 1 John 4:19)
 4. WORSHIP HIM (Matt. 4:10; John 4:23, 24)
 5. SERVE HIM (Matt. 4:10; 6:24)
 6. BE A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF HIM (1 Cor. 4:2)
-

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