

(7-29-12)

BATMAN, MOVIES AND MURDER! (Part 1)

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: **evil communications corrupt good manners.**

34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

"One high school friend said Holmes always rooted for the 'bad guys' in superhero movies, which he found odd."

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/07/20/police-shooting-suspect-told-officers-he-was-the-joker/>

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 25:20 As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves...

3...fierce...

4...**lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Genesis 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was **filled with violence.**

Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they **of their murders**, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, **but have pleasure in them that do them.**

"...the condition of faith, the reasons of the Truth, the laws of Christian Discipline, which forbid among other sins of the world, the pleasures of the public shows....**At first the theatre was properly a temple of Venus**...the [heathen] censors, in the interests of morality, put down, above all, the rising theatres, foreseeing, as they did, that there was great danger...Pompey the Great...fearing some time or other censorian condemnation...called it not a *theatre*, but a *temple*...[But] Venus and Bacchus are close allies...So the theatre of Venus is as well the house of Bacchus...we cannot partake of God's feast and the feast of devils...Are we not, in like manner, enjoined to put away from us all immodesty? On this ground, again, we are excluded from the theatre, which is immodesty's own peculiar abode...very

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harlots, too, victims of the public lust, are brought upon the stage...Let the Senate, let all ranks, blush for very shame!...all licentiousness of speech, nay, every idle word, is condemned by God...I mean these remarks for heathen. As to Christians, I shall not insult them by adding another word as to the aversion with which they should regard this sort of exhibition...I would rather withal be incomplete than set memory a-working... the father who carefully protects and guards his virgin daughter's ears from every polluting word, takes her to the theatre himself...We ought to detest these heathen meetings and assemblies, if on no other account than that there God's name is blasphemed... Let us mourn, then, while the heathen are merry, that in the day of their sorrow we may rejoice; lest, sharing now in their gladness, we share then also in their grief..."

(Tertullian, *The Shows, or De Spectaculis*)

"The minute he saw blood, he was sipping animality, and turned no more away...drunk with delight at the cruelty. No longer the person he was when he entered, he was now entered into the crowd...he stared, he shouted..."

(Augustine)

"The Baptist denomination, in its many branches, now numbering more than the Presbyterians and Congregationalists united, has never had any sympathy with the Theater...the spirit of the body is overwhelmingly against the institution...It cannot be proper to see or hear voluntarily, for the sake of pleasure, what it would be improper to say or do. If the doing of things is sinful, to 'have pleasure in them that do them' must be sinful also..."

(Buckley, *Christians and the Theater*, 1875)

"When, therefore, the secular newspapers of the land, contrary to their financial interests, severely criticize the playhouse [theater]...their testimony is to me conclusive..."

(T.D. Talmage, 1887)

"If fathers and mothers take their sons and daughters to see such Sodomite lack of robe...they will get what they deserve."

(T.D. Talmage, 1887)

-Spurgeon, before he died, rebuked the *downgrade*. One of the main things he rebuked was some Christians - even preachers - who were going to the theater!

"Xenophon and Plato and Plutarch and Socrates and Seneca and Tacitus and all the best statesmen and writers of Greece and Rome and every other country denounced the theater unmercifully...Macaulay said of the English theater: 'From the time that the theaters were opened they became seminaries of vice'...there is on record today a resolution of the American Congress passed soon after the Declaration of Independence, which read as follows: 'Whereas, true religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness, Resolved, that it be recommended to the several states to take most effectual measures for the discouragement and suppression of theatrical entertainments...as are productive of idleness...and a general depravity of principles and morals'....'Oh!,' you say, 'our

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forefathers and statesmen...were all fanatics and fools!' Very well, let us come further along...*The Chicago Times* [about a recent play]: 'Twenty-five years ago such an exhibition...would have come well-nigh to landing the whole party in the police station'...'Oh,' you say, 'I don't care what the press says.' All-right...[Present-day] dramatic critics [friends of the stage]...are even now prophesying that the day will come and it is no far distant when the stage will fall apart of its own corruption...John Gilbert, the veteran actor [warns]...'...such plays have a very bad influence on nearly all peopel, especially the young'...'None of my children,' said Macready, the actor, 'shall ever...on anhy pretense, enter a theater...'...Mr. Dumas, the play-writer, said, 'Let me say once for all, you must not take your daughter to the theater'..."

(William Edward Biederwolf, *The Christian and Amusements*, 1909)

I. M. HALDEMAN ON THE WORLDLY THEATER:

Isaac Massey Haldeman (1845-1933) was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church, New York City:

"Side by side with this doctrinal **down-grade**, it was foretold that the church, professed Christians, should be 'lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...'...The prophecy finds its realization in the fact that places of public amusement obtain their support largely, if not mainly, from professed Christians..."
(*The Signs of the Times*)

A notice printed in the *New York Times*:

"A DENIAL: It having been reported in the newspapers that Pastor Haldeman, of the First Baptist Church, Broadway and 79th St., recently attended a theatre, he takes this occasion to deny it, as an invention of Satan, and to say that he is against the Theatre as he is against all other like agencies of the Devil. I. M. Haldeman..."

WHY I SMASHED THEATER PICTURE MACHINES WITH A SLEDGE HAMMER, By Wallace Memmer, Randleman, N.C., 1942:

"Reliable statistics show that the movies are destroying the public morals, and actually producing multitudes of criminal boys and girls, women and men. Movies destroy self-control...They not only show crime, but they teach that crime pays! They not only show criminals, but they show them as brave men and women, in romantic, adventure-loving, admirable people, who after all, are not so bad...And the end is not yet. We have JUST BEGUN TO REAP THE CRIMINAL ACTS FROM THE WICKED THOUGHTS, which have been sown in the minds of moving picture show goers for the past 25 years...Oh people, WE ARE GOING TO REAP DESTRUCTION, because of our cowardly dealing with sin. Parents fail to punish their children, husbands do not restrain their wives, preachers do not judge sin in the lives of their church members...The motives of the men who own the Moving Picture Industry are, enslavement of the masses, destruction of religion, love of money, desire for notoriety, and thirst for power. They have so designed their films as to sow seeds of religious hate, social hate, racial hate, industrial hate, revolution...there are a few good pictures; [but] these are shown SO THAT THE PUBLIC WILL REMAIN DECEIVED in thinking the movies ARE NECESSARY AND EDUCATIONAL...the sad truth is that they are in

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the wrong hands...EVEN THE GOOD PICTURES ARE PLAYED BY PEOPLE UNFIT TO BE EXAMPLES. The overwhelming majority of actors and actresses are immoral, and still MILLIONS ARE SEEKING TO IMITATE THEM in manner, in conversation, in style, and conduct...Seeking...constructive entertainment at the movies today is like hunting for healthy, sanitary food in a garbage can...People who frequent the movies have...developed the SWINE'S APPETITE...The movie, is by far, the most outstanding, gigantic enemy of the church. It is the GOLIATH...IF WE CHRISTIANS DON'T AROUSE our sleepy minds and hearts, and with the sling of prayer and faith and the smooth stones of action, protest...DESTROY THIS GREAT GIANT OF SIN, WE ALONE WILL BE TO BLAME when our pastors are butchered, our churches destroyed, and we find ourselves slaughtered, tortured, and imprisoned by the armies of these modern day, Atheistic Philistines. OH WHAT SHAME THAT WE SHOULD LET OUR ENEMIES DEFEAT US FOR SO LONG...God usually goes the limit in warning the nations before He brings DESTRUCTION to them...If you don't clean up the temple of your body, you'll be destroyed like the temple at Jerusalem. God wants each heart and mind to be His house of prayer, where the individual lives in fellowship and harmony with Him....Out of their hearts are pouring cursing, lustful thoughts...etc. People are pouring unnecessary rich, concentrated foods, drinks, tobacco and dope into their bodies, which have become their masters. Their bodies rule their minds and wills, rather than their minds and wills ruling their lustful bodies. They have made gods of their bellies...THE MOVIES ARE HASTENING THE JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON AMERICA. WE MUST DESPISE THEM, OR FORFEIT OUR LIBERTIES, OUR BLESSINGS, OUR LIVES, AND OUR SOULS. We must quit feasting on natural filth and soul poison as seen in moving pictures..."

"Today [movies are] a cult...the actors and actresses are actually called 'idols,' the theater is the church...It is idolatry..."

(Vance Havner, preacher, 1950s)

"Today we have television dictating fashions, thoughts, attitudes, objectives as once did the Church...Television is the major mainstream infiltration of the New Satanic Religion..."

(Anton LaVey, *The Devil's Notebook*)

"You know what I think the greatest idol in America is? There's no doubt about it at all. It's television...I believe you call it 'progress'; I call it the Devil. I've said that years ago; haven't changed my tune. I'm not going to...I'll fight it till I die...Let's get at the thing that's killing the church members today....Preachers! Don't leave it up to the people. Tell them what the Bible says about it. Mothers and Daddies!...Quit letting your home be run by your bunch of children. They haven't got any sense..."

(Lester Roloff)

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Fredric Wertham, *Seduction of the Innocent* (1954), a Jewish psychologist:

Batman comics were criticized. Wertham argued that children imitated crimes committed in comic books. He criticized *Batman* comics for homosexual overtones, violence, etc. He called television "a school for violence."

-Journalist Paul Coates aired a "Confidential File" documentary in 1955, in response to the "horror craze" (which began in 1952). He argued that immoral comics and drawings could provoke crime:

"It is a fact...Horror and crime comics upset kids...Men are getting rich..."

"TV executives are talking out of both sides of their mouths. On the one hand, they try to convince advertisers that a 30-second commercial can influence consumer behavior. On the other hand, they deny that a one-hour program wrapped around the commercials can influence social behavior...Two prominent Surgeon General reports in the last two decades link violence on television and aggressive behavior in children and teenagers. In addition, the National Institute of Mental Health issued a 94-page report entitled, 'Television and Behavior: Ten Years of Scientific Progress and Implications for the Eighties.' They found 'overwhelming' scientific evidence that 'excessive' violence on television spills over into the playground and the streets...Long-term studies are even more disturbing...It now appears that simply watching television for long periods can manipulate your view of the world - whether the content is particularly violent or not."

(Kerby Anderson, *Violence in Society*)

"The scientific debate over *whether* media violence has an effect is basically over, and should have been over by 1975...Heavy diets of violent television and movies clearly have a detrimental effect on children...Violent video games may have a greater effect than violent TV...[because of] identification with the aggressor...active participation...continuous...repetition... rewards..."

(Douglas A. Gentile, *Media Violence and Children*, 2003)

"Parents are being warned, again, to beware of what their children see, because adolescent behavior follows what they view on the silver screen...The word comes in a report from the Association of Psychological Science, which cites a Dartmouth study on the behavior of children...Ted Baehr...said the latest research lines up with many studies that have come before, and reveals the same result... 'The problem is that the message has not gotten to the parents even after all these years' [Baehr]... 'These movies appear to fundamentally influence their personality...' O'Hara said...Researchers said there also was evidence that adolescents use movies for...an understanding of how to behave in various situations... 'They often don't differentiate between what they see on the screen and what they must confront in daily life,' the study warns..."

(www.jewishpulserradio.com/2012/07/study-direct-link-between-what-kids-watch-do/)

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