

When Cinema Becomes "Sinema"

By Chris Gonthier BMAO Moral Action

I remember when television shows and movies reflected a culture that seemingly had better morals as a whole. Now I have to wonder about today's Hollywood creations. What came first, the chicken or the egg?

Those of us who are knowledgeable about the Bible know that God created the animals. One must now ask themselves, did society create Hollywood? Or did Hollywood create our current society? I am convinced that both are true.

The Bible tells us, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9 KJV. So, mankind does have an innate evil that resides within us. This is why salvation is so important. It is abundantly clear, we need Jesus.

Without Christ, that wickedness will permeate through us and spread throughout society. We must remember 1 Thessalonians 5:22, "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

While scripture is abundantly clear, we oftentimes have great difficulty living this verse. Hopefully we all would agree that pornographic movies would be such as would be an obvious violation of scripture. Sadly, we have allowed societal norms to cloud our vision and understanding of scripture.

There are things that are clearly sins that we would not have tolerated as a society in the not so distant past. If I had a dollar for each professing Christian that is a fan of the Harry Potter series, I would undoubtedly never have to work again. I imagine some that read this may even be upset by the mere mentioning of their beloved HP.

The Bible is very clear about the subject of witchcraft. Exodus 22:18 shows us how witches were dealt with in Old Testament Israel. "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."

Leviticus 19:31 tells us, "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God."

1 Samuel 15:23 tells us, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...."

Witchcraft is a sin, and we are forbidden to follow after such. So what society thinks is cute and harmless is actually wicked and sinful.

I hope by now we can all agree that being under the spell of a teenage wizard is totally unacceptable in God's eyes. But we push these iconic movies as wholesome family entertainment.

Cartoons are also destructive on influencing the behavior of our children. Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, and other such "classics" expose sinful behavior upon impressionable children.

Most of us would be offended if someone showed our children an X-rated movie. So why is it ok to glorify something else which God has declared a sin?

Be mindful that there is an attack on the minds of our children. It happens at the movies, on T.V. shows and even in the classrooms of schools. Parents need to protect their children from the attack that Satan is directing toward them.

So most of us would say the solution is to watch Christian movies and protect our children.

Now true Baptists have traditionally been very careful which church they attend or join and carefully check the doctrines. We might ask the pastor how the church celebrates the Lord's Supper, or maybe how many ordinances are in the church and if eternal security is taught.

Another big one is what are the qualifications of a bishop and does the church ordain women. Some of us that are "Super Spiritual" may even ask what type of music does the church use during service.

Occasionally we may even ask what version of the Bible is used.

So what about screening "Christian movies" to make sure they align doctrinally with the Bible.

As a pastor, sometimes I watch new "Christian" movies so I can let my congregation know if they are ok. So many times I find things that are either very uncomfortable or just downright unacceptable.

I recently watched *Left Behind, The Rise* of the Antichrist and saw some things presented that were not doctrinally correct. The view of when the seven year tribulation begins in relation to the Rapture is very suspect.

Perhaps the most disturbing false doctrine they teach is that people who rejected salvation can get saved during the Tribulation.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Those that reject Jesus Christ before the Rapture will not get another chance after. We need to stop allowing false doctrine to continually influence our children, our families, and our churches.

You might say, "Is it that important that they showed people who rejected Christ

From the Pastor's Pen

By Wearthy Shank

"Psalm 27"

Psalm 127

A Song of degrees for Solomon.

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

The principle of this Psalm is that all human efforts are in vain unless they have God's blessings. This principle is applied to four areas:

Building a house [v.1a].

To labor in vain is useless. Speaking

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spiritually, it will lack God's blessings.

Guarding a city [v. 1b].

Unless the Lord protects the city, sentries are useless.

Working long hours [v.2].

It is useless to toil from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve, for God wants His loved ones to get proper rest.

Having children [v.3-5].

Children are a gift of God, they are His reward. They are illustrated as arrows in a quiver which will be defenders of the family.

It is possible to accomplish all of these things without God's blessing, but it is not possible to accomplish them purposefully and with eternal value without God's blessing.

The Psalm includes, incidentally, two practical reasons for having children: They bring you joy and they protect you [v.5].

Oklahoma WMA 2023 State Project



We are asking anyone who can help lower the cost for each camper to give \$1 each week for the next 26 weeks. (Starting January 1 through June 25)

> Send money to: Gail Kendrick 4862 Rock Creek Road McAlester, Oklahoma 74501 (Please send monthly, or on June 26 in time for Camp)

That's only 0.14364641 cents a day!

"? Was Just Thinkin

By Narita Roady

"Making God Second Best"

A grandmother shared the story of a pastor and his family that lived next door to her. As in times past, the congregation gave the preacher and his family clothing to help with their needs. Sadly, the church members donated their used clothing that was worn past use. Of course, this was not any help to the minister's family.

Finally, one Sunday morning, the pastor had his family actually wear some of the clothes that had been donated. The preacher stood in the pulpit preaching and his wife and children sat in the pew wearing ragged, torn, stained and dirty clothes.

Needless to say his flock was shocked and ashamed. How different it was to pack their useless leftovers in a box or bag and proudly take it to the preacher, thinking they had done their part, than to clearly see (and have others see) what they had really given.

People will donate stained t-shirts, ripped dresses and faded slacks to the clothing ministries and six year old cans of pumpkin to the food bank; things they would not otherwise use, and then expect to be thanked for their caring hearts and generosity.

Oh how their eyes would be opened if they saw the needy families wearing their rags to work and school, or hungry families sitting down to a meal of old canned pumpkin and beets. All those 'thoughtful' donations would look shabby, wouldn't they?

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. John 3:21

How often have we done the same thing to God? Let's look a little further, allowing God to turn His light on some other areas Christians tend to give the Lord their castoffs.

What about your mind? **Matthew 22:37** gives us clear instruction as to what part of our minds belong to God. *"Jesus said unto"*

him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with <u>ALL thy</u> <u>MIND "</u> Pretty clear, don't you think?

How much of your mind does God have? Satan has done an A #1 job of carving our minds up into countless pieces with his handy pocket knife called the "world": spouse, children, home, job, houses, cars, education, possessions, health, bills, finances, problems, worries, friends, hobbies, and activities. Each of these can be divided into many more parts. But where is God?

He never intended us to carry these burdens in life alone. He gave us protection against our minds being consumed with worry and anxiety, and that shield is called PRAYER. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." **Philippians 4:6-7**

What are you putting into your mind? What material are you filling it with: romance novels, murder mysteries, magazines, newspapers, television shows – good and bad? While there is nothing wrong with some of these things, we need to ask ourselves, "Am I filling my mind with more of these than I am God's Word?

We can't forget about our thought life. In **Philippians 4:8,** God gives us a standard against which to compare our thoughts. *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, , , honest. _ just, pure, .. lovely... of good report."*

Now there's a quick checklist to evaluate how much of your mind is God's!

A few other "*mind fillers*" that squeeze God out are hatred, bitterness, resentment, jealousy, anger, and judgmentalness. If our minds are constantly filled with ill thoughts toward others, there is unquestionably no room for Him. He tells us to have the same mind as Christ.

> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" Philippians 2:5

It doesn't take a genius to know if something was a part of Christ's mind! In our hearts we know but we just don't want to admit it.

Take a look at your tongue. When God saves us, He saves ALL of us. Yet somehow people seem to forget that includes their tongues and what they choose to say. God warns us that the tongue has the potential of being exceptionally sinful and evil.

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell." James 3:6

This Scripture makes it very clear that only with God's help and by His power can what comes out of our mouth be controlled. Who controls you tongue? If God isn't then you have given Satan free reign to your lips. It's really very simple, does what you say, the attitude you say it in, how you say it, and the motive behind what you say line up with God's Word?

Does it imitate Jesus, would He speak in that way? Usually we don't take the time to check and see; we just let our tongues lose with what ever pops into our hearts or minds. Many folks can't understand why they have problems with others, because they fail to see the "deadly poison" they are continually spewing on those around them.

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." "James 3:8

One of first tongue offenses that come to mind with most is GOSSIP.

Do you share a person's failures and weaknesses with others; information that might shame them or damage their reputation?

Do you try to manipulate others into believing that a person is evil, dishonest, unfit, of poor character, by sharing sordid information about them?

("Making God Second Best," cont on pg 8)

Time to Schedule a Tour at Central Baptist College

Now is a great time to schedule a "personalized" tour of the Central Baptist College campus.

In addition to hosting groups from private schools and other organizations, which we love to do, the Office of Admissions is ready to give you a personalized campus tour that promises to be the best you have ever experienced.

There are basically two kinds of tours offered through our Office of Admissions:

Personalized One-on-One Tour

Even though we call it a "one-on-one" tour, we invite you to bring your family and friends, and let us show you all that CBC has to offer.

This is what you can expect on your personalized tour:

- Reserved parking spot with your name on it adjacent to the David T. Watkins Academic Building;
- Personalized agenda designed to answer all of your questions you may have about Central Baptist College;
- Tour of the campus, including a visit to Mustang Outfitters to shop for your CBC gear;
- Tour of the Cooper Educational Complex, which includes the Judy Gabbard Science Center, several classrooms, Departmental Offices, Toland Worship Center, and the beautiful Burgess Auditorium;

- A scheduled meeting with a faculty member if you have already decided your major area of study;
- If music is your interest, a scheduled meeting with one of the co-chairs of the Department of Fine Arts or Director of Bands;
- Tour our modern and spacious Story Library and Café 52 where you will enjoy a cup of coffee or soft drink of your choice on us;
- Tour of the Watkins Academic Building where many of your classes will be held and a visit to the Financial Aid Office, Registrar's Office, and Business Office;
- Personal visit to the President's Office where you will receive a special gift (I would love to visit with you if I am in the office!);
- Tour of Dickson Hall and the AR Reddin Fieldhouse; and
- A scheduled meeting with an athletic representative if you are looking at one of CBC's 16 NAIA intercollegiate athletic programs.

To register online for a personalized tour, go to http://cbc.edu/visit. Simply fill out the online form and hit "submit." You will be contacted to confirm your scheduled tour date and time. You will also receive detailed directions to the campus along with lodging and dining links.

Discounts are available for partner motels as listed on the site.

For questions, additional information, or to schedule a visit by phone, contact the CBC Admissions Office at 501-329-6873.

Group Tour

It's our honor to host groups from churches, youth groups, schools (public or private), or any other group you may have. We do our best to make any group feel welcome on our campus.

Groups will enjoy many of the elements of the one-on-one tour listed above. Prior to the start of the tour, Admissions personnel will speak to you as a group to answer your initial questions about the College and provide you with an Admissions packet and Viewbook.

To register for a group tour, contact the Admissions Office at 501-329-6873.

If all Admissions personnel are out giving tours, leave a message and you will receive an immediate callback.

Other Tours

If you have a group traveling through to Branson or any other destination that brings you close to Conway, please plan to stop and visit the campus.

With Lifeword and BMAA Missions located only blocks from our campus, it would be worth scheduling a trip with Conway as your destination.

Contact Jessica Faulkner, Director of Public Relations at

jfaulkner@cbc.edu or 501-205-8800,

and she will make sure we are ready for your visit.



"Dinner On The Ground" At BMAA National Meeting

The BMA National Meeting, scheduled for April 25-27 in Conway, AR, will feature a night of fellowship, food, inspiration and worship at the first ever BMA "Dinner On The Ground".

The event will be Wednesday night, April 26 at the Conway Expo Center. According to Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director of BMA Global Missions, this promises to be the highlight of the 2023 National Meeting.

"For the first time in many years all our American-based missionaries will be home from around the world. We

2023 BMA National Meeting Schedule			
BMA Global Ministry Center opens at 9:00am for tours.			
<u>April 25</u> 6:00pm	Worship Clif Johnson and Antioch Worship Ba Antioch Baptist Church	nd	
7:30pm 8:45pm	Meet Your Missionaries Fellowship T Adjourn	me	
8:00am	Breakfast provided by Central Baptist College New BMA Pastors Orientation WMA Meeting Brotherhood	Central Baptist College Central Baptist College Central Baptist College Antioch Baptist Church	
The Lea Prevent Helping Leading	Pastors Conference adership Imperative ing Abuse and Protecting Your Church Members with Mental Health Needs for Growth speakers Breakout	Antioch Baptist Church Dr. Steven Crawley Brotherhood Mutual Lee Poe Pastor, Bill Elliff Elvis Garcia	
	10:30am-1:30pm Global Missions Center T	ours	
12:00pm	State and Local Leaders Lunch	Global Missions Center	
1:30pm	Worship Pastor David McMurray Antioch Baptist Church		
3:00pm	Legacy Missionary Service Introduction of New BMA Missionaries	Antioch Baptist Church	
6:00pm 8:30pm	" Dinner On The Ground" Adjourn	Conway Expo Center	
<u>April 27</u> 8:30am 12:00pm	BMA Department Reports Adjourn	Antioch Baptist Church	

want all of our BMA family to join us in honoring them and encouraging them that night. It's going to be a special time."

The event will take place around an allyou-can-eat catfish/chicken dinner. The cost for the meal is \$25/person.

To ensure the appropriate amount of food is ordered, reservations and payment must be made before April 1, 2023 at https://bmaamerica.org/ nationalmeeting.

Payment will not be accepted at the door.

The night will also feature the presentation of the Gerald Kellar Award presented annually by the BMA Seminary, a special message by veteran BMA Missionary, Buddy Johnson, and a wonderful night of music that will include the Central Baptist College Choir.

A limited number of hotel rooms have been acquired at a special rate that will expire on March 25, 2023.

You will find booking links at https:// bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/ or you may call the hotels listed below and ask for the special rate under the group name BMA National Meeting:

> Holiday Inn Express 501-205-1315 \$94

Hampton Inn by Hilton 501-327-0200 \$104

Courtyard Marriott 501-358-3300 \$114

Hilton Garden Inn 501-329-1444 \$119

Home2 Suites by Hilton 501-504-2602 \$124

"That Reminds Me

By Jesse Spurlock

"Inappropriate Gifts"

Our church has a garage sale almost every year. I look forward to when we skip a year, just for a break, since those things are held at our house. I don't know of very many things that have happened in my life that has had more unique occurrences than these.

Since I base most of these articles on unique and unusual happenings, I ought to be grateful for them. However, I could probably find others things to write about without them.

Every year, people donate all sorts of items to our garage sale, which make the sales very profitable. However, some items donated aren't sold and we have to haul them off.

We had just finished the garage sale one year and I was looking forward to a break from even thinking about it for another year.

Suddenly, a neighbor decided to clean out his garage and decided to donate items to our next sale.

One donation was a large wall mirror with a picture of a large bottle of Miller's Beer in the middle of it. I've been told those are very expensive so the man's generosity was admirable.

However, since the item was to be sold at the church it was totally inappropriate for our sale. I returned the item and explained the reason for our not accepting it.

He said he understood, but he seemed not to grasp that the gift wasn't appropriate or why.

This reminded me of the time I was going to mail the church bulletins and didn't have a mailing permit.

I went to the post office to buy some stamps. The clerk shoved the stamps across the counter to me.

At the time, gambling interests in

Oklahoma were trying to pass a gambling bill, thinly veiled as "pari-mutuel racing."

All right thinking Christians were very much opposed to gambling and were openly speaking out against the sin of gambling on horse races.

The stamps had a picture of a horse race on them. I said, "These are going on church bulletins."

He looked at me incredulously and said, "So?"

"These stamps are promoting gambling," I said.

He repeated, "So?"

I saw this was going nowhere, so I said, "Just give me regular stamps." He shrugged and shoved another roll of stamps across to me with a strange look.

As I considered the gift of a bear advertisement to a church garage sale and postage stamps promoting gambling to be placed on a church bulletin, I wondered when the line became so blurred on the position of God's people and these sins?

When did the world cease to know churches are opposed to gambling and drinking? The attitude of both men in these incidents was "So?" when I advised them of the inappropriateness of those items.

This clearly indicated to me we have dropped the ball somewhere in not getting our message out that churches and God's people are opposed to the sins of drinking and gambling.

It has been stated Oklahoma would never have legalized drinking or gambling if God's people hadn't voted for it. Considering the number of reported Christians in Oklahoma, that would have to be true, wouldn't it?

I don't know why anyone would have

to have an explanation of why Christians and churches are opposed to gambling and drinking as it is a known fact those have

caused terrible suffering and grief to the human race.

How could we not oppose them?

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Missions Day February 26

BMAO Midyear Meeting April 15, Pleasant Hill, Blanchard

BMAA National Meeting April 25-27 Antioch Baptist, Conway, AR

State Youth Camp

June 5-9, Binger, OK

SOAR July 3-5 Grapevine, TX

See pg 7

The BMA of Central OK midyear meeting will be Saturday, April 15. The ladies will have a meeting from 9:15-11:15 during the time the men are having their meeting.

The BMA of Oklahoma Ladies' Retreat will be in September.

"Come to Conway!"

From Clif Johnson BMAA President

I am overjoyed to invite all of our BMA Churches to Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR, for the 74th Annual BMA National Conference on April 25-27 (Tuesday through Thursday).

We are an association of churches who have banded together to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission. We are churches who GO to the WORLD, with THE WORD, and we GO TOGETHER.

With that in mind, on Tuesday night, for our opening session, we will be thinking along the theme of Go to the Word, and the need to be a strong doctrinal people.

On Wednesday afternoon, Bro. David McMurray, pastor of Blackwood Baptist

Church in New Jersey, will be preaching on the theme of Go to the World our commission as churches.

That evening will be a special night where Bro. Buddy Johnson will address our churches on the theme of Go Together, emphasizing how we fulfill the commission as an association.

These three biblical commands will guide our worship services throughout the week, along with breakout sessions addressing real-world problems and the Bible's guidance and answers to them, such as mental health in our membership, addressing sexual abuse within the church, and leadership in the church.

One feature that is certain to set this

year's meeting apart will be our Missionary Dinner on the Grounds to be held on Wednesday night at the Conway Expo Center.

All are invited to attend this landmark evening where you will be able to meet each of our missionaries.

You can register for this dinner at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting.

(All dinner reservations must be made by April 1.)

Additionally, we will be hosting a new pastor's orientation, as well as a call to action meeting for all of our state and local associational officers to be held on Wednesday morning at Central Baptist College.

This association of churches is YOUR association. So let us gather together with great joy as we celebrate all that God has done through her, and let us also come prepared to strengthen our bonds even more as we GO!



"Making God Second Best," cont from pg 3

Gossip is one of Satan's handy dandy all in one package deals for destroying people and relationships. It not only harms the one spreading the rumors, but the one being spoken of, those listening, Christ Himself and His Church.

A gossip is the right hand of the devil. In fact, God views it as so wicked that He classifies a talebearer with a thief and a murder!

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters"

1 Peter 4:15

While it may very well be the truth it still should not be said.

Do you lie? I would venture to say 98% of Christians would say, "NO!" If something is not 100% of the truth then it is a lie. Exaggeration is lying? How often you add to a story or embellish it to strengthen your case against another?

Do you misrepresent a brother or sister in Christ by leaving out their good qualities and only sharing their faults?

Technically your story may be correct but you speak in such a way that will lead your listeners to reach a false conclusion. God hates lying. "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight."

Proverbs 12:22

How can we give Him our best when we participate in something He hates?

What about your words? **Philippians 4:8-9** should be a checklist for what comes out of our mouths also.

Do you praise people or tear them down.

Does your speech encourage them or leave them depressed and disheartened?

When people see you coming are they happy because they will hear kind and loving words?

Or do they brace themselves with dread for the hateful and bitter conversation that is to come?

Do others know you for your praise of God and cheerful attitude or are your visits filled with complaining murmuring, and criticism?

James 3:10, tells us - "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

We must give God complete control of



our tongue otherwise; our service is useless to Him.

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

James 1:26

The New Year is here. In 2023 will you quit giving God your leftovers, the scraps of your life, and give Him the very best?

Making God Second Best

I'm always prompt to punch the clock; I never miss a date; But when I go to worship God, I'm usually always late. I wouldn't think of leaving work, To visit brother Fred; I just wait 'til Sunday comes, And forsake the church instead. I never miss a day at work; Perfection's what I seek: But I miss the worship of my God Once or twice a week. I talk with people daily, Of many subjects rife, But I never mention Jesus, Nor show Him in my life. I spend extra on my family For things I can't afford; But I don't remember, ever, Giving extra to the Lord. When your life on earth is over And they lay you down to rest, How can He say to you, "Well done," If you've made Him second best? Author Unknown

Cinema to "Sinema" continued from page 1

getting saved after the Rapture?"

Now ask yourselves how many people now think they can wait to get saved, because they will get another chance?

We need to measure all that we watch, all that we read, and all that we do to insure that it is in harmony with biblical doctrine.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7