



TELEVISION
TELEVISION

AND

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

DAVID W. CLOUD

Television and the Christian Home
Copyright 2016 by David Cloud
This edition Sept. 25, 2015
ISBN 978-1-58318-207-9



Published by Way of Life Literature
P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061
866-295-4143 (toll free) • fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Canada: Bethel Baptist Church,
4212 Campbell St. N., London, Ont. N6P 1A6
519-652-2619

Printed in Canada by
Bethel Baptist Print Ministry

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“The goal should not be merely to entertain kids and to have fun, but to educate them and, most importantly, to help them know God in His fathomless, multi-faceted majesty and to learn how to walk with Him.”

- David W. Cloud

Introduction

“Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing” (Deuteronomy 7:26).

One of the wisest things parents can do today is throw out the television altogether, except for watching educational programs and perhaps some carefully selected movies, and the selection of the latter will be slim indeed.

In looking back on my childhood growing up in a Baptist church, attending services at least three times a week, the three major influences that stole my heart for the world were public school friendships, pop music, and television, and the three were intimately associated. We got a television when I was about nine years old (1958), and though the programs were innocent compared to today, they certainly did not encourage me spiritually. We got our television a couple of years after Elvis appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. By the time I reached junior high school, I did everything I could to stay home on Sunday nights, because that was when the most exciting programs of the week were on, such as the *Disney Hour* and *Ed Sullivan*. I don't remember if I was home that Sunday night in 1964 when the Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan, but I could have been. I was in high school and about that time my parents were having a lot of problems and had pretty much given up on trying to keep me in church. I had already started drinking and carousing with my public school buddies every weekend. There is no doubt that television and movies fed my carnal imagination and, together with rock & roll, inflamed me with a passion for the things of the world.

One of my sisters gives the following testimony:

“As a little girl, I can remember the television being on constantly. It was my ‘friend’ and a means of escape

from the troubles and insecurities in my life. As I would watch a certain program, I would think, 'If I just had her personality or looks, I would be happy.' Later, when I was older and programming became increasingly wicked, I would stay up late and watch hours of mindless, foolish, empty sitcoms, totally oblivious to the damage it was doing to me. Like a drug, it was altering my mind. When I gave my life to the Lord in 1987, I realized how much of my life had been adversely affected by the media and television. The Lord cleansed my mind as I read His Word and replaced the vain, man-centered philosophies with Truth. We have made the deliberate choice not to have a television in our home today and have purposed to not set any wicked thing before our eyes (Psalm 101:3). A child needs to learn how to communicate with his family, not just sit in a trance in front of a TV."

Brian Snider had a similar experience growing up. He says,

"I always tell people that 3-4 hours of church a week can't hold a candle to 30-40 hours of television as far as power and influence on a young kid. Church was boring; television was fun."

Testimonies

Following are testimonies that were sent to me by Christian parents who have gotten rid of the television. These are extensive and there is some repetition, but I believe that it is important to publish them in order to offset the status quo that exists even in most allegedly staunch Bible-believing churches today.

“Sick of the nasty language, barely dressed women and/or men, sexual content, drugs, drinking, murder, the commercials, the list goes on, we have not had cable/antenna hook up for about six years in our home and we LOVE IT! The result has been wonderful! **We are no longer couch potatoes.** We enjoy the quietness in the home. We enjoy each other’s company. We enjoy more time spent with Father God. We spend more time in prayer, reading God’s Word and being with the each other. We do more out of doors activities--walking trails, driving to the mountains, etc.”

“Being engulfed in front of a TV has nothing to do with family time. Real family time is getting closer to God and developing an intimate, passionate, and personal relationship with Jesus!”

“My dad was a deacon in an independent fundamental Baptist church that was a strong church. I am a strong preacher of personal responsibility, and am fully responsible for my wayward years, but sitting and watching ‘Cheers’ with my deacon dad and laughing as Sam and Norm and Cliff sat around the bar talking and drinking and chasing Diane surely didn’t help convince me that it was bad. Being a deacon, our family would go over to other deacons’ houses, and what happened at my house was the norm in that IFB circle. They’d all watch the ‘good’ Hollywood movies like ‘Superman’ with Christopher Reeve, despite the fact that it contained a few times of using the Lord’s name in vain, and couple minor

swears, and of course Superman kissing very affectionately a woman who was not his wife or even his girlfriend. The adults watch it innocently and chuckle, but the kids see right through the charade and are able to discern that ‘this is directly against the things they show me in the Bible on Sundays.’ The deacons and their wives are not able to discern this same thing, so the kid can only conclude, ‘I must be wrong, this can’t be that bad.’”

“We have had television for about one year in the past 27. Besides not being fit to watch, it was a big waste of time. We feel that our family unit was much stronger because of the lack of television in the home. Our children got better grades when they were in Christian School. The teacher actually guessed that we did not have television. It is also a blessing to see our grown children and their families serving the Lord without having a television to hold them back.”

“I was engaged to be married in 2007 with the man who is now my husband. We had met in a liberal church before switching over to a Bible-believing church. He had a big screen TV and I told him that I would not move in with him after we got married if he put the TV in our house. He kind of thought I was kidding and was annoyed at my persistence (which I’m sure came across as very bossy) but relinquished to store it at his cousin’s for a time. After about six months of marriage he thanked me for being so adamant. It took a long time for him to lose his addiction to using it to wind down after work but if you can get away from it long enough you become re-sensitized to the filth on it. My daughter is different than other girls from families that have cable or satellite. She is not fashion or boy crazy. She does not try to fit in with the in crowd. She is a kid the way kids are supposed to be, innocent to the wicked world around her, and for that I give praise to God. ... I’m sure my husband would say that he doesn’t have to take time away from Bible reading to watch the hockey game or have the temptation to use the TV to ‘unwind’ instead of going to God for his comfort and

solace, not to mention the incredible temptation to lust in pretty much every commercial and TV program. I believe that TV is Satan's tool to steal our hearts and time away so we will not be of any use to God."

"Having eliminated television, we have noticed a marked improvement in the children's homeschooling and in their attitudes. Their conversations have also changed from what they watched to what they have done. We have a family devotion and Bible reading time, and the children read more. As far as movies, we first look up to see the content and mostly watch Christian movies. We also view videos about prophecy and Biblical subjects. We do not permit anything that has cursing or using the Lord's name in vain."

"We were compulsive TV watchers. Enslaved is actually the word, so I had to eliminate it. Now we have a lot of time for the family. We do Bible study after dinner every day and play games with the kids. My wife and I have more personal time."

"When our children play they use their own imagination; it is not an imitation of what they have seen on cable TV. They are not singing the songs, doing the little dance moves, asking us what certain words mean; they're not practicing the attitudes they see; they are respectful to their father; we're not pestered to buy certain toys or food. **Our children's likes and dislikes are determined by the likes and dislikes of the family and not what's been dictated by the TV.** We read many chapters of the Bible daily, play with the children, and have all kinds of 'projects' going. We use a projector and a laptop to play movies which we may watch on a Friday night. We are also careful as to the message the movie portrays and the music."

"I got saved when I was 19 and used to watch television 8-10 hours a day and 26 hours on the weekends. When I started going to church and then through Bible College, where there were no televisions, I realized how much it had influenced the way I thought and perceived life. When

we got married we decided not to have a television and have been thankful for it. It was only on deputation when we had more access to TV's and found when we turned them on that hours would easily be wasted, even just watching *FOX News*. Not to mention having to continually turn the commercials off. It got so annoying you either wanted to just leave it alone and not turn it off or miss something if you did turn it off. Unfortunately, leaving it on would win, and being aware of this we solidified in our minds we would not have a TV in our home, or cable for that matter. **Both the programming and the commercials are written by non-Christians who are trying to influence others with their pagan humanistic philosophies and lifestyles.** Cheating, illicit sex, drugs, homosexuality, teens in adult situations, Darwinism, cussing, and all kinds of things Christians shouldn't be setting before their eyes. Numerous times, even on 'conservative' *FOX News*, they had a story on prostitutes and actually showed a video of pole dancers."

"We first disconnected cable subscription, thereby reduced viewing time. After that, we realized we would benefit from eliminating the TV altogether, especially with the commercials aired during an otherwise decent program. We find that the time is better used because the children play together more. My wife and I communicate more and better now that we do not have the television to capture our attention. **Our children are also now ignorant of the current trends and shows, for which we are grateful.** The children play together more and better."

"I have found that I am more aware of bad language, improper dress and behavior, etc., out in the world than when I used to watch broadcast television. **I believe television dulls the senses in these areas and we become calloused and complacent concerning things that should be offensive to a Christian.** I do more Bible study in the evenings or just spending time enjoying the outdoors with my wife. People have a hard time believing we don't have cable or satellite TV, but I have not missed it. I knew the

Holy Spirit was not comfortable watching and listening to what was on commercial television. We even tried just subscribing to nature and family channels for awhile, but the commercials on those channels advertising other networks were just as bad as the shows themselves, so we had to give it all up.”

“Eliminating commercial TV has had a three-fold benefit for us: 1. I am not de-sensitized to evil. Every three or four months I take my car to the Honda dealer in town for maintenance and in the waiting room is a TV tuned to CNN. I am shocked at the commercials. If no one else is watching it, I turn it off. 2. Contentment. Because I am not bombarded with commercials for more stuff, I am content with what I have. (A specific application of this contentment is that my first car lasted me 19 years.) 3. More hours in my day.”

“Over 15 years ago when we did have TV **we noticed that everything contradicted what we were trying to instill in our family. It was full of the worldliness that we were trying to keep our kids away from.** We noticed that even the commercials were wicked. The kids would begin to mimic what they watched. We have never regretted eliminating TV from our lives. We haven’t watched for over 15 years and would recommend doing the same to anyone. We have played many family board games, done crafts, exercised, and most often had family read-aloud times. Mom finds a great book to read aloud. She uses expression and different character voices to make it even more interesting. As the family listens, we laugh and cry together. It allows us to discuss the book after the reading, and we find that everyone looks forward to it. They even beg for it! As for videos, we watch mostly on weekends. If there is any cursing, sexual situations, New Age, disrespect to authority, etc., we throw it away. We have the same rules for Internet as we do for DVDs/movies. We have received some criticism from extended family members. They mock our decision by telling us we are too overprotective. It has hurt the children as it comes from

their grandparents. Also, when they have seen their pastors watch regular TV it has caused them to become disappointed that a man of God has not seen the obvious sin. We are to abstain from ALL appearance of evil, and TV clearly has plenty of evil. Regardless, it has given us an opportunity to show the children we live to please God, not man, and we are all responsible for our own choices.”

“My husband and I grew up on TV, too much of it, and as we started our family while attending the church we go to now, we knew pretty early on (when our first two children were toddlers) decided that we shouldn’t get the kids used to having cable and that the TV would be on only when a video or DVD that mom and dad OK’d would be shown. We didn’t want them saying, ‘Oh, it’s 3 o’clock, time to watch’ We wanted TV time to be in our control as well as what they would and could watch. The result is they aren’t sitting in front of the TV watching endless programs and then getting irritated at us for making them FINALLY turn it off. We haven’t had negative feedback in our church circles, because we attend a fantastic Baptist church with a great pastor whose preaching is very black and white, (much like yours) and preaches about the repercussions of watching too much TV, or any TV really since there’s very little he can even recommend watching.”

“We got rid of the television 31 years ago when our oldest was four. It was a time waster, and the four-year-old was demanding to watch a favorite show of his when it was supper time. We did not want the TV to run our family schedule. Along with home schooling, that has been the best decision we have made for our family. Our family felt closer together; the children had time to develop hobbies and did not have the interest in worldly music, Hollywood, clothing, etc. It definitely led to the better opportunity for them to develop spiritually without those distractions. Our kids did a lot of reading, playing games together and developing their hobbies like piano playing and 4-H activities.”

“I believe that commercials are harmful, but **more harmful is the general belief system that is perpetrated in movies**, like ‘Supernatural’ -- where is God in their lives? ‘Big Brother’ or reality TV -- don’t they have anything better to do with their lives? ‘Supermodels’ -- what are they teaching our children, shallowness and superficiality? Having said all that, I must admit that the mindlessness of TV is very attractive and seductive, and it does take willpower to push the ‘off’ button.”

“We have found the children are not questioning our authority like they used to. They do not follow the latest fads that come and go on TV, and are consequently less likely to ask (i.e. nag) about having toys or other commercial items that might go with favourite TV shows. We are not allowing social trends into our home that teach anti-biblical consequences (such as promiscuity), so **our children are much more innocent and wholesome than otherwise would be the case**. I am a stay at home mother (we home school) and have found myself to be far less influenced by worldly concepts and dictates. We previously used to let the children watch television during the day when Dad was not at home. They now spend that time on schoolwork, working around the home, or playing creatively. My husband used to watch TV at night after the kids were in bed, but he now has time to spend with study and doing things around the house. We watch carefully selected movies on DVD/video that are God honouring, uplifting, and don’t expose us to violence, swearing, promiscuity, or other worldly concepts/sins. We do not watch a movie just because it has a Christian theme, as a lot of these are still exposing us to evil influences. **We tend to review our library of books and movies on a regular basis, as we have found our criteria have become stricter over time**. We noticed that even shows we had thought were ‘safe’ such as *Playschool*, were still carrying a lot of worldly themes, and the children would always ask for more TV viewing rather than doing something useful or constructive.”

“The programming was becoming so evil and it definitely was not upbuilding or worthwhile. We tried watching the news at five o'clock, and during the commercials we would put a piece of cardboard over the screen. Finally, we stopped that habit. **The result is peace of mind and freedom from a worldly influence which is neither encouraging or uplifting.** We read, or walk, sew, play games, study the Word, work on household projects, write notes and letters to people to encourage them, etc. We watch wholesome videos or DVD's, and we are very careful about what we watch. Sometimes people will look at us like we are 'strange,' but we don't want to put anything evil before our eyes or hurt the Lord in any way. There was an experience at a church we attended for six and one-half years. There was a gathering at the pastor's home and there were some very bad commercials during the program, and I quietly got up and left. No one else did.”

“There is violence in just about all programs, and **the worldly philosophy conditions our thinking away from and dulls our sensitivity to spiritual things.** Entertainment for me personally easily becomes an idol and a growing awareness of my accountability before God of how I lead my family and the example I set was a big reason for giving up TV. Since giving up TV, we have become more sensitive to worldly music and programs. When we visit our in-laws we have a lot of trouble finding a quiet refuge. We spend some time with family devotions after the evening meal and play some board games. Our son has been learning the piano and he often does school projects at home. Our son and daughter play more together. As for DVDs, the selection is very limited. We tried some 'Little House on the Prairie' DVDs that I remembered from TV 20 years ago, but they require some discussion as they have some subtle themes that trouble us. We have been listening to some Christian Internet radio stations that have very good music and news stories.”

“My husband and I eliminated the television 15 years ago. The original reason was that we found ourselves wasting time in an ever increasing evil medium. **We would sit down to watch a 30-minute show and find ourselves in the same spot two hours later.** As our family grew we felt that a TV ban was very important. First and foremost the TV is evil; it is the devil not much in disguise. When we do happen to see the TV on vacations or in homes of others, it is shocking to us what is being seen by children and adults on a daily basis. We are embarrassed, shocked, saddened, but to others who see it every day it is nothing. Second it is a waste of precious time. The benefits of no TV include better relationships, quality time with children, prayer time, play time, good work ethic, separation from the world, a wonderful library, many projects being completed, extended family events, positive productivity, wholesomeness, quietness, and we feel that it is pleasing to the Lord.”

“We have not had commercial television for over seven years now and our children have grown up the later part of their years without being influenced by what others think or feel we should have in our lives or what they should be doing! Our son was 14 years old and our daughter was 11. For two years prior to the commitment to not have the TV as a focus in our lives, we had always given reasons for having it as valid, but they were so wrong! We wish we had done it years before. We have more time for one another and a house less selfish in all aspects of our day-to-day lives, not just who wants to watch what and when but the TV is not the centre of our lives. There were many reasons why we eliminated commercial television from our family. We didn't want our children being influenced by the latest trends and philosophies, from the teaching of children's programs and showing them that smoking is cool to the idea that it is OK to be gay to the promotion of evolution as fact in wildlife programs! We knew that it was an influence in all our lives, taking the focus off of the family and away from our walk with the Lord.”

“We eliminated television because we did not feel in control of what we watched; we felt guilty from watching wrong programming; it was consuming too much time; and we wanted to spend more valuable time with the children. It has been wonderful. My daughter now consumes books; I don’t deal with nagging guilt about that program I just can’t stop watching. It’s a huge burden off of my shoulders. Now we read together, bake together, sing together. Also my daughter has learned how to work around the house. The commercials are as harmful as the programming. If you find a good program, like something on the History channel, the next thing you know during a commercial a dozen women wearing bikinis are bouncing up and down, and my husband is subject to this soft porn. So that is our concern about the television. You cannot control what you are watching.”

“We gave up the television because of the wickedness of it and its effect on our lives and the kids. I can’t stand hearing God’s name being blasphemed! **The kids are a LOT more obedient and listen to instruction.** Reading has been the main replacement activity.”

“My husband, years ago, was given a tape to listen to about television (maybe it was called ‘The Devil’s University’). He was convicted about it, and after struggling with it for a couple more months (because he didn’t want to give up watching sports), he finally said he was going to get rid of the cable, which prohibited us from getting ANY reception at all. I was personally overjoyed. **My husband’s main reason for doing away with the TV was because he felt he was addicted to it because of sports.** When he came home at night, he would walk in the door and immediately turn on the TV. He was glued to it for the rest of the night, and if anyone spoke to him, he’d say he was listening, but he really wasn’t. He admitted this later on. It was a time-waster, and it hurt all our relationships. He is adamantly against TV now, and he says it was the best thing we ever did, to get rid of it. Whenever we’ve been in a hotel, or at my mother’s, we’ve flipped through the programs to see if

anything good was on, and we have been shocked at how much WORSE things have gotten. Homosexuality, sex, nudity, bad words, the Lord's name in vain, etc., is right out in the open. We believe strongly that if the children shouldn't watch it, then the adults shouldn't watch it either! We should be very careful about what we put into our minds and into our children's minds. **Television gives us a 'taste' for the world.**"

"It's been many years now since we got rid of our television. The result is that my husband and I have a MUCH better relationship than we did before. We talk more. We think more. We read more. There is quietness and peacefulness. The children were GREATLY affected by it, in that we spent the evenings together doing other things. Their relationship with their father improved drastically. It gave us more precious TIME. We all became more sensitive to the ungodliness that is on TV, too. Another result is that our children are grown up now and two are married and in the ministry. Neither of them has a television, and they don't want it! They are so much happier without it. That is a blessing to me personally, to know that they and THEIR children do not have television nor WANT it. My daughter has two little girls, and they too are being brought up without TV. They will not be influenced by all the ungodliness that's there. **We never run out of things to do, and I sometimes wonder when there ever WAS time to watch television!**"

"We only watch an old movie classic, or something rated G, now and then. **We have found that even in PG there is SOMETHING wrong.** It could be a bad situation or a bad word. We don't want to put anything ungodly into our minds."

"It was one of the biggest joys of my life to be WITHOUT TV! What a difference it made. Interestingly, my own mother was the biggest criticizer, and she still is, to this day. She is disapproving of it, saying that I'm not being informed about what's going on, but we can listen to

the news on the radio, and we can also read the newspaper.”

“My husband starting getting preaching CDs from a pastor in Tennessee years ago. That preacher really warns his people about the TV and video games, and over five years ago we got rid of the television. I wish we had gotten rid of it sooner or never had it to begin with, even though we were very selective in what we allowed our children to watch. ... **We never even missed the television. I believe as a result God has moved in the lives of our children.** They spend more time reading. One of our sons was reading a sermon by Dr. Lee Roberson on the judgment seat of Christ and God pricked his heart and he felt God calling him to preach. It is amazing what God has done with him. He preaches at the nursing homes, jail and sometimes at our church. We live on a farm, so our youngest two children have animals they take care of. They also like to read and do crafty things. We all read more and keep busy with church visitation, services, nursing home, and the two oldest do the jail ministry every week.”

“We always get criticism from my husband’s parents. They were always trying to bring the kids a movie to watch. Once they brought one, knowing we don’t watch movies, and my husband told them no. They kept telling us we were missing out. It seems that every time we go to their house for any holiday they have a video they got at the Christian book store for everyone to watch. The last one was a short little video full of rock music. I took my daughter and left the room. She later asked me if it offended me and I told her yes, but even more it was dishonoring to our Lord. They rented a cabin for the whole family in the Smoky Mountains once and one of my nieces bought a movie for all the grandkids to watch. We of course were the bad guys because we didn’t let our kids sit and watch it with them. They think we are nuts because we try to live a separated life.”

“I heard about a preacher and his wife visiting a town and they went out to eat. They saw the headlines of a paper that

said Lucy had died. The preacher had to ask the waitress who Lucy was because he didn't know. He had never watched TV. I wish I and my children had that testimony. Hopefully my grandchildren someday will have it."

"My wife and I made a decision before we were married that we would not have commercial television in our home. We both came from Christian homes where there was television and we had both recognized the ungodly influence that it had had on our prospective families. There had clearly been a desensitizing effect on both us and the other family members. We believed that watching TV would be to grieve the Holy Spirit because we were viewing conduct, lifestyles, language, values, etc., that are forbidden in God's Word. We also believed that watching television was an incredible waste of the most precious commodity that we have on earth, which is time. If we were to redeem the time because the days are evil, we could not have the television in our home. Instead of watching television, we sing, play games, read books, listen to audio stories, listen to preaching and Christ-honouring music. We allow our children to watch DVDs that do not promote worldliness or rebellion and do not contain language and content that would violate a Spirit-sensitive conscience. We as parents watch DVDs that are instructional/encouraging and would lead us into a closer relationship with the Lord."

"We got rid of the television because it appealed to the lust of the eyes and flesh, the pride of life, and deadness of the mind. The Bible says, 'Be not conformed to this world,' and, 'If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in Him.' **I truly believe TV is the number one assault of the evil one. He desensitizes through it and conforms people to the world system of thinking. It hinders spiritual growth and living out the Spirit-filled life.** Another key factor is the freeing of time to do more creative things with family and church. We are no longer bound to time slots and the start times of sporting games. We have more quality time to spend with children doing

things together besides watching TV. We no longer have to worry about commercials; having the remote in hand ready to make fast changes was a hassle. It has resulted in getting closer to God especially through family devotional time. It has led me personally to read a whole lot more than I use to. I have become more pure in spirit, by not filtering in all the stuff the world tries to throw at you. I believe the commercials might be even more harmful than the regular programming. I use to love to watch sports, especially football. (I played the game in college.) However when watching a game the commercials were a huge distraction. As I grow in the Lord, I am seeing that even the sporting events themselves are not healthy. This is due to the attitudes of the men playing the games. They are full of pride and of themselves. You can't learn to be humble by watching sports in our day; it has become entertainment. Jesus said, 'Learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart.'

"My wife and I have never had commercial television. It has kept the world from flooding into our home and given our family and our kids, especially, the spiritual, social, and intellectual opportunity to bond, to function, and to occupy themselves without surrendering control to the idiot box. I get to spend a lot more time playing and fellowshiping with my family. My kids actually look forward to 'church time' at night. We sit around, sing some songs; I break out the hand puppets and act out Bible stories. Little is much when God is in it. I refuse, by God's grace, to abdicate my role to the eye of the world. Programs perpetuate a false philosophy and approach to reality, while commercials elicit covetousness. Both are wrong, but sin works its way out in different ways in different people. In addition to the wickedness and my desire not to abdicate my responsibility to train, to teach, and to fellowship with my family, we gave up television because it destroys a child's ability to think, to concentrate. **Plopping them in front of the tube teaches them that rapid-fire images and sounds is the only way to be entertained.** How can I ever expect them to sit quietly in

church or focus on reading if they have been conditioned to be over-stimulated by these forms of media?”

“We have four children from ages 16 to 8. We do not watch commercial television with the exception of occasional news and weather. Our children are not allowed to watch TV unsupervised. There are no TVs in the bedrooms. We found that even good educational shows had offensive commercials. **Even most educational shows have a strong humanistic, evolutionistic, and anti-Christian bias.**”

“Since we home school, some of our curriculum uses DVDs. We are very careful with the screening of DVDs. It seems anything that was produced from the evangelicals after 1970 has questionable material. We bought some old Moody Films (1960s). We also get preaching DVDs of independent Baptist preachers, missionaries and evangelists. I have all the videos in my office and the children need to see me when they want to watch one. Some parents would say we are sheltering our children too much. In fact, we probably aren’t sheltering them enough. We eliminated television from our home when our oldest one was four years old. I think our children are more creative, social and obedient. They exhibit less violent tendencies as well. For myself, I read more, especially the Bible and good Bible-teaching material.”

“I eliminated TV from my life over four years ago, and the change has been most blessed! **I realized that I was being entertained by sin and was committing sin by partaking of it, and that I was not hating evil as I should** (Psa. 97:10). It has given me a far greater sensitivity of sin and unholiness; it has cleansed my mind, heart, and life of much uncleanness that I had subjected myself to; and it has given me a far greater appreciation for wholesome, virtuous, Philippians 4:8 things to spend my time doing. I was single when the Lord first convicted me about getting rid of the destructive influence of TV, but since then by His grace He has given me a wife and son who shall also be separated from television. Since I quit viewing commercial

television I have used that time reading more of the Bible and other good books, doing evangelistic and other ministry, writing, and learning and singing hymns. As a family I intend to teach my children to love and read the Bible and other good books, sing hymns, memorize Scripture, and have a heart for ministry from a very early age.”

“We got rid of commercial television because of sex, violence, a messed up view of family, dating and bad relationship examples, fathers seen as idiots, Humanism, the void of God and His principles; it is a brain drainer, time waster, and disconnects us from one another. TV becomes a god over the Heavenly Father. Wow! What a difference. Our children are protected from violence and sexual content. Our children do not have the extreme aggressive behaviors that we see in other children, acting out, foul mouth, etc. Our girls are not concerned about stylish clothes or have a warped body image. They do not think that all dads are goof balls and that wives are the only smart ones always waiting for the husband to goof up. They see homosexuality as a sin rather than an alternative way of life. Our kids are not as materialistic. I can go to the grocery store with five kids and never be asked, ‘Can we get this or try this?’ Instead of watching television, we read, play, go to parks, use our creativity, TALK, and we still do watch some movies or other DVD programs. The television is used for school and movies from our collection or pre-previewed (by Dad and Mom); no immodest dress (that knocks out a lot of old movies too); shows where the father leads; shows that do not have a dating spirit; historical programs that are accurate; nothing about evolution; almost no Disney (a very limited few such as ‘Old Yeller’); sermon DVDs; documentaries; no sports; Moody Science; no magic. Both the programs and the commercials were harming the family. We would watch a moral show, but the commercials in between were awful. We were always telling our children to look the other way, but the damage was done. Another bad thing is just flipping through the channels to get to a ‘good show,’

which are hard to find. It is just too much of a temptation and before you know it, you have wasted one, two, three, four or more hours vegging out. Looking back we cannot believe what we used to watch. You get so sucked into it and become so desensitized to sin and you find yourself overlooking a lot of trash. It was awful what we used to think was funny. By God's grace we only had two children at the time when my husband pulled the plug. I have never been more proud of him. I thank the Lord for men who are not going to take it anymore and are protecting their families. To God be the Glory!"

"My kids have grown up without a TV in the home. My girls do not need to be 'entertained.' They are very creative and active. The TV we have now was given to us this past summer, and it is used for very limited use of Xbox (games which are also censored). **We are a busy family. When we do have family time, we don't want it to be sitting around the TV. It does not build relationships.** We have our own business, so the Internet is 'there,' but I am very careful to limit the usage for the kids. It is for homework and occasional use together. They do not have access to the Internet without us there. They do not have an email account to communicate with their friends. Again, we encourage real life relationships versus 'virtual' relating. Other forms of media include books (a lot), radio programs, and CD's for learning or music."

"God told us very clearly to get rid of it and it's been four years and He has blessed us with knowing over and over that we did the right thing. Praise Jesus! It is all JUNK!!!! **It does not reflect in ANY way how we are to live as believers and it confuses our children with what the Bible teaches and what the world says is acceptable.** It will consume you for mindless, thoughtless hours and steal away days that should be spent with the Lord and your family. Getting rid of it has been marvelous! My children aren't the least bit interested in all the 'stars' and hoopla over the next big thing. They understand that it isn't just Mom and Dad being strict; they see that it is garbage and it

is in many ways idolatry and that Satan will use it to turn people away from God. We read and do Bible studies together. We have family prayer every night. We take walks and play outside, light a fire in the fire pit on cool nights. We just spend time talking and enjoying each other.”

“The reasons why we got rid of the commercial television include lust, sodomy, envy, covetousness, nudity, rebellion, anti-God, anti-Christian, anti-family, sports, promiscuity. Let’s see, that just in the first commercial break. You get my point. I have discovered the TV and public school are what shapes our society. When you pull out or unplug, you find that you no longer fit in, which is a good thing! Programmers dictate fashions, values, goals, etc., for youth. Children get to a point where they want to make some independent decisions, even good kids. It’s not [necessarily] rebellion; just part of growing up. None of us want small clones of ourselves. We want youth that can think and make their own decisions. Well, if broadcast TV is allowed in the home it will be a major influence when young folks start to make those independent decisions. All you have to do is watch for 15 minutes to discover what that will result in.”

“We have more time together. Many times, we just sit around and talk. We play games. We read more books. We read a lot more online news. My children are all pretty savvy about what is going on in politics and world news.”

“Before we were married we began to study and consider ‘how to direct a family.’ My husband was strongly burdened with this and much study and discussion ensued. Early in our marriage many things were firmly established and our way was committed. The following are key verses as we studied, meditated and discussed our new ‘household’ in great detail: 2 Corinthians 10:5-7; Philippians 2:5 (thinking very much upon the word ‘let’); 2 Timothy 2:15; Deuteronomy 6. Television did not seem an appropriate tool for the accomplishment of the above Scriptures.”

“The glory belongs to God as He is the one who revealed to us through His Word the many hazards of TV, spiritual as well as economic, which both have to do with stewardship of God’s blessing/provision of Time and Money. It was before our three children were born that we eliminated TV. Our testimony as to the benefits of this ‘odd behaviour’ (as deemed by nearly all believers we know) comes primarily from the contrast we see between US and THEM. Even our ten-year-old can observe with very telling remarks, ‘J... has only a TV brain now; he used to like going outside when we were little but now he loves TV.’ The breaking apart of ‘Christian’ homes begins so early and the parents we know seem completely clueless as to WHY? ... Our family is obviously ‘different’ from others in our fellowship; especially now that many of our families have tween/teenagers, the influences of TV are becoming more and more apparent. **Our children can barely sustain any level of conversation with their ‘peers’ when we are at the meetinghouse as they do not know of the latest TV or movie and this is the substance of the talk, not just among children but we find this to be true among most adults.** In summary I guess the result within our family has been to maintain and stay on a course of family life being that of a ‘family unit.’ We have a common bond and a common goal which is endowed with common interest; thus we enjoy each other in all our activities. At the same time the unexpected ‘spectre’ of being so ‘different’ from others has transcended that initial ‘you don’t use TV?’ as an odd sort of query, to more of a telling comment ‘THEY don’t use TV.’”

“When I grew up, we had a television in the home. But my wife grew up in a home without television. Every single one of them played instruments. They are very well read. They developed in other areas of their lives, whereas I’ve missed out on a lot. My folks got saved when I was about eight or nine, and it was a real growing process for them and television was never really brought up as an issue. But I see now, looking back, the negative effect.”

“We have purchased some series such as Moody Science, Mr. Fix-It, Newton’s Workshop, Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution, as well as seminars (AIG, ICR) and lectures (Providential HIStory) that are faith affirming and building, mostly to do with a literal interpretation of creation. In the winter months (in Maine that’s Dec. - Mar.) when outside activity is a bit more limited we watch some DVDs. The ‘history’ DVD’s often need editing along with interruption to explain some revisionist views. Often our teenagers will spot this obvious error and it is a delight to critique a piece together. Most of this will amount to a Friday movie night. Much of the excitement comes not from the movie (we’ve watched ‘Sgt. York’ endlessly) as much as the cozy time, pizza and a LATE NIGHT. **When you don’t give your children EVERYTHING, ALL THE TIME, they appreciate the ‘extra’s’ now and then as well as the NEED for temperance in each of our lives.** We have learned over the years NOT to take the advice, ‘WOW! We watched a GREAT movie last night, have you seen...’ at face value. Too many times we have obtained these suggestions only to turn them off after a bit and pray for the family that suggested it.”

“I quit TV in 1997 as a pagan. I knew enough even then to know that it was destroying my mind and heart. I was saved in 2000 and married in 2004 to a fine Christian woman. We now have four children with the oldest being four and a half, and they’ve never known what it is like to have a TV in the home or to regularly watch movies. Rather than struggle with how to fill any void, we constantly wonder how people find time to watch TV or movies! Our days are packed with activities and creativity. Our children love books, crafts and playing outdoors with anything from dirt to sticks to plastic swords and cars and bikes. **An overriding impression of a TV-free life for our kids is that their creativity knows no bounds.** Also, something I’ve left out is that our kids have grown quite accustomed to just sitting around and talking. That is what mom and dad do after dinner and at breakfast. They are talkers and thinkers because that is what fills their days

when they are not playing, etc. On long drives, we talk to them, listen to music, and read books to them.”

“The last TV watching I can remember with my wife was at a Superbowl party. We were horrified and disgusted by the mockery of sin, appeals to base instincts and total dearth of wholesome influence in the commercials. We have not gone to another one of these since then. To be ‘off the grid’ of TV for 12 years and then be exposed to it in bits and pieces as I have been in other homes is to be struck at how far the wickedness of TV has come. **People, sincere Christians included, have no clue how desensitized they have become to the mockery of sin and denigration of all that is good that fills the TV screen.** To have children is only to solidify our conviction of banning TV from our home. **We have essentially tied a millstone around the neck of our TV and thrown it into the sea, rather than have it lead one of our little children into sin.**”

“Mark this: we have no illusions about our own holiness. We are humbled even by those of our own generation at times, no less brethren from past generations, no less our elder brother and Lord, Jesus Christ. We have not arrived by any stretch, yet we know we will work much harder unnecessarily if we try to walk with the Lord while tied to the ball and chain of TV.”

“We eliminated commercial television from our family life approximately eight years ago. At first we limited TV watching to programs we believed were edifying and not harmful, but even with these limitations we saw that our children were being exposed to commercials for ungodly TV shows and the disrespectful and ungodly behavior of children in other TV advertisements. **The result has been excellent as it has helped us to ‘come out from among them and be ye separate’ in a number of ways:** we spend more time with family devotions because no one is in a hurry to see their favorite show (we had two that struggled with this before); we do not have the influence of worldly trends; and **we do not have our focus on worldly**

newscasts, which seem to have mostly become propaganda-casts more than newscasts anyhow.”

“At first, the children, a girl then 11 and a boy then nine, were quite upset. We made this decision two years ago because even the shows from the Family Channel were using bad language, immodest clothing, questionable values; and what awakened us was the way the children in those shows were speaking to their parents and about their parents. **One day, we were wondering why our children were speaking to us in such a disrespectful manner. The grandmother in the family asked, ‘Have you watched the shows you children have been watching lately?’** We had not because we were busy working and we trusted the Family Channel. My husband sat with the kids and watched their beloved shows for three days and then he cancelled our cable subscription. Now we read; we play games with the kids; we do more sports; the girl is learning to knit, the boy does enormous Lego constructions; they each started learning to play a musical instrument. We spend more time talking to one another.”

“If a person says he has control over television then he is still watching *Lassie* reruns without viewing commercials.”

“God spoke softly to our hearts. We just started feeling very uncomfortable when we were watching TV. My husband said that it’s time to get rid of it. It was not a slow process of just eliminating a few programs; we just threw the TV out. ... It is a real tool of Satan to subtly get your mind off of Jesus. I mean when you’re watching *Die Hard*, or any other show for that matter, are you really thinking on things that are pure, just, holy, peaceable, etc., like the Bible commands us to do? **We need to obey the whole Bible not just parts of it. Do you think Jesus and the Holy Spirit are sitting down with you as you watch TV hours on end?** God has a higher calling for us. Just read James 1:27. Most people forgot that second half of that verse, ‘Keep yourself unspotted from the world.’”

“We used to refer to our TV as a ‘time vacuum,’ because when we had it, we watched it ‘just because’ it was there. Now, there is more time to do productive and worthwhile things, like extra school or house work, family initiated fun things, board games, outdoor play, etc.”

“My father got rid of commercial TV when I was only eight years old and I am very thankful for this decision. I resolved in my heart that when I got married and had a family that I would never allow commercial TV in my home. I have been married for over 25 years now with 10 children and we have maintained that commitment. **I believe it has been a key in helping to keep the hearts of our children and to keep our family spiritually minded!** Instead of watching TV we do things together as a family in ministry, prayer, singing, reading, gardening, walking, or just talking together.

“We have chosen not to watch television because of the ungodly influences. Scripture is very clear that we are not to learn the way of the heathen and that we are to be simple concerning that which is evil. **We don’t feel justified in wading through the filth to enjoy a few decent programs. Some folks say they can control it, but we don’t believe that is possible. It ends up controlling those who watch it and they become desensitized to the wickedness that is on it.** We also believe that TV viewing is a great waste of time, that it hinders creativity and results in a short attention span. How can we ask for the Lord’s blessing on our home while pumping the filth of this world into our living room? **How can we expect our children to be spiritually minded and to have a heart for God and revival while having a steady diet of ‘garbage’ from TV?”**

“Unplugging from television has been the biggest blessing to our family. I’m actually in tears writing this because without unplugging from the system I know I would have lost my daughter and my son would be totally different. At the time my daughter was only four years old but she would rather watch the TV than do anything else. In short

it has been a tremendous blessing. When I look at the family time we spend together it amazes me. For example, our meal times are spent sitting not rushed and talking together. We spend time daily in the Word as a family singing, reading Scripture, discussing Scripture, and praying. My daughter spends a lot of time playing her piano and reading good wholesome books. We have also filled our house with great Christian music and not CCM music. I truly believe TV is a curse in anyone's house. **We know Christians with TV's and their kids are certainly different.**"

"My daughter loves watching babies and children. Before it became a 'soap opera,' we let her watch a little of the 'John and Kate Plus 8' reality show (short clips on the computer). But we had to put a stop to that because we noticed our daughter throwing fits more often. We believe that the kids on the show set a bad example in behavior and our daughter was copying them."

"We noted a marked increase in their creative abilities (drawing, crafts, etc.) as well as their desire to participate in them. Our six year old made a huge leap forward in her reading ability, and our ten year old rediscovered a love for reading that had been slowly waning for several years. We monitor how much 'screen time' each child gets. 'Screen time' includes computer and/or television/movie time."

"We got rid of commercial television because although we could control the programs we watched, we could not control the advertisements. These are often more wicked and filthy than the TV show. When it comes to watching DVDs, if anything objectionable appears, we turn it off. The rule is that no one is welcome in our house as a teacher who is immoral, immodest, or ignorant of the subject they are teaching. This rule is applied to all movies, because movies teach."

The paragraphs above are powerful, real-life testimonies. The moral and practical benefits of giving up television are massive.

Television - A Slippery Slope

Television is a slippery slope. It is getting progressively worse, and the majority of Christian homes are succumbing to Hollywood's siren song. Like the frog in the gradually heated pot, God's people who are careless about separating from Hollywood's filthy fare become desensitized by it.

A missionary friend was eating a meal with a fundamental Baptist pastor and his wife a few years ago when the topic of the movie *Titanic* (rated PG-13) came up. When the missionary expressed his opinion that the movie is ungodly, the pastor's wife said that they had seen it and had enjoyed it. The missionary asked what they thought of the nudity in the movie, and the pastor's wife said it was "tastefully done." This illustrates how worldly many fundamental Baptist churches have become. If pastors and their wives are enjoying movies featuring premarital affairs and partial nudity, what are the other members of the church watching! The Bible says the pastor is to be the example to the flock (1 Peter 5:3). Woe unto those multitudes of worldly pastors and deacons and Sunday School teachers who are comfortable with Hollywood's cesspool and who do not teach their people the fear of God and separation from the world.

Scripture Warnings that Apply to Television Viewing

The following Scripture passages have a direct application to this issue and are a loud warning to those who have ears to hear. Parents need to teach their children these biblical principles and guide them in learning how to apply them to their daily lives. It is not enough to have a list of do's and don'ts.

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me (Psalm 101:3).

This verse single-handedly forbids the child of God to watch the vast majority of the movies and television programs that are made today. Consider just a few of the wicked things that you or your children will see:

- The breaking of God's commandments
- Flaunted immorality
- Casual drinking and drug usage
- Drunkenness portrayed as humorous
- Sexually alluring fashions
- Sexually enticing dancing
- Violence and mayhem
- Casual dating and petting (Parents, do you want your children to date after the fashion portrayed in most movies and television programs?)
- Mockery of the things of God
- Mockery of God's people
- Pagan religions depicted as truth
- Situational ethics
- Occultism, paganism, humanism, evolution, and New Age error (even in cartoons and in a large number of Disney movies)

“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” (Job 31:1).

This verse is similar to the one in Psalm 101:3, but it warns more specifically about looking upon women to lust after them. The Lord Jesus Christ warned, “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mat. 5:28). These verses are solemn warnings to men and boys NOT to watch Hollywood movies, whether in the theater or at home. In public, most men will not stare at a woman very long because he is self-conscious about doing that, but when he is watching a movie he can ogle an indecently-clad female,

even if his wife is sitting by his side. Twenty years ago I asked a pastor friend, “Why do you think so many pastors are committing adultery?” I have never forgotten his one-word reply: “Television.”

“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” (Ephesians 5:3-7).

This is a perfect description of the vast majority of Hollywood movies today. It also describes the sensual rock music that goes hand in hand with practically all of today’s movies. The child of God is not to participate in such things, even by proxy.

“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth” (Colossians 3:8).

Not only is it dangerous to watch evil things but it is equally dangerous to hear evil things. There are occasions in this wicked world in which we do not have control over what we see and hear, but when we are in our homes, we do have control. And we do have control over where we go and what we do with our own time. Television programs and movies are literally filled with ungodly speech, with the things specifically and solemnly forbidden in Colossians. The ear is a gate to the heart and determines how we live. Proverbs warns, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). The very first thing that is mentioned in that connection is to “put away from thee a

froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee” (Prov. 4:24)!

Movies and television programs are filled with the things forbidden in Colossians 3:8. A few years ago *Calvary Contender* reported:

“Foul language, including curses, offensive epithets, scatological language, sexually suggestive or indecent language, and censored language increased by 94.8 percent during the Family Hour between 1998 and 2002” (*Calvary Contender*, Dec. 2003).

Foul language on television has probably increased that much again since 2002.

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Romans 1:21).

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5).

The Bible warns the believer to cast down every evil imagination, because the imagination is the battle ground for the soul. Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” The imagination can go from bad to worse. The flesh is never satisfied. Sin, which began in such a “small” way in the days of Adam, had so permeated man’s mind by the days of Adam’s great grandson Noah that man’s thoughts were “only evil continually.” That describes multitudes in our day, which is not surprising in that the Lord warned, “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Mat. 24:37).

The Epistle of Romans tells us that the imagination plays a great role in the downward spiral that results in homosexuality and other moral perversions. It is impossible to have spiritual victory if one allows the imagination to dwell upon evil things. It is not difficult in this connection to see the danger of television programs and movies, and to see the role they have played in the moral downfall of modern society. They fill the imagination with vivid images that linger and that return even if not purposefully encouraged. They feed the fleshly nature, but it is never satisfied and it only desires more sensuality, more excitement, more exposure of flesh, more, more, more, and is thus led ever deeper into moral perversion.

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:9-11).

This passage teaches the child of God to choose the most excellent things in life, not those things that are borderline and questionable. It teaches him to be without offence before God. The believer should ask himself, “Would I be embarrassed for the Lord Jesus to come and find me doing this thing?” We are to be filled with the fruits of righteousness, and that means we have to be emptied of the fruits of the flesh and the world. The child of God has two natures, the old and the new, and the one he feeds and pampers is the one that will dominate his life.

“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23).

This verse warns the child of God not to participate in anything that is questionable. If you cannot say for sure that

something is God's perfect will, if it creates nagging doubts, you should avoid it.

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thess. 5:22).

Not only are we to abstain from evil itself but even from the appearance of evil. Attending the movie theater today has, at best, an appearance of evil, because the vast majority of the movies shown there are morally vile. The same is true for watching most Hollywood movies at home. If our friends see that we watch questionable movies, they will be encouraged to watch them as well, and they probably will not even be as “discriminating” as we are.

“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. ... It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak” (Romans 14:19, 21).

Even if I could go to a movie theater and see a movie that was 100% wholesome by biblical standards and not see any movie trailers for wicked movies, I would still be giving a bad example to others. If I go to watch a G-rated movie, I might encourage others to go and watch an R-rated one and thus sin against God. The same is true for what I watch in the home.

“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:2).

The conscience is a tender thing. It can easily be hardened by unrepentant exposure to evil. This is why television programs and movies have gotten ever more wicked with each passing decade. If one of today's PG-13 movies had been shown on television 40 years ago, it would have been condemned broadly even by many unbelievers. The same is true for rock music. Eminem or Marilyn Manson would not have been allowed on the *Ed Sullivan Show* in the 1950s, but there has been a steady searing of the conscience by exposure

to the ever increasing moral vileness of the entertainment industry. When Christians allow themselves to watch programs and movies that they know are wrong, the conscience becomes seared so that eventually they can watch things without so much as a twinge of conscience that once would have shocked them deeply.

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him” (Genesis 18:19).

God commended Abraham because he would command his children to keep the way of the Lord. Every parent needs to take this to heart. Contrary to the tenets of modern psychology and pop child training philosophy, parents are responsible to command their children and to show them the right way in life. Love is the key to making this work, of course. The father is accountable before God to be the godly head of the home and to oversee all things under Christ. The mother is responsible to work alongside the father as his “helpmeet” in the home, and should never be guilty of undermining any godly thing that the father wants to accomplish. Each believing father and mother will stand before Jesus Christ and give account for how he or she lived in the home and how they raised the children. How wonderful it will be to hear the Lord say, “Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Mat. 25:23).

Nothing this world has to offer is worth losing the Lord’s commendation.

There is an axiom that what parents allow in moderation, the children follow to excess. If parents are even a little careless about what television programs and Hollywood

movies they watch, the children will most likely move much farther into the realm of moral temptation.

The Deceptive Rating System

In the United States and many other countries, movies and television programs are rated by content; many Christian parents use the rating system, but it is an unwise and unspiritual standard.

In America, the movies are rated by the Motion Picture Association of America as follows:

G- General Audiences

PG- Parental Guidance Suggested

PG-13- Parents Strongly Cautioned

R- Restricted - No children under 17

NC-17 - No one 17 or Under Admitted

The television ratings are similar, as follows:

TV-Y - Directed at young children; appropriate for all children.

TV-Y7 - Directed to children 7 and older.

TV-Y7-FV - Directed to children 7 and older with more violent content; e.g. Power Rangers.

TV-G - General audiences; deemed appropriate for all ages.

TV-PG - Parental guidance suggested (may have “suggestive dialogue, mild coarse language, sexual situations, moderate violence”).

TV-14 - Recommended for people 14 or older (may have “highly suggestive dialogue, strong coarse language, intense sexual situations, intense violence”).

TV-MA - intended for mature audiences.

The problem with the ratings is that they are invented by men and women who are not measuring the programming by God’s Word. Instead, they are applying humanistic standards.

When measured by God’s Word, even most **G-rated** movies and television programs are not wholesome. They

flaunt immodest and unisex fashions that influence children. Child actors are often depicted in a favorable light while being disrespectful to parents and elders. It is supposed to be “cute” and entertaining, but this type of thing influences children and has degraded society.

Beyond this, a great many G-rated and children’s programs promote occultism, New Age, weird and godless fantasy, evolution, narcissism, mockery of holy things, and pushing the envelope of childhood innocence.

Disney is one of the worst offenders. The author of the book entitled “The Gospel According to Disney” observed that Walt Disney preached a religious message through his cartoon characters, a message that “faith is an essential element--faith in yourself and, even more, faith in something greater than yourself, even if it is some vague, nonsectarian higher power” (Mark Pinsky, “Finding faith in the house of the mouse,” *The Washington Post*, Aug. 14, 2004, p. B7).

Disney’s animated classics are filled with pagan images and other things strongly denounced by the Scriptures, such as witches and demons, sorcerers and spells, genies and goblins. Like *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings*, the Disney cartoons present the damnable concept that there is good and bad magic. Disney often depicts witches and sorcerers as likable heroes.

The 1940 animated movie *Pinocchio* depicted a man who brings a puppet to life by wishing upon a star; the puppet is subsequently visited by a Blue Fairy who advises, “Let your conscience be your guide.” The Disney fairy also preaches a works gospel that “the gift of life” is attained by “choosing right from wrong.” The fairy is attractive and likable, but a false gospel is cursed of God (Galatians 1:6-9). The Bible warns that the Devil appears as an angel of light in order to deceive people (2 Cor. 11:14).

Walt Disney did not attend church and though there are churches on practically every main street in America, there are *no* churches on Main Street in Disneyland in California

or Disney World in Florida. Yet Christian parents have allowed Disney's cartoons and movies to influence their children. Pinsky notes that "few entertainment productions continue to have as profound an impact on young children as [Disney's] animated features" and "millions of children around the world know from Disney much of what they do about the practical application of right and wrong."

Some years back the Southern Baptist Convention called for a boycott of Disney, but that boycott was based on newer, more morally edgy Disney productions and ignored the false New Age gospel preached through Disney's earlier movies, movies that are found in most Southern Baptist homes in the land!

When Disneyland opened in 1954, *Time* magazine featured Walt Disney on its cover and called him "the poet of the new American humanism."

Even many of the old Western movies are indecent when weighed by biblical standards. The women typically wear tight, revealing clothing. The likable heroes drink and gamble and are irreligious. Immoral bargirls are portrayed as innocent, good-hearted people, the salt of the earth, while church-going Christians are depicted as weak hypocrites and fools.

One pastor told me that he has had the custom, from time to time, of asking his sons if they find anything offensive in the home. One year he took two of his sons fishing and asked that question, and they immediately brought up a certain John Wayne movie that had put improper images in their minds.

The Andy Griffith Show is one of the most wholesome shows that has ever been produced for television, at least the early black and white programs. It teaches some basic moral lessons and presents wholesome marriage relationships. But consider the worldview. One reader who responded to our survey wrote,

“Not too long ago I realized that even the so called moral programming I watched as a child (such as *Little House on the Prairie*, *Andy Griffin*, etc.) portrayed a good life without salvation. Never once did I ever hear the Gospel and it was assumed that everyone went to Heaven.”

We must not forget that moralism is not the gospel of Jesus Christ, that people don't go to heaven because they are “good.” Even “Otis,” the town drunk, was depicted as a really nice guy who would doubtless go to heaven if such a place existed. Andy certainly never quoted 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 that says drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

If we ever watch such things, we must carefully educate the children about the error that is taught by the program's worldview. Parents need to discuss these things openly and effectively and not allow the entertainment fare to do the educating. They must train the children how to analyze such things biblically so as not to be deceived by the wiles of the devil.

And we should make certain that our children do not become Andy Griffith/Ole Yeller experts, that they spend more time hearing God's Word than immersed even in “innocent” entertainment. They should know more about the Bible and truly profitable things in life than they do about some shallow Hollywood program.

Consider another “innocent” G-rated program, *The Cosby Show*. Unlike most other television series today, Cosby depicted an intact family, with a man and a woman living together that were actually married! But the fashions and attitudes and philosophy are not wholesome from a biblical perspective. A love for rock music is one of the show's themes. One of the Cosby programs dealt with the subject of whether one of the teenage daughters should have pre-marital sex, and the advice was merely to wait until she was “ready” and “in love.” These programs have a powerful effect on young people because the actors are so likeable and

believable. And because they are so much more decent than the average television fare, they seem wholesome by comparison, and parents let down their guards.

When it comes to **the PG rating**, even the secular reviewers deem “parental guidance” to be necessary with these particular programs and movies, which should be a loud warning to God’s people.

Consider “Monk,” one of the more wholesome prime time shows these days. This PG-rated program features the exploits of a psychologically damaged police detective. Though it is less offensive than most TV offerings, “Monk” is far from innocent. The women are dressed very provocatively and the program is literally filled with exclamations of “Oh My God” and other profanities. The philosophy is anti-biblical and anti-Christ. It promotes the popular myths of humanistic psychology, operates in a culture largely devoid of thoughts about God and eternity, and when God is mentioned it is either to profane His name, to debunk the miraculous, to mock religion, or to promote Catholicism.

This is about the best that Hollywood has to offer today, and it is typical PG fare.

The situation comedies are almost universally designed to brainwash the audience toward moral relativity. As Ken Matto observes in his report entitled “The Dangers of Television”:

“Television programs are designed with the purpose of reprogramming your mind by breaking down your defenses so you will accept a lie as truth. Many of the anti-Christian and immoral precepts are bellowed forth in situation comedies. They get you to laugh, then they put forth their principles and you have accepted their teachings without reservation. This is why much reprogramming is done through comedy.”

As for **PG-13**, even non-Christians recognize that great moral dangers lurk there and that the line between PG-13 and R is effectively non-existent.

USA Today published an article entitled “PG-13 can lull folks with false security.” It is a warning about the filthiness of PG-13 movies by a humanistic secular newspaper! The article contains the following important statement:

“PG-13 was designed, I believe, to apply the friendly PG symbol to movies that have no business even being considered for viewing by most young teenagers and preteens. The age of assignment for the rating is deceptive, and it lulls parents into a false sense of security” (Joe Zanger, editor of *PG-14, USA Today*, Nov. 22, 1999, p. 2D).

This is an important warning. The article also states that **there is often no difference between PG-13 and R-rated movies, and even when there is a difference, it is only minor.** Both types of movies routinely contain nudity, immorality, gratuitous and graphic violence, and foul language. From the standpoint of a Christian who wants to obey the Lord’s call to holiness, there is no real difference. **Immodesty is immodesty. Cursing is cursing. Blasphemy is blasphemy. Extramarital sex is extramarital sex. If one movie contains a little less of these things than another, that does not make either movie acceptable before God.**

The ratings have become more lenient with the passing of years. Movies that would have been rated R a few years ago are routinely rated PG-13 today. Further, the category of NC-17 (meaning no one under 17 may be admitted) has been added to replace the old filthy X rating. There is a Satanic agenda to put increasingly more godless content into increasingly more widely distributed movies.

Also noted in the *USA Today* article is the fact that many directors and producers actually want their movies to be rated PG-13 today, as opposed to an R rating or a PG rating.

This is because young people are admitted to the PG-13 movies as opposed to the R or restricted movies and they consider them more desirable and grownup than PG movies. PG-13 movies are raking in huge receipts at the box office. Of the top 21 films that have grossed more than \$200 million, 13 are PG-13, while only three are PG, two are G, and three are R.

If secular people can see the danger of PG-13 movies, why can't God's people! We must understand that the Hollywood-New York entertainment business is not now and never has been the friend of God and righteousness. From their inception, motion pictures and television have pushed the boundaries of morality in society increasingly farther from the standard of God's Word. Yet more members of Bible-believing churches watch unwholesome television and movies today than ever, and there is less plain preaching on this matter today than ever.

We must remember that the movie and television ratings systems were not devised by godly people who are committed to obeying the Bible, but by secular people who are controlled by the philosophy of this world. In reality, ungodly movies are not wholesome fare for children, young people, OR for adults. PG-13 things such as nudity and foul language are not acceptable before God for adults any more than for young people.

Like the frog in the gradually-heating pot, God's people who are careless about separating from Hollywood's filthy fare become desensitized by it.

The following are typical quotations from reviews of PG-13 movies by professional secular critics:

A CHEF IN LOVE -- PG-13 "violence, rape, sex, nudity, profanity -- it's pretty raunchy"

MEN IN BLACK -- PG-13 "violence, profanity, gore, vulgarity"

ANACONDA -- PG-13 “violence, gore, profanity, vulgarity, sex, nudity”

BIRD ON A WIRE -- PG-13 “considerable mayhem, as well as sex, profanity and some nudity”

BLAME IT ON THE BELLBOY -- PG-13 “sadistic, graphic violence, as well as sex, profanity, vulgarity and some partial nudity”

CLUELESS -- PG-13 “violence, vulgarity, profanity and drugs ... the film’s cavalier suggestions that casual sex is perfectly acceptable for 15-year-olds and that smoking marijuana is fine as long as it’s at a party are extremely irresponsible.”

PARENTHOOD -- PG-13 sex, “profanity, vulgarity, raunchy ... Some of the material is so adult that an R rating doesn’t seem unreasonable”

RESCUE ME -- “is rated PG-13 but has an awful lot of R-rated material, including violence, profanity, sex and nudity”

Signs of Television Addiction

The Bible says, “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16).

Multitudes of professing Christians today are enslaved to television and movies.

The following signs of enslavement is adapted from a list published by Ken Matto:

- (1) You enjoy the sinful scenes on the show.
- (2) You eat your dinner in front of the TV.
- (3) You neglect your spouse or family for a TV show.
- (4) You look forward to a TV show much more than to the next church service.
- (5) You miss Sunday Night services or Wednesday evening prayer meeting for TV.
- (6) Your conversation is replete with TV reviews and anecdotes.
- (7) TV replaces your Bible reading or devotion time.
- (8) The family altar has been replaced by a TV program.
- (9) You know more about TV than Scripture.
- (10) You meditate more about things on TV than about Christ and His will for your life.
- (11) You begin to start empathizing with the characters the actors are portraying.
- (12) You rush home so you will not miss a program.
- (13) You watch TV late into the night consistently.
- (14) When company visits, the TV remains on.
- (15) You turn the TV on the moment you enter a room.
- (16) The TV is on when you are doing your chores.

(17) You do not want people to visit when your programs are scheduled to come on, and when people do visit, you wish they would leave so you could watch your programs.

(18) You laugh at the very sins which sent Christ to the cross.

(19) You continue to watch even when Christ's name is used in vain.

(20) You have every premium cable channel like HBO, Cinemax, etc.

(21) You begin to adopt ideas and attitudes contrary to Scripture.

(22) You find more pleasure watching TV than being with God's people.

The Stranger

The author of the following is unknown:

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind, each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play 'big brother' and develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors. Mom taught me to love the Word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries and comedies were daily conversations. He could hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so lifelike that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill, and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind--but sometimes Mom would quietly get up--while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places--go to her room, read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but this stranger never felt obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house--not from us, from our friends, or adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four-letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted. My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home--not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

Time after time the stranger opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

The stranger's name?

We always just called him TV.

Practical Suggestions about Television

We strongly advise unhooking the television from cable and the antenna and using it only for education and highly-controlled entertainment.

Don't ever let children watch television by themselves.

Don't use the television as a baby sitter.

Review and handpick every selection, and err on the side of being too cautious.

There is a wealth of excellent creation science DVDs available today. These are educational, interesting, and challenging. They teach young people how to think critically and fortify them against the devil's lies. And they are available for all ages and educational levels. (See the article "Creation Science Videos" at the Way of Life web site.)

There are some old films, select television programs, and documentaries that provide innocent entertainment, though these are few and far between, even from the distant past. Of course, parents must always be alert to moral dangers such as sensual dress, evolution, exaltation of the wicked pop culture, and rock music.

Beware of becoming addicted to videos. If you watch a DVD most evenings, even carefully selected ones, it will become addictive and you will probably start pushing the boundaries of propriety and watching things that are not wholesome. Further, it is a poor example to the children and will detract from other things. It is wise to strictly and severely limit DVD viewing and to explain to the children the reason why.

One of the most wonderful things Christian families can do together is read books. There are an endless number of entertaining and educational books on history, biography, missions, the Bible, you name it. Much more than video,

books expand the imagination and encourage analytical thinking processes. Parents should build a family library.

Or gather the family around to listen to good preaching sermons. Thousands of sermons are available on sermonaudio.com. The SermonAudio iPhone edition allows you to browse and search through the library of MP3 sermons and listen to any of them immediately on your iPhone or iPod Touch. Additionally, you can watch sermon videos (MP4) and read sermon transcripts (PDF) -- all without a PC and 100% wirelessly. This new service is completely free for all SermonAudio broadcasters and listeners.

Parents should aim to fill the home with wholesome, interesting, and educational things. These days we are doing this for our grandkids. They visit us regularly and sometimes spend the night and we want to have things available that will not only entertain them but educate and challenge them. Sure, we have plenty of candy and toys! But beyond that we have collected a wide assortment of books at their level, and things such as a model of Noah's ark, an earth globe to teach them about the planet, and simple puzzles and experiments.

There are countless things that families can do together without plugging into Hollywood's filth. In addition to reading, there is photography, music, fishing, hunting, shooting, boating, electronics, mechanics, astronomy, camping, cooking, sewing, canning, making models, learning how things are made, investigating God's amazing creation all around us, watching birds, collecting insects, flying kites, flying model airplanes, raising animals (if you can't have a horse or even a dog, you can usually have an ant farm or a guinea pig or a goldfish tank), growing gardens, studying the weather. The list is endless, and there are online courses for such things that the family can study together.

The goal should not be merely to entertain kids and to have fun, but to educate them and, most importantly, to help them know God in His fathomless, multi-faceted majesty and

to learn how to walk with Him. The goal is to prepare the children to find and accomplish God's perfect will for their individual lives.

You will be amazed at how quickly the family can learn to enjoy life without the television and in a much more spiritually-healthy manner.

About Way of Life's eBooks

Since January 2011, Way of Life Literature books have been available in eBook format. Some are available for purchase, while others are available for free download.

The eBooks are designed and formatted to work well on a variety of applications/devices, but not all apps/devices are equal. Some allow the user to control appearance and layout of the book while some don't even show italics! For best reading pleasure, please choose your reading app carefully.

For some suggestions, see the reports "iPads, Kindles, eReaders, and Way of Life Materials," at www.wayoflife.org/database/ebook.html and "About eBooks, eReaders, and Reading Apps" at www.wayoflife.org/help/ebooks.php.

Powerful Publications for These Times

Following is a selection of the titles published by Way of Life Literature. The books are available in both print and eBook editions (PDF, Kindle, ePub). The materials can be ordered via the online catalog at the Way of Life web site -- www.wayoflife.org -- or by phone 866-295-4143.

BIBLE TIMES AND ANCIENT KINGDOMS: TREASURES FROM ARCHAEOLOGY. ISBN 978-1-58318-121-8. This is a package consisting of a book and a series of PowerPoint and Keynote (Apple) presentations which are a graphical edition of the book. The PowerPoints are packed with high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips. Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms is a course on Bible geography, Bible culture, and Bible history and has a two-fold objective: to present apologetic evidence for the Bible and to give background material to help the student better understand the setting of Bible history. We cover this fascinating history from Genesis to the New Testament, dealing with the Table of the Nations in Genesis 10, the Tower of Babel, Ur of the Chaldees, Egypt, Baal worship, the Philistines, the Canaanites, David's palace, Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, Ahab and Jezebel, the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, the Assyrian Empire, Hezekiah and his times, Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylon, the Medo-Persian Empire, Herod the Great and his temple, the Roman rule over Israel, and the Roman destruction of Jerusalem. Many of the archaeological discoveries from the past 200 years, which we relate in the course, are so fascinating and improbable that they read like a novel. It is easy to see God's hand in this field, in spite of its prevailing skepticism. The course also deals with Bible culture, such as weights and measures, plant and animal life, Caesar's coin, the widow's mite, ancient scrolls and seals, phylacteries, cosmetics, tombs, and the operation of ancient lamps, millstones, pottery wheels, and olive presses. The course begins with an overview of Israel's geography and a timeline of Bible history to give the student a framework for better understanding the material. Each section includes maps to help the student place the events in their proper location. The course is packed with important but little-

known facts that illuminate Bible history and culture. The preparation for the book is extensive, the culmination of 40 years of Bible study, teaching, and research trips. In this context the author built a large personal library and collected information from major archaeological museums and locations in North America, England, Europe, Turkey, and Israel. We guarantee that the student who completes the course will read the Bible with new eyes and fresh enthusiasm. 500 pages book + DVD containing 19 PowerPoint presentations packed with more than 3,200 high quality color photos, drawings, historic recreations, and video clips.

THE BIBLE VERSION QUESTION ANSWER DATABASE. ISBN 1-58318-088-5. This book provides diligently-researched, in-depth answers to more than 80 of the most important questions on this topic. A vast number of myths are exposed, such as the myth that Erasmus promised to add 1 John 5:7 to his Greek New Testament if even one manuscript could be produced, the myth that the differences between the Greek texts and versions are slight and insignificant, the myth that there are no doctrines affected by the changes in the modern versions, and the myth that the King James translators said that all versions are equally the Word of God. It also includes reviews of several of the popular modern versions, including the Living Bible, New Living Bible, Today's English Version, New International Version, New American Standard Version, The Message, and the Holman Christian Standard Bible. 423 pages.

THE FOREIGN SPIRIT OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC. This hard-hitting multi-media video presentation, published in March 2012, documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeate the field of contemporary worship music. By extensive documentation, it proves that contemporary worship music is impelled by "another spirit" (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the latter rain, the spirit of the one-world church, the spirit of the world, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of *The Shack*. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential

people. Nearly 60 video clips and hundreds of photos are featured. It is available on DVD and as an eDownload from the Way of Life web site.

THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE. ISBN 978-1-58318-172-0. One of the many reasons why the Bible is the most amazing and exciting book on earth is its prophecies. The Bible unfolds the future in great detail, and *The Future According to the Bible* deals in depth with every major prophetic event, including the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, Gog and Magog, the Battle of Armageddon, the Two Witnesses, Christ's Return, Muslim nations in prophecy, the Judgment of the Nations, the resurrection body, the conversion of Israel, the highway of the redeemed, Christ's glorious kingdom, the Millennial Temple, the Great White Throne judgment, and the New Jerusalem. The first two chapters deal at length with the amazing prophecies that are being fulfilled today and with the church-age apostasy. Knowledge of these prophecies is essential for a proper understanding of the times and a proper Christian worldview today. The 130-page section on Christ's kingdom describes the coming world kingdom in more detail than any book we are familiar with. Every major Messianic prophecy is examined. Prophecy is a powerful witness to the Bible's divine inspiration, and it is a great motivator for holy Christian living. In this book we show that the Lord's churches are outposts of the coming kingdom. The believer's position in Christ's earthly kingdom will be determined by his service in this present world (Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21). The book is based on forty years of intense Bible study plus firsthand research in Israel, Turkey, and Europe.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST MUSIC WARS. ISBN 978-1-58318-179-9. This book is a warning about the transformational power of Contemporary Christian Music to transport Bible-believing Baptists into the sphere of the end-time one-world "church." The author is a musician, preacher, and writer who lived the rock & roll "hippy" lifestyle before conversion and has researched this issue for 40 years. We don't believe that good Christian music stopped being written when Fanny Crosby died or that rhythm is wrong or that drums and guitars are inherently evil.

We believe, rather, that Contemporary Christian Music is a powerful bridge to a very dangerous spiritual and doctrinal world. The book begins by documenting the radical change in thinking that has occurred among independent Baptists. Whereas just a few years ago the overwhelming consensus was that CCM was wrong and dangerous, the consensus now has formed around the position that CCM can be used in moderation, that it is OK to “adapt” it to a more traditional sacred sound and presentation technique. The more “conservative” contemporary worship artists such as the Gettys are considered safe and their music is sung widely in churches and included in new hymnals published by independent Baptists. As usual, the driving force behind this change is the example set by prominent leaders, churches, and schools, which we identify in this volume. The heart of the book is the section giving eight reasons for rejecting Contemporary Christian Music (it is built on the lie that music is neutral, it is worldly, it is ecumenical, it is charismatic, it is experienced-oriented, it is permeated with false christs, it is infiltrated with homosexuality, and it weakens the Biblicist stance of a church) and the section answering 39 major arguments that are used in defense of CCM. We deal with the popular argument that since we have selectively used hymns by Protestants we should also be able to selectively use those by contemporary hymn writers. There are also chapters on the history of CCM and the author’s experience of living the rock & roll lifestyle before conversion and how the Lord dealt with him about music in the early months of his Christian life. The book is accompanied by a DVD containing two video presentations: *The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music* and *The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music*. 285 pages.

KEEPING THE KIDS: HOW TO KEEP THE CHILDREN FROM FALLING PREY TO THE WORLD. ISBN 978-1-58318-115-7.

This book aims to help parents and churches raise children to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to avoid the pitfalls of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The book is a collaborative effort. It contains testimonies from hundreds of individuals who provided feedback to our questionnaires on this subject, as well as powerful ideas gleaned from interviews with pastors, missionaries, and church people who have raised godly children. The book is packed with practical suggestions and deals with many issues: Conversion, the

husband-wife relationship, the necessity of permeating the home with Christian love, mothers as keepers at home, the father's role as the spiritual head of the home, child discipline, separation from the pop culture, discipleship of youth, the grandparents' role, effectual prayer and fasting. Chapter titles include the following: "Conversion," "The Home: Consistent Christian Living and the Husband-Wife Relationship," "Child Discipline," "The Church," "Unplugging from the Pop Culture," "Discipleship," "The Grandparents," "Grace and the Power of Prayer." 531 pages.

MUSIC FOR GOOD OR EVIL. This video series, which is packed with photos, video and audio clips, has eight segments. **I. Biblical Principles of Good Christian Music.** **II. Why We Reject Contemporary Christian Music.** It is worldly, addictive, ecumenical, charismatic, shallow and man-centered, opposed to preaching, experience-oriented, and it weakens the strong biblicist stance of a church. **III. The Sound of Contemporary Christian Music.** In this section we give the believer simple tools that he can use to discern the difference between sensual and sacred music. We deal with syncopated dance styles, sensual vocal styles, relativistic styles, and overly soft styles that do not fit the message. **IV. The Transformational Power of Contemporary Worship Music.** We show why CCM is able to transform a "traditional" Bible-believing church into a New Evangelical contemporary one. Its transformational power resides in its enticing philosophy of "liberty" and in its sensual, addictive music. We use video and audio to illustrate the sound of contemporary worship. **V. Southern Gospel.** We deal with the history of Southern Gospel, its character, its influence, and the role of the Gaithers in its renaissance. This section is packed with audio, video, and photos. **VI. Marks of Good Song Leading.** There is a great need for proper training of song leaders today, and in this segment we deal with the following eight principles: Leadership, preparation, edification, spirituality, spiritual discernment, wisdom in song selection, diversity. One thing we emphasize is the need to sing worship songs that turn the people's focus directly to God. We give dozens of examples of worship songs that are found in standard hymnals used by Bible-believing churches, but typically these are not sung properly as "unto God." **VII. Questions Answered on Contemporary Christian Music.** We answer 15 of the most

common questions on this subject, such as the following: Is rhythm wrong? Isn't this issue just a matter of different taste? Isn't the sincerity of the musicians the important thing? Isn't some CCM acceptable? Didn't Luther and the Wesleys use tavern music? What is the difference between using contemporary worship hymns and using old Protestant hymns? **VIII. The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music.** This presentation documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeate the field of contemporary praise. Through extensive documentation, it proves that contemporary worship music is controlled by "another spirit" (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the "latter rain," the spirit of Roman Catholicism and the one-world "church," the spirit of the world that is condemned by 1 John 2:16, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of *The Shack*. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential people. 5 DVDs.

ONE YEAR DISCIPLESHIP COURSE, ISBN 978-1-58318-117-1. This powerful course features 52 lessons in Christian living. It can be broken into sections and used as a new converts' course, an advanced discipleship course, a Sunday School series, a Home Schooling or Bible Institute course, or for preaching outlines. The lessons are thorough, meaty, and very practical. There is an extensive memory verse program built into the course, and each lesson features carefully designed review questions. Following are some of the lesson titles (some subjects feature multiple lessons): Repentance, Faith, The Gospel, Baptism, Eternal Security, Position and Practice, The Law and the New Testament Christian, Christian Growth and Victory, Prayer, The Armor of God, The Church, The Bible, The Bible's Proof, Daily Bible Study, Key Principles of Bible Interpretation, Foundational Bible Words, Knowing God's Will, Making Wise Decisions, Christ's Great Commission, Suffering in the Christian Life, The Judgment Seat of Christ, Separation - Moral, Separation - Doctrinal, Tests of Entertainment, Fasting, Miracles, A Testing Mindset, Tongues Speaking, The Rapture, How to Be Wise with Your Money, The Believer and Drinking, Abortion, Evolution, Dressing for the Lord. 8.5X11, coated cover, spiral-bound. 221 pages.

THE PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS: THE HISTORY AND THE ERROR. ISBN 1-58318-099-0. The 5th edition of this book, November 2014, is significantly enlarged and revised throughout. The Pentecostal-charismatic movement is one of the major building blocks of the end-time, one-world “church,” and young people in particular need to be informed and forewarned. The author was led to Christ by a Pentecostal in 1973 and has researched the movement ever since. He has built a large library on the subject, interviewed influential Pentecostals and charismatics, and attended churches and conferences with media credentials in many parts of the world. The book deals with the history of Pentecostalism beginning at the turn of the 20th century, the Latter Rain Covenant, major Pentecostal healing evangelists, the Sharon Schools and the New Order of the Latter Rain, Manifest Sons of God, the charismatic movement, the Word-Faith movement, the Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Pentecostal prophets, the Third Wave, and recent Pentecostal and charismatic scandals. The book deals extensively with the theological errors of the Pentecostal-charismatic movements (exalting experience over Scripture, emphasis on the miraculous, the continuation of Messianic and apostolic miracles and sign gifts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of fire, tongues speaking, physical healing guaranteed in the atonement, spirit slaying, spirit drunkenness, visions of Jesus, trips to heaven, women preachers, and ecumenism). The final section of the book answers the question: “Why are people deluded by Pentecostal-Charismatic error?” David and Tami Lee, former Pentecostals, after reviewing a section of the book said: “Very well done! We pray God will use it to open the eyes of many and to help keep many of His children out of such deception.” A former charismatic said, “The book is excellent and I have no doubt whatever that the Lord is going to use it in a mighty way. Amen!!” 487 pages.

A PORTRAIT OF CHRIST: THE TABERNACLE, THE PRIESTHOOD, AND THE OFFERINGS. ISBN 978-1-58318-178-2. (new for 2014) This book is an extensive study on the Old Testament tabernacle and its priestly system, which has been called “God’s masterpiece of typology.” Whereas the record of the creation of the universe takes up two chapters of the Bible and the fall of man takes up one chapter, the tabernacle,

with its priesthood and offerings, takes up 50 chapters. It is obvious that God has many important lessons for us in this portion of His Word. Speaking personally, nothing has helped me better understand the Triune God and the salvation that He has purchased for man, and I believe that I can guarantee that the reader will be taken to new heights in his understanding of these things. Everything about the tabernacle points to Jesus Christ: the design, the materials, the colors, the court walls and pillars, the door into the court, the sacrificial altar, the laver, the tabernacle tent itself with its boards and curtains and silver sockets, the tabernacle gate, and veil before the holy of holies, the candlestick, the table of shewbread, the incense altar, the ark of the covenant, the high priest, and the offerings. All is Christ. The tabernacle system offers brilliant, unforgettable lessons on Christ's person, offices and work: His eternal Sonship, His sinless manhood, His anointing, His atonement, His resurrection glory, His work as the life and sustainer and light of creation, His eternal high priesthood and intercession, and His kingdom. In addition to the studies on every aspect of the tabernacle, *A Portrait of Christ* features studies on the high priest, the Levitical priests, the five offerings of Leviticus, the day of atonement, the ransom money, the red heifer, the cherubims, strange fire, the golden calf, leprosy, the Nazarite vow, the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, and the transportation of the tabernacle through the wilderness. The tabernacle is very practical in its teaching, as it also depicts believer priests carrying Christ through this world (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). Like the Israelites in the wilderness, believers today are on a pilgrimage through a foreign land on the way to our eternal home (1 Pet. 2:11). Don Jasmin, editor of the *Fundamentalist Digest* says, "This new book on the Tabernacle constitutes the 21st-century classic treatise of this rich theme." 420 pages.

SEEING THE NON-EXISTENT: EVOLUTION'S MYTHS AND HOAXES. ISBN 1-58318-002-8. This book is designed both as a stand alone title as well as a companion to the apologetics course *AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH*. The contents are as follows: Canals on Mars, Charles Darwin and His Granddaddy, Thomas Huxley: Darwin's Bulldog, Ernst Haeckel: Darwin's German Apostle, Icons of Evolution, Icons of Creation, The Ape-men, Predictions, Questions for Evolutionists, Darwinian Gods, Darwin's Social Influence. The **ICONS OF EVOLUTION** that we refute include mutations, the fossil record, homology, the peppered moth,

Darwin's finches, the fruit fly, vestigial organs, the horse series, the embryo chart, the Miller experiment, Archaeopteryx, bacterial resistance, the big bang, and billions of years. The **ICONS OF CREATION** that we examine include the monarch butterfly, the trilobite, the living cell, the human eye, the human brain, the human hand, blood clotting, the bird's flight feathers, bird migration, bird song, harmony and symbiosis, sexual reproduction, living technology, the dragonfly, the bee, and the bat. The section on **APE-MEN** deals with Cro-Magnon, Neanderthal, Java Man, Piltdown Man, Nebraska Man, Peking Man, Lucy, Ardi, Ida, among others. The section on **PREDICTIONS** considers 29 predictions made by Biblical creationism, such as the universe will behave according to established laws, the universe will be logical, and there will be a vast unbridgeable gulf between man and the animal kingdom. **DARWINIAN GODS** takes a look at inventions that evolutionists have devised to avoid divine Creation, such as panspermia and aliens, self-organization, and the multiverse. 608 pages.

SOWING AND REAPING: A COURSE IN EVANGELISM. ISBN 978-1-58318-169-0. This course is unique in several ways. *It is unique in its approach.* While it is practical and down-to-earth, it does not present a formulaic approach to soul winning, recognizing that individuals have to be dealt with as individuals. The course does not include any sort of psychological manipulation techniques. It does not neglect repentance in soul winning, carefully explaining the biblical definition of repentance and the place of repentance in personal evangelism. It explains how to use the law of God to plow the soil of the human heart so that the gospel can find good ground. *The course is unique in its objective.* The objective of biblical soul winning is not to get people to "pray a sinner's prayer"; the objective is to see people soundly converted to Christ. This course trains the soul winner to pursue genuine conversions as opposed to mere "decisions." *The course is also unique in its breadth.* It covers a wide variety of situations, including how to deal with Hindus and with skeptics and how to use apologetics or evidences in evangelism. There is a memory course consisting of 111 select verses and links to a large number of resources that can be used in evangelism, many of them free. The course is suitable for teens and adults and for use in Sunday

School, Youth Ministries, Preaching, and private study. **OUTLINE:** The Message of Evangelism, Repentance and Evangelism, God's Law and Evangelism, The Reason for Evangelism, The Authority for Evangelism, The Power for Evangelism, The Attitude in Evangelism, The Technique of Evangelism, Using Tracts in Evangelism, Dealing with Skeptics. 104 pages, 8x11, spiral bound.

THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD: A HANDBOOK OF BIBLICAL DIFFICULTIES. ISBN 1-58318-002-8. This volume deals with a variety of biblical difficulties. Find the answer to the seeming contradictions in the Bible. Meet the challenge of false teachers who misuse biblical passages to prove their doctrine. Find out the meaning of difficult passages that are oftentimes overlooked in the Bible commentaries. Be confirmed in your confidence in the inerrancy and perfection of the Scriptures and be able to refute the skeptics. Learn the meaning of difficult expressions such as “the unpardonable sin.” A major objective of this volume is to protect God’s people from the false teachers that abound in these last days. For example, we examine verses misused by Seventh-day Adventists, Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, and others to support their heresies. We deal with things such as the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, cremation, head coverings, did Jesus die on Friday, God’s repentance, healing in the atonement, losing one’s salvation, sinless perfectionism, soul sleep, and the Trinity. Jerry Huffman, editor of *Calvary Contender*, testified: “You don’t have to agree with everything to greatly benefit from this helpful book.” In researching and writing this book, the author consulted roughly 500 volumes, old and new, that deal with biblical difficulties and the various other subjects addressed in *Things Hard to Be Understood*. This one volume, therefore, represents the essence of a sizable library. Sixth edition Feb. 2014, enlarged and completely revised, 441 pages.

AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH: A CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS COURSE. ISBN 978-1-58318-119-5. The course is built upon

nearly 40 years of serious Bible study and 30 years of apologetics writing. Research was done in the author's personal 6,000-volume library plus in major museums and other locations in America, England, Europe, Australia, Asia, and the Middle East. The package consists of an apologetics course entitled *AN UNSHAKEABLE FAITH* (both print and eBook editions) plus an extensive series of Powerpoint/Keynote presentations. (Keynote is the Apple version of Powerpoint.) The 1,800 PowerPoint slides deal with archaeology, evolution/creation science, and the prophecies pertaining to Israel's history. The material in the 360-page course is extensive, and the teacher can decide whether to use all of it or to select only some portion of it for his particular class and situation. After each section there are review questions to help the students focus on the most important points. The course can be used for private study as well as for a classroom setting. Sections include The Bible's Nature, The Bible's Proof, The Dead Sea Scrolls, The Bible's Difficulties, Historical Evidence for Jesus, Evidence for Christ's Resurrection, Archaeological Treasures Confirming the Bible, A History of Evolution, Icons of Evolution, Icons of Creation, Noah's Ark and the Global Flood.

WAY OF LIFE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE BIBLE & CHRISTIANITY. ISBN 1-58318-005-2. This hardcover Bible encyclopedia contains 640 pages (8.5x11) of information, over 6,000 entries, and over 7,000 cross-references. Twenty-five years of research went into this one-of-a-kind reference tool. It is a complete dictionary of biblical terminology and features many other areas of research not often covered in such volumes, including Bible Versions, Denominations, Cults, Christian Movements, Typology, the Church, Social issues and practical Christian living, Bible Prophecy, and Old English Terminology. It does not correct the Authorized Version of the Bible, nor does it undermine the fundamental Baptist's doctrines and practices as many study tools do. The 5th edition (October 2008) contains new entries, extensive additions to existing entries, and a complete rewriting of the major articles. Many preachers have told us that apart from *Strong's Concordance*, the *Way of Life Bible Encyclopedia* is their favorite study tool. A missionary told us that if he could save only one study book out of his library, it would be our Bible encyclopedia. An evangelist in South Dakota wrote: "If I

were going to the mission field and could carry only three books, they would be the Strong's concordance, a hymnal, and the *Way of Life Bible Encyclopedia*." Missionary author Jack Moorman says: "The encyclopedia is excellent. The entries show a 'distilled spirituality.'" 5th edition, 640 pages. A computer edition of the encyclopedia is available as a standalone eBook for PDF, Kindle, and ePub. It is also available as a module for *Swordseacher*.

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