

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 52

December 24, 2007

The Golden Compass (Part II)

Note: This article is the second of a four-part series based upon the recent release of the movie The Golden Compass. The first article gave some background on the book upon which the movie is based, its author Philip Pullman, and the controversy associated with them. Many in the Christian world are now advocating an all-out protest of the movie and book. This article will explore the appropriateness and effectiveness of “Christian” protests and boycotts. Next week’s article will review Pullman’s sequel to The Golden Compass.

I remember reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* for the first time when I was in the seventh grade. I remember having to work through Mark Twain’s original yet accurate way of recording Jim’s speech patterns. I remember feeling a sense of exhilaration over Huck’s vagabond life and trailblazing spirit. I remember the shock and disgust I felt over the injustice Jim suffered simply because he was black. I also remember being told that the book had once been forbidden in American classrooms because of the way it portrayed religious hypocrisy and various forms of social inequality, especially towards people with darker skin. Upon reading *Huck Finn*, I concluded that the book was too real and too accurate for some people.

Since that time, I have observed that boycotting, protesting, or forbidding books (or any form of information) rarely accomplish their intended goal. The Reformation Movement was greatly aided by those who desired to keep the Bible out of the hands of “commoners.” It is rather ironic, then, to find Christians who seek to succeed against the world by forbidding the spread of information. The latest book (and movie) to receive such treatment is *The Golden Compass*. *Huck Finn* and *Compass* share many commonalities. First of all, both have agnostic authors. Secondly, both make critical allusions of the practice of faith in their societies. Thirdly, both have received greater attention because of an outcry of Christian opposition.

Are there things included in *The Golden Compass* that are troubling? Without a doubt. The storyline glorifies rebellion and exalts the value of experience over instruction. It misrepresents the nature of good and evil and misquotes Genesis 3 without notifying its readers. But you know what? Countless books and movies do these things. Some, however, do not even address thought-provoking issues because they never ascend out of the mindless gutter that characterizes much of today’s entertainment. Maybe that’s what is most troubling about the “Christian” reaction to things like *The Golden Compass*. Many will send chain emails warning others about it, but then continue to expose themselves and their children to the other movies, television shows, and popular music that negatively influence our culture in abundance. Maybe that is part of the hypocrisy that Twain and Pullman’s books highlight.

Should we inform ourselves about such things as *The Golden Compass*? Definitely. Should we advocate protests and boycotts? In my opinion, no. Instead of protesting, maybe Christians should just choose to do right. When we choose what’s right, we still effectively oppose all forms of evil. When we willingly choose right and good things, we are motivated by the pleasure of doing God’s will, not by the fear-mongering of manmade boycotts and protests. When we choose right and good things, we can still inform our children about why we do not subject ourselves to certain forms of “entertainment.” When we choose right and good things, we do not create intrigue for the things we do not support. When more of us choose right and good things, the things that are not right or good quickly come to nothing . . . and no one remembers them.—Blaine

Your Name Is Mud!

By Steve Higginbotham

Have you ever heard anyone use the expression, “His name is mud around here?” Well, whether you’ve heard the expression or not, due to the use of the word “mud,” you could probably figure out that this isn’t a very complimentary statement. However, very few people who have heard this expression are aware of its origin, and that the word being used is not “mud,” but “Mudd.”

You see, in 1865, after assassinating President Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth broke his leg during his escape. Consequently, Booth sought medical assistance from a man named Dr. Samuel Mudd. Dr. Mudd set, splinted, and bandaged Booth’s broken leg, allegedly unaware that Booth had assassinated the President.

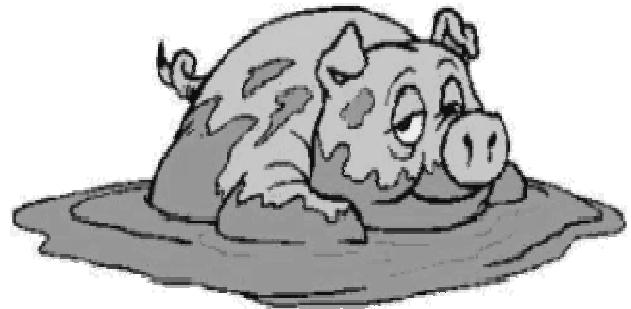
Within days, Dr. Mudd was arrested by the United States Government and charged with conspiracy. Dr. Mudd avoid the death penalty by one vote, but instead was sentenced to life in prison. While in prison, his wife constantly petitioned the government to free him, insisting that a mistake had been made. After Dr. Mudd had served four years in prison, President Andrew Johnson sent for Dr. Mudd’s wife so that she could be present as he signed his pardon. He served four years of that prison term before being pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.

Though released from prison, Dr. Mudd never regained his reputation. He would always be known as the man who aided and conspired to assassinate President Lincoln.

Well now, I don’t know if Dr. Mudd was innocent or guilty. There was evidence presented at his trial that indicated that he may have had a part in the murder of the President. But consider...If Dr. Mudd was indeed innocent, wouldn’t it be a tragic thing to have your reputation destroyed as his was? Because of his reputation, he was judged a wicked man, having part in one the greatest tragedies in our nation’s history.

But now, here’s the point of this article. Aren’t you thankful that God does not judge us by our reputation (what others think us to be), but by our character (what God knows us to be)? Revelation 3:1. God is not misled by circumstantial evidence. He can cut straight to the heart and know the absolute truth.

Maybe your name is “Mudd.” If it is, take comfort in the fact that you are not alone, and that you stand in good company (Matthew 12:24; 5:11-12), and that God sees beyond your reputation and sees your true character.



Family Matters

Prayer List

- Ruby Cloyd and Maureen Ross
- Larry Adwell, brother-in-law of Paula Adwell and Peggy Adwell
- Lucy Bray, mother of Randall Bray, is recovering from a broken hip.
- Jeanette Crume, mother of Karen Dilley
- Marie Denton, sister-in-law of Peggy Adwell
- Jr. Floyd, member of the Lehman Avenue Church of Christ, is in the Medical Center.
- Courtney Gale, friend of Hugh England
- Hannah Page, granddaughter of Eyvin & Shirley Page, of the Pleasant Hill Church of Christ.
- Mary Peden has not been well. She has undergone tests and is waiting for the results.
- Joyce Proctor, mother-in-law of Perry Dugger, remains hospitalized following hip surgery.
- Beth Satterly, niece of Howard Alls, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will undergo surgery on January 8.
- Hannah Simmons, granddaughter of Guy & Annette Simmons, will undergo back surgery on December 28 at the Vanderbilt Hospital.

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the friends and family of Beachel Taylor. He passed away Thursday, December 20. Funeral services were conducted Sunday at the Crow Funeral Home.

Our sympathy is extended to the friends and family of Bubbie Bray. He passed away Saturday, December 22. Funeral services were conducted Monday at the Crow Funeral Home. He was the father of Randall Bray.

We express our sympathy to the friends and family of O.D. McKendree. O.D. passed away Sunday, December 23. Funeral services were conducted Thursday in Benton, KY. O.D. preached at the South Green Street Church of Christ several years ago.

Youth

- Friday, Dec. 28—Teens and adults are invited for a game of flag football. If you want to participate be at the building at 1:00.
- Monday, Dec. 31—New Year’s Party & Gift Exchange for 7th grade and up. We will meet at the Youth Center from 8:00 p.m. until midnight. Please bring a gender neutral gift of around \$10.

WKU Basketball Game

There are sign-up sheets posted near the entrances of the building for anyone interested in attending the WKU Men’s Basketball game on Saturday, February 2, at 7 p.m. Children under the age of ten need to be accompanied by a parent. The tickets are \$7 each and will only be ordered for those who pay in advance. The deadline to sign-up is January 13. Should you need additional information contact Blaine.

Anniversaries

Congratulations to Preston & Lucille Jolly and Arnold & Zada Mansfield, both couples celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary on December 25.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast for January has been scheduled for January 19. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Sign-up sheets for this activity have been posted in the foyer and near the rear entrance of the building. All men of the congregation are invited to attend.

For The Record	
Sunday Morning Attendance	456
Sunday Contribution	\$8,219.44
2007 Weekly Budget	\$6,700.00
2007 Weekly Average	\$6,894.02

Sunday Morning, December 30, 2007

Deacons in Charge.....Chris Page
Ronnie Turner
 Announcements.....Howard Alls
 Song Leader.....David Fant
 Opening Prayer.....Rollin Simmons
 Lesson.....Steve Higginbotham
 Presiding at the TableLeslie Wilson
Jimmy Smith
 Serving the Assembly.....Nick Pace
Gordon Kelsay III
Jerry Staples
Mike Martin
 Serving the Balcony.....Larry Baldock
Mark Bowman
Wendy Frazier
 Closing Remarks.....Billy Pritchard
 Dismissal Prayer.....Gary Groce
 Greeters (Front Door)Betty Pursley
June Wells
 Greeters (Back Door)J.C. Grider
Marilyn Grider
 Greeter (Side Door).....Janet Dilley
 Assistance (Back Door).....Doug Belcher
 Umbrella (Back Door).....Walter Smith

Ushers.....Seth Groce
Lloyd Isenberg
 Usher & Serve BasementJames Williams
Fred Proffitt
 Count Contribution.....Ralph Dunbar
Glen Birge
Gordon Kelsay, Jr.
Allen Peden
 Nursery Attendant.....Whitleigh Harp
 Bake Bread.....Georgia Edwards
 Bus Driver.....Glenn Pritchard
 Pick Up Attendance Cards.....Kameron Bellamy
Clay Ferguson

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements.....Howard Alls
 Song Leader.....David Fant
 Opening Prayer.....Robbie Fudge
 Lesson.....Blaine Kelly
 Presiding at the TableBilly Pritchard
Tom Edwards
 Dismissal Prayer.....Nick Pace

Wednesday Evening Service

Song Leader.....Scott Bradford
 Prayer.....Glenn Pitcock

Sunday Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
 Sunday A.M. Worship.....10:30 a.m.
 Sunday P.M. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Ladies' Class.....10:00 a.m.

Worship Times:

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 Website.....www.glasgow-coc.org
 Steve's email.....shigg@glasgow-ky.com
 Blaine Kelly.....blaine@glasgow-coc.org
 Secretary's email.....nancy@glasgow-coc.org

Church Information

Mark Bowman	678-3632	Glenn Pitcock	646-4368
Ralph Dunbar	678-2075	Kevin Redford	646-3260
Gary Edmunds	678-4576	Tony Shitley	651-5605
Doug Frasier	678-2330	Walter Smith	427-3178
Robbie Fudge	651-1062	Robert Spear	678-2319
David Gray	678-5602	Ronnie Turner	678-6798
Chris Page	678-8824	Leslie Wilson	678-3692

Deacons

Steve Higginbotham 590-8785
 Blaine Kelly 404-2684

Ministers

Scott Bradford	651-7244	Billy Pritchard	651-3304
Tommy Gumm	678-3957	Rollin Simmons	678-4854
Darrell Pitcock	678-4333		

Elders

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