



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The high cost of cinema going



Attendance at the cinema has become an acceptable practice amongst some Christian circles. Sadly, some Free Presbyterian young people are amongst those who follow this worldly practice.

It is not altogether a new thing but has been in vogue for some years now. While, in

the recent past, it was but the action of those whose general demeanour belied their Christian profession, it would appear that it has become more widely acceptable.

Those who have joined the cinema attenders, more lately, point to the few who brazenly intimated their defiance of the Christian convention on separation from places of worldly entertainment, as their justification

for going to the cinema. Were Christians of past decades wrong when they said that cinema-going was sinful? Is that part of a Free Presbyterian minister's ordination oath, drawn up by our founding fathers under the leadership of Dr. Paisley, wrong when it requires a minister to solemnly swear, in the presence of God and his brethren, that he will preach and contend against the pleasure crazes of this age. I do not think so.

Cinema going was wrong in the past and is even more wrong now. The morality of the entertainment world (if it ever had any) has plummeted to new depths in recent years. One does not have to be an attender at the cinema to know that. Unfortunately, the evidence of it is all too inescapable. Explicit sexual scenes are common in virtually every cinema production. Likewise, the dialogue has become exceedingly foul. Violence too has become the norm for today's entertainment. The complaints of those who keep a watch on such activities are reported in the press for all to read. Furthermore, the cinema, in company with the television, has become the chief means of "sanitising" the lifestyle of those who live in adulterous relationships and who are sodomites. Cinema has "normalised" the activities of those who live in open defiance of God's holy law.

The reason why cinema going was, and still is, wrong for the professing Christian is simply because it feeds the fleshly appetites of our carnal natures, thus injuring our souls and rendering us spiritually weak. It also brings us into the company of the worldling. Finally, it draws us away from the fellowship of Christ, offends His Holy Spirit and thus hinders our enjoyment of the essential supply of His grace and power. It is the Christian's duty to mortify the flesh with its lusts. Cinema going only feeds our carnal nature and strengthens it. Strengthened fleshly desires overcome and conquer the desires of our new nature which was fashioned after the likeness of Christ. We, like Samson of old, will pay the price of yielding to temptation and dallying in the place of sin.

We cannot witness to unconverted persons and tell them of their need to be saved from sin while we share with them in the practice of sin. Only when you are daily keeping yourself unspotted from the world can you hope to help others to escape the damnation of hell. Such a rescuer of sinners is required to hate even the garment *spotted by the flesh*, Jude



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23. We cannot hold fellowship with God here on earth or in glory if we are not holy. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world, James 1:27. *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord* , Hebrews 12:14.

There may be all too many believers who condone cinema going and such like activities, but of one thing I am sure -- God does not approve. Rather, He would reprove such activities, clearly warning that the consequences will be the withdrawing of His power and blessing from our lives. This is the price Samson paid and it is the price every Christian pays for going where God says we should not go. If we insist on going, then we will go alone for the Lord will not be with us.

The powerless nature of Christianity today is explained by this withdrawal of His grace and power because of Christians dabbling in the things that are an offence to the Lord.

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you , Joshua 7:11-13.

A return to the paths of obedience and separation from the world is the only means of restoring the blessing and power of former times.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land, 2 Chronicles 7:14.