

THE MOVIE . . .

"Watchman, what of the night?" What about this moving picture craze? It seems just now to be at its zenith. It is taking the pre-eminence over all other forms of amusement. The rich, the poor, the old and the young—the churchman and non-churchman—all alike are captured by its allurements. Millions upon millions of dollars come into its coffers. It is building for itself a great name and monument upon the earth.

It has robbed the church pews of their occupants and they now look vacant and lonesome for the most part, even upon the Lord's day, when a few years ago found them quite filled up with peaceful, happy faces brought together to worship the Lord upon His holy day. But, "Watchman, what of the night?" What have the movies brought to humanity of good or ill?

They have brought amusement, it is true. They have brought hilarity and fun; a care-free state of mind for the time being, at least. But—at what a cost? Modesty, that sweet element of our American girlhood, has flown. Bold vulgarity and unabashed lust are flaunted before the public eye upon the screen and our girls are falling down in worship and adoration. The vulgar types of dress; the paint and powder; the bold, careless, defiant demeanor; selfishness, hardness of heart, proud looks, love of display with just as much of the body exposed as the human mind can devise without being arrested. These are the signs that show for what the movies are largely responsible.

The Crime Pictures

The moving pictures are full of bold, daring crime plots, assaults and shooting scrapes that are most thrilling.

But—at what cost? They are being acted out in real life. The taking of life is as common today as the boxing and prizefighting stunts just a few years back.

All kinds of criminal assaults are the order of the day. Crime stalks through the streets with bold strides.

Murder, stealing, robbing, bootlegging and all kinds of vice are so common that our daily papers are largely made up of this kind of news.

The picture industries are doing a flourishing business, yet a large number of our wage-earning people are out of employment, and are unable to get the bare necessities of life. A whole family of five children with the mother committed suicide a few days ago because they were unable to get enough food to keep them alive.

Education Through Pictures

I wonder if the men and women of today remember how large a place the picture books and the pictures in the school books had in their education. Pictures are a great means of education. They speak just as plainly and impress the mind more than the written word. Do we wonder why this nation has gone down so rapidly in morals? The moving picture is responsible to a great extent. Satan, the arch-enemy of the soul, is using the movies to corrupt the morals of mankind and to drag them down to eternal ruin.

Movies For the Children

The little children are taken from their mother's arms nowadays and trained for the movies. Instead of the sweet twilight hour with Bible stories and evening prayers, the children are hurrying off to the movies for an evening of fun and entertainment. The little children are taught to dance as soon as they are old enough to manage their feet. You often

see them on the street in very improper attitudes. But what wonder? They see it all in the movies! Mother, do you really want your little darling trained for the movies? Your thought and aim may be that sometime in the future it may become a "star."

But—at what a cost? Its innocence, its love of purity and virtue, its desire for the good and true, are stolen from it by the ruthless hand of vice, lust and degradation. What does the pleasure-loving, wild, reckless world care for your child? It laughs at its downfall and tramples upon its innocence. Mother, dear, be careful how you lead your child into the spider's web.

A True Standard of Morality

No standard of morality outside the Bible will ever hold a nation up or keep it from degenerating. God will surely visit His wrath upon all who are lifted up within themselves and who spurn the Bible standard of morality. "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day . . . And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures." (Isa. 2:11, 16).

—Selected.

TIMELY MEDITATION . . .

In Rev. 12:11, we find three weapons by which we can be overcomers. They are: first, "the Blood of the Lamb"; second, "the word of their testimony"; and third, "they loved not their lives unto the death," (or complete consecration even unto death).

In the Blood of the Lamb, there is redeeming power, justifying power, cleansing power and keeping power.

By our testimony, we put our lives on record, make known a personal experience, recommend the grace of God and help to establish Bible truth. By the surrender of our lives to God in complete consecration to His will, we are delivered from the hindrances of self-will, evil appetites and carnality.

God has promised that we may be "more than conquerors," but we are committed to a program of war, and a fierce battle is raging between good and evil, so we should avail ourselves of all the weapons which our Captain provides.

RECKLESS WORDS AND SLANDEROUS DARTS

"Touch not Mine anointed, and do My prophets no harm." Psalms 105:15: "I would rather play with forked lightning or take in my hands living wires," says Dr. A. B. Simpson, "than speak a reckless word against any servant of Christ, or idly repeat the slanderous darts which thousands of Christians are hurling on others to the hurt of their own souls and bodies.

"You may often wonder, perhaps, why your sickness is not healed, your spirit filled with the joy of the Holy Ghost, or your life blessed and spiritually prosperous. It may be some dart which you have flung with angry voice, or in an idle hour of thoughtless gossip, is pursuing you on its way, as it describes the circle which always brings back to the source from which it came every shaft of bitterness, and every idle and evil word. Let us remember when we persecute or hurt the children of God, we are but persecuting Him, and hurting ourselves far more.

"Lord make me as sensitive to the feelings and rights of others as I have been to my own, and let me live and love like Thee."—Sel.

MAKE PRAYER THE BUSINESS OF OUR LIVES

By John Shearer

Revival flows from the Upper Room. The Spirit comes upon a company of men and women who have made prayer the vital business of their lives for days. They are of one accord in one place and their prayer is most definite and insistent. They plead a promise, the promise of the Spirit. Here surely is a fact of the greatest import. The Church begins in a prayer meeting. It is born in the Upper Room. We shall find in its after history that invariably when it grows anaemic it is compelled to return to the Upper Room and breathe its native air. There and there alone can it renew its strength.

Never yet has a revival occurred that was not preceded by an intense prayerfulness. Today the prayer meeting is like a torrent bed in the season of drought. It is despised and forsaken. The Church spends its energy in a thousand other forms and mourns the futility of its service. But little companies of earnest men and women are returning to the Upper Room. They believe that down the dry bed of this ancient stream the living waters will again flow, yea, some already hear the sound of the torrent.

WORST CATASTROPHE IN HISTORY IF AMERICA GOES DOWN TO DEFEAT

By Fred John Meldau

The Congressional Library has compiled the total value of the help the United States has given the world in the decade beginning July 1, 1940, and ending June 30, 1950. The sum was so great and the task so stupendous, it took six months to assemble the figures. They found it was 104 billion dollars! For that sum could be built 10,400,000 homes costing \$10,000 each.

Of this 104 billions, 11 billions went to Russia, which is now waging a cold war upon us—and winning. China has been lost to the Kremlin, and Germany is slipping away from us. The war in Korea has cost additional billions. It is clear, our billions will not buy peace. If America fails to get right with God, the whole world will soon be plunged into utter chaos.

H. C. Wolfe, writing in the American Mercury says: "Time is running out and running out fast . . . If we lose Germany, we stand to lose Europe, the Middle East and Africa." The outlook today is worse than when Hitler was riding the crest of his victories in Europe. The only way out for the U. S. is through repentance and a return to God.—Sel.

VALUES

Lola Beall Graham

The things you get are not what count
Or mean the most to you;
The world cares not for what you have,
But needs what you can do.

Where you may go is not what adds
The most to your estate;
Why you may go and for what cause
Will mark you low or great.

How fine you fare is not the test.
Poor waifs have risen high—
It's how you master storms that rise—
Just what you do and why.

—Gospel Herald.