



REFLECTIONS
ON
ART,
CULTURE
AND GOD



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“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
– Colossians 3:17

1998

- Creating art can be compared to living the Christian life: trying to please the world is a waste of time.
- I would rather be a Christian than an artist. But art tempts me. I have to create.

• Commissioned Art

Many famous people throughout history have commissioned many types of art: self-portraits, battle scenes of themselves, etc. The medium of painting gave some sort of immortality to the individual. Though the most famous man of all the God-Man, Jesus Christ did not commission any art nor desire to become immortal (for He already was). He's the only Person to have had thousands of portraits done on his life, death and resurrection. He's the most famous Person to be sculpted and written about in History. He didn't have to pay someone to do it. He bought His followers with His own blood and artists, through the centuries, have willingly given of their lives to give back to Him, through art. If you care at all about the art you create, I would highly suggest that you start caring more about God first. Then He will bless you and your art for it should always give glory to Him.

- I am looking for the praise of God, not the praise of men. I do art for God; not anyone else. (Well, maybe for me, too.)
- I want to somehow be able to glorify God in all the art I do. If not, then the work of my hands is laid waste. Obviously, this is impossible for a human to achieve but it is something to aspire to.

• Revolutionized Art

As society becomes more liberal, art becomes more liberal. People get fed up with “business as usual” and they have to go and

revolutionize all art everywhere. Unfortunately, they revolutionize society to be more evil with this new art. The point of all liberal art is to satisfy the wants of humans, rather than the wants of God.

1999

- The whole gospel story revolves around the humbling of two parties: God and me.

- The Giver of the Moments

Life is not about creating art. It is about the Creator and my relationship with Him and how I love Him and how I know Him. Every moment counts in this life. Let us not forget the Giver of the moments.

- The Bible is the only Book where you can fellowship with the Author while reading. You can even ask questions!

- What is the point of a God-given art talent? It's not practical! It's not food or a power tool or a household appliance. It has the same point as a flower: it gives glory to God's creative power.

- The glory I give myself will die when I die. The glory I give God will last forever. Art is to be used to glorify God.

2000

- Creating Art in Heaven

If one could create art in heaven, then wouldn't it be that every piece of art could only come out better than anticipated (i.e. better than anyone could have imaged)? Because creating art, on earth, leads to only two possibilities: to have the art turn out better than you thought, or to have it turn out as a failure. (For the art to turn out exactly as the artist wanted it to turn out is an impossibility). Since there is no failure in heaven, wouldn't art always turn out glorious (i.e. not turn out the way you want it)? But if everything turned out perfect all the time, where would the excitement be? Well, the excitement is putting your faith in God to see how He

will make it turn out better than you could ever imagine. The art would therefore glorify God and amaze everyone else. I think that would be heaven, if one could create art in the Kingdom of God. I look forward to it.

- A Woman's Body

The woman's body is beautiful. In a perfect world (with no sinners), I suppose all artists could draw naked men and women. But the balance between lust and art is so fine a line, that it can never be in this evil world. That's why I have opted to draw very few naked women since I took that figure drawing class many years ago, which taught me nothing except how lustful my eyes are.

- Art never used to satisfy me before I gave it up to God.

2001

- Pure White

When I use white paint in my paintings, my brush has to be devoid of any other color. I want pure white. If there is a little bit of any other color in my brush, it will ruin the white; it won't be pure anymore. That's how our sin is to God. Even if I committed a few sins today, it's enough to get me on the wrong track away from God. Repent of your sins when you're convicted of them. Move on; but don't push them back until your pureness isn't pure anymore.

- Evil men are never satisfied with anything (i.e. the size of their art portfolio, their art talent, their accomplishments, etc.) Christ alone satisfies.

- No Media

Paul says to think on whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, things of good report, virtue and praise (Philippians 4:8). But here's the thing: when I watch TV or movies or read comics, magazines or the newspaper, I can't think on those things! Culture and media don't allow you to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, things of good report, virtue and praise. So, if

media is keeping you from thinking on those things that Christ wants you to think on, don't you think it's time to ditch the world and follow Christ?

- Seek His Praise

Men love to give each other awards and congratulations and pats-on-the-back for the art they create. How about a pat-on-the-back from your Savior: "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21)? Use your art-talent for Him; not for feeding your own pride.

- The Defeated Christ?

I just went through my art history book and I am quite shocked that most of the pictures of Christ show a broken, bloody corpse after his crucifixion. However, his death is only part of the gospel! Yes, He died, but He also was buried and rose again the third day! (1 Corinthians 15) Do people have a fascination with a "defeated" Christ? What does that show the world? It shows that we Christians follow just another man that died. But He didn't just die, He rose again! How come more pictures don't show a triumphant Christ? It's ridiculous to paint a fraction of any story (let alone the most important one is history)! People love blood and gore. And, it is true that Jesus was a bloody corpse (the key word is "was", but the world won't know the "was" if all they see is the "is"). But how many pictures of His crucifixion do we need? How much blood has to be painted before the world is satisfied, especially when God told the gospel story in words and not in pictures? How sad the world must think of Christians ("poor Christians, they worship a dead person.") We need to stop this portrayal of Christianity, or tell the whole story, or don't paint the Lord Jesus at all!

- Only the Creator

Only the artist knows how many hours goes into his finished painting. He alone knows the pain and the frustrations that went into it. Other people can enjoy the art not knowing what suffering went into making it. Likewise, only God knows how much pain went into getting us saved.

- Starting with the Eye

All these years, I've been drawing my characters, starting with the eye that is closest to the reader. Why the eye? The eye is the lamp of the soul (Matthew 6:22). Without an eye, a body can't communicate very much, if anything. But, as soon as you add the eye, there is little that you can't communicate with a character. I praise you, Lord, for the creation of the eye.

- What am I really striving for? Excellence in art or excellence in prayer?

- Artist's Inspiration

I know Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is the climax of the Bible, and of history, but there are other stories in the Bible! There are many other visual treats given in the word of God (besides Adam and Eve, Abraham, David, Solomon, Jesus and Paul). So how come I've never seen many paintings of Ehud, or Jephthah, or Deborah in the 2,000 years of Christian history? How come I've never seen a comic of Psalm 49? Or an engraving of Micaiah? Or a statue of Hannah? How come I've never seen a watercolor of Enoch, or a scratchboard of Hezekiah or a vector drawing of Amos? Isn't all scripture given by inspiration of God (2 Tim 3:16-17)? Then how come there is so little in the realm of Christian art? There are so many good stories God has given us, but only a select few have been painted. There have been thousands of Christian artists since Christ's ascension. You want inspiration for art? God's Word has all you need! It's a gold mine of painting ideas, drawings, poetry, photography, motion pictures, sculpture, crafts, etc. This is a plea to Christian artists everywhere: search your Bible, ask God for the inspiration, and He will use the talent He has given you for His purpose. God has given you the talent, so use it for His glory. I want to use pictures to bring people toward the Bible, not to scare them away from it. I want to get people interested and excited about the Bible. I want people to open it up, and ultimately find Jesus Christ as their Savior. The Bible is the world's finest piece of literature; why wouldn't you want to create art from it? Secular artists have given their lives to painting

mythology, or historical events and figures, and yet the Bible and its 66 Books are left on the back burner of so many artists' minds. Out of the whole of Christian art, how many books have actually been used as inspiration for art? How many David statues do we need, or how many naked Adam and Eves do we need as frescoes? How many paintings of the Virgin Mary do we really need? God didn't intend for the same ideas to be used over and over and over again. I just want Christian artists to think about what they will create, before they create it. Why wouldn't we want to bring people to the Bible? People need the Word of God. People need Jesus Christ. And when it comes right down to it: no art will ever make someone a Christian, but it certainly has the ability to lead them to Christ. And I'm more than willing to do so.

- Challenges for Today's Christian Artists

The challenges facing the Christian artist of the 21st Century are:

- 1.) Keeping abreast of the newest technologies.
- 2.) Letting our Christian work be known.
- 3.) Keeping our art Biblically accurate.
- 4.) Not being opposed to new media but embracing it and using it for Christ.
- 5.) Doing art that is more pleasing to God than to the public.

- I don't care how "holy" a project may seem. If a project takes you away from God then it's sin.

- Tools don't make the artist. God makes the artist.

The paintbrush doesn't make an artist, nor the guitar make a musician. An artist would paint with his fingers if not with a brush; he is an artist regardless of what he has. And the musician would make music with rocks or sticks if not a guitar. "A man's life doesn't consist in the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15)

- Christian Artists' Responsibility

I, personally, need to stop taking God's gift of drawing for granted and start drawing more frequently, as much as I am writing. No Christian artist should be taking his talent for granted. He has been given a great gift—a gift to reach the world for Christ. The world needs visual art to understand who God is, His love for us

and what He has done for us. The Lost need Christian art because they need something to point them to the Bible. All Christian art should point to the Bible and should point to Christ. It should engage the audience and entice them to ask questions about God. Sometimes Christian art should condemn and show the hypocrisy of people. Christian artists have a huge responsibility in bringing art to the world. Don't waste your talents God has given you.

2002

- It seems to me that “science” is the study and process of something. “Art” is the end result. Some examples include: The Grand Canyon, a butterfly and a waterfall. Each of those are an end result (art) but the process by which those things –the study of it– is the science.

- Salt and Light

Nowhere in the Bible do I read that we are to be subtle Christians. We are to be salt and light. Jesus says this, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16). So, what is the purpose of salt? It keeps you hydrated, and it also preserves meat. Too much of it also makes people thirsty. It preserves humanity the way God intended it to be. Jesus also mentions light. What does light do? It dispels darkness. It exposes the sin of humanity. Do people have to wear sunglasses when you walk in the room? Do people get thirsty when they are around you? There is no such thing as subtle salt and subtle light talked about in the Bible. It's almost the same as not being there. So, if we are not called to be subtle Christians, shouldn't the art we produce be like that as well? In other words, what are we doing producing subtle Christian art when our lives aren't supposed to be like that? Shouldn't our art be a reflection of

how we live life? The unsaved need the open Christian art. They may ridicule it, but at least they're "getting it"! I'd rather have my art ridiculed for what it is than for the unsaved not to get it. I'd rather have people say, "That's a really cruddy piece of art that proclaims Christ" than to say, "I don't know what this painting is about".

- No Good Thing

What you gain by not buying a TV is more than the money and the time you would waste by watching it. Paul says, "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing." (Rom 7:18) The same thing goes for TV, which is simply the broadcasting of fleshly things that are no good.

- The True Counselor

I think the world looks to Hollywood for advice. People want to know how to live their lives; people in Hollywood are the counselors, the examples, the mentors and the standards that people look to. However, they are looking to the wrong people. They should turn to God, who is holy; they'd have better advice from Him than what Hollywood ever could offer.

- The greatest achievement in my life will be to be the masterpiece God intended me to be. I'm an artist. But don't forget: God is an Artist, too, and I am His artwork.

- The world's art has nothing to offer me. The world showed me its best art and I was still thirsty. Jesus alone quenches my thirst.

- Creating art is of no value to me if it does not bring me closer to Jesus. And a finished piece of art is of no value to anyone else if it doesn't bring them closer to Jesus.

- One good thing about being surrounded by evil art is that it's easy to shock people with godly art.

- "Redeeming the time" (i.e. creating art) means spending more time with the Creator of time.

- My art table is an altar. I offer my talents and my projects and my time and all that I am to the Lord there.
- In a story, the hero is the martyr. The martyr is the hero.

- The Weak Spot

The hero always has a weak spot in which the villain can hurt him through: the love for another. Likewise, as a Christian artist, you will drive people nuts! They won't understand you. They won't be able to figure you out! People will be offended by your lifestyle. People will think you're weird, hate you, and persecute you, because your lifestyle is so off the wall that no one wants to be a Christian! People think that cussing, tattoos, nose rings, pink hair, drugs, alcohol, homosexuality, Satanism, etc., is offensive? You take all those things in the world that offend people and add all those who are offended up, and the number of offenders will not even come close to the number of offenders Christianity creates! So, offend some people. Do it today! Do it for Christ! Be a Christian artist and create art for His glory!

- Contrasts

I've been thinking about contrast of things from an artist's perspective; not just colors but other things, like, Good is always contrasted with Evil. One sees the intensity of one only when compared to its opposite. When does a light stand out? In daytime? No, it stands out when it's surrounded by darkness. How do you make a red stand out? When it's surrounded by green. How do you show love, holiness, justice in Jesus? When He was surrounded by the antithesis of those things. You would never know what peace was unless you had a time when you had not known Peace. You appreciate it more when you know what the opposite of it is. You would not know love unless you knew hate. You would not know freedom unless you were a slave. Jesus stood out. Some men were attracted to Him, because all we knew was everything He was not. Others were not and thus crucified Him. "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." (John 1:5)

- Artists' Fears

Fear is useless. It's an entrapment. A jail cell. A hell. It confines. It stops. It is used to stop you from doing God's will. It is a product of Satan. Satan doesn't want you to feel secure in the promises that God will bring you through to complete a work for art.

Therefore, he puts fear into your heart. To do God's art projects with fear in my heart is torture. Nothing can get accomplished and I don't enjoy it. Since doing art is worshiping God, what better way could Satan create than to put fear in me and ruin my art-worship experience? Fear is illogical, a twisting of the truth, a product foreign to God and his children. God talks and acts as if there is no fear, for it doesn't exist in God's reality. So how come I don't trust Him? How come I don't sit down to do art with a no-fear mentality? Has God ever called me to do something that was not easy? Failure will happen, but there is no reason to fear failure. Go in knowing that failure is a possibility, but so is success. There is no need to fear failure, as I've been doing, particularly with my current art project. I've never had fear like this. But I need to rely on you, Lord. Forgive me, Jesus, for my fear. Thank you, Jesus for giving me freedom from fear of failure. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)

- Security

There is nothing secure in this world. Don't even bother putting any stock into it. There is no foundation for which to base your life on. Philosophies, tastes and preferences change. Art is so relative; nothing is safe and secure. Men and women live and die. The only secure foundation is found in Christ Jesus.

- Pro-Positive

There is more to Christian art than it being "non-destructive" to the audience. Christian art is supposed to be "pro-positive". There is plenty of "nice" music that doesn't mention God; but what good is it if it isn't "pro-positive"? There is plenty of wholesome paintings and sculptures, but what good is it if it doesn't glorify Jesus openly? Just because a photograph isn't pornographic doesn't make it Christian. Just because a movie doesn't have

immorality in it doesn't make it Christian. Christian art is way past moralism and what is considered "good" by society. It is pro-positive in that it openly declares Jesus as Savior. Some would say, "Well, not all Christian art has to scream Jesus." I would disagree. I think Christian art does have to scream Jesus or it can't be called Christian art. If a Christian wants to make moralistic movies or music, then go ahead. There are already millions of people doing that already. It's the movies and music and art that glorifies God that will stand out from the crowd, the ones that can truly be called Christian.

- Evil in Movies

Satan has so blurred the ideas of good versus evil and has made people so indifferent in this world that the movies and entertainment that are made today can't even be compared to the movies of yesteryear. The movies of yesteryear expounded upon right and wrong and good and evil. Today's movies do not. Today, movies are made by indifferent people for indifferent people and are works of hideous nonsense, for no one cares about right or wrong. If the ideas of right and wrong are done away with (or worse traded in for a new morality) then the very fundamentals of entertainment are destroyed. Isn't entertainment supposed to teach us a little more about the human race? But, instead, we are just left confused. One's ideas of right and wrong are not the same as another person's ideas of right and wrong and we are left with moral relativism. Today's movies lack a spirit of good and evil. You can't take one side of reality (the physical) and separate it from the other side (the spiritual). I think that is the reason for the lack of any virtuous characters in movies. Sometimes it's hard to tell who the hero is supposed to be versus the villain. What we're essentially dealing with is good and evil, and good and evil is a spiritual reality that manifests itself in the physical. I suppose that even satanic movies have more of a "spirit" to them than a "normal" movie (just the wrong spirit). There are no longer any characters that have high ideals of making things right, they only want to make things "their" right.

- Any art not created in love is a waste of time to you and will

never benefit anyone else.

2003

- Heroic Traits

The traits that we all look for in a hero are all found in God. The traits that we look for in a suitable spouse are all found in God. The people we wish we could be and the traits we desire to have are all found in God.

- Western art cannot be conceived apart from Christianity. Christianity can't be conceived apart from Jesus' resurrection. Both hinge on the fact that Christ rose from the dead.

- Is the world passing me by, because I don't immerse myself in its media? Or am I passing the world up as they see me move forward?

- Purpose in Life

If my purpose in life was to just do art, that would be a pretty pitiful existence, would it not? And yet my body, every day, strives towards that pitiful end. I was meant for more. I was meant to serve the Lord.

- Don't try creating art on an empty spirit. Your inspiration must come from God and His Word.

- A Creative Career

I'm a graphic designer and I like designing things graphically. I especially like going to a day job that takes me away from my artistic predilections. You know, when I determined to be an artist for my career in life, I knew I wouldn't make a lot of money. I knew I was setting myself up to be poor financially, but praise God, I also chose to be a happy poor person. I wouldn't let finances bring me down. I wouldn't compare myself to my peers. I sometimes wonder how God will take care of me. It's a scary thought being on your own. But I have God on my side. I haven't seen a bird starve yet.

Not A Loner Artist

I'm a loner, but not really, I have Jesus at my side continually. He is my reason for my living and creating art. I want to use this one life to glorify Him as much as possible. But I know that it is so easy to fall into my workaholic state of mind. Too often, "accomplishing things" supersedes "loving Jesus". I hate it. My flesh works so hard to make itself miserable. I need to do things in His power, not my own. I need to work on my relationship with Him, even at work when it's the hardest. Life is busy for me. The trick is not to waste time. Which is why I don't watch TV or movies. (Americans watch an average of 12 years of TV. What would you do with 12 extra years?) I love the life I have in Jesus (which started in 1998). I think I've learned a lot so far, but I have so much more to learn.

"The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy." (Psalm 147:11)

- Heaven will be God's art gallery. And who will God be displaying? His special people, his children, his elect. I'll be happy to be displayed for the glory of God for all eternity.
- A story is only as good as the conflict it takes to get to the goal. A hero can't just walk up and take the prize; he must go through hell to get it.

• Separation of Church

Christians have always separated themselves from the society in which they live. But 21st century Christians are more compromising than 1st century Christians ever were. I don't see Christians turning off their TV or skipping rated R movies! They are freely immersing themselves in the evil society in which they live. Also, Christians are being more subtle in their message to the world (no crosses on churches, no mention of Jesus in Christian music, sermons from the pulpit are a blend of post-modern psychology mixed with stand-up comedian-level entertainment). Guess what, for all the subtleness and antics and facades that Christians are putting on today, the world is still turning its back on us! Why are we bending over backwards to hide the gospel

when the world certainly won't hide theirs? Why are we watering down the gospel? The world needs 100% gospel! It won't come for anything less! Instead of worrying about entertaining the "poor heathen" who may happen to enter your church, may I suggest you worry about getting 100% gospel of Jesus Christ to them? May I suggest that unless Christians separate themselves out of the world's entertainment, that the world will never know that we aren't like them? "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

- If I can teach someone about God, through the art I create, then why not? If I can bring joy through a piece of art to someone, then I ask, "Why not?"

2004

- Why are artists such sad people? Because they fall far short of the Great Artist.
- Creating books isn't my purpose in life. That's just an offshoot of my relationship with the Lord.

• Saving Others Along the Way

A hero saves people along the way to his goal. He helps people who can't help themselves out of situations. He's not just a selfish hero on a journey who blocks out all non-essential obstacles to obtain his prize. No! When he sees someone in need, along the way, he helps them. He does good to people. Then, he gets back on his journey. The Hero's Journey is the road to Calvary.

• God's Creatures

The Great Artist is so humble that He wants to spend time with His creatures. Imagine spending time with the characters you have drawn or the characters you have written about. Now, imagine dying for one of your characters. Nothing would be more humbling than that.

- Different Comic Book Artists

I was thinking of the 4 types of artists that could work on a book.
1) A secular artist producing a secular project (i.e. X-Men, Spider-Man).

2) A secular artist producing a Christian project (Kingdom of Heaven, Testament, The Robe)

3) A Christian artist producing secular work (Lord of the Rings, Narnia, Underworld)

4) A Christian artist producing Christian work (VeggieTales, BibleMan, PureFlix movies).

Which artist will you be?

- Excellence in Christian art shouldn't be confined to bumper stickers.

- Vain Art?

Solomon said “all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). And, that is true, if you leave out the spiritual perspective of things. Creating corruptible pieces of art that will be destroyed someday is vanity, but not if it has an impact on someone’s relationship with God. If it was just a piece of art, then, yes, it’d be vanity. But if it’s a piece of art that God has commissioned you to do and His Spirit can work through it to affect someone’s life towards God—then, no, it’s not vanity. At that point, it has eternal significance even if the artwork is destroyed the next day. It is powerful.

- Do something heroic today—just like the characters you create in your stories.

- If I’m not a hero in the little things, I’ll never be a hero in the big things.

- It’s only in the midst of incredible evil that incredible heroism is displayed.

- Being an artist is about saying what needs to be said to the world, at tremendous cost to yourself.

2005

- To be an artist is to carry pain. To be a Christian is to give that pain to Jesus.

- Who Is the Underdog?

Satan made himself the underdog of this own story. He wanted to portray God as a bully and one who was to be rebelled against. But his “underdog” status should be seen for what it is: the result of pride. Jesus’ underdog status was due to His immense love for each of us.

- Living Out Your Faith

“Good Works” is more than just creating art. It’s living out your faith, so when people see your art, they say, “Wow, this Christian artist really believes in Jesus. He lives it out and creates art based on His beliefs.”

- Secular artists are willing to kill themselves to make good art, like the artists in any number of secular art books that I have (i.e. artwork that is beautiful and that took tons of time to produce). They sacrifice their lives for art that doesn’t glorify God. Are Christian artists willing to do the same for God? Are they willing to sacrifice themselves for art that glorifies God? As I look around the Christian art scene, very few artists are. Non-Christians can get organized and put together beautiful anthologies and art books. Are Christian artists willing to do the same to honor God? Do you see what I’m saying? Non-Christians are willing to do for money what Christians aren’t willing to do for God. Unbelieving artists are willing to die for a lie, all the while Christians aren’t willing to die for the Truth. And the few Christian artists that actually are getting organized are materialistic Christians (they have a love of money as well as a little love for God). These compromising Christian artists are willing to water down the gospel in hopes of fattening their wallets. Now, it’s time to look at my own heart: I’m willing to kill myself for 8 hours at my day job, but not for the project(s) that I have been commissioned

by Almighty God to do. I'm willing to put forth all my effort for a paycheck, than for my Jesus. I'm willing to waste my life on things that will fade away, than for artwork that could make a difference in someone's eternal life. O LORD, I pray that you raise up Christian artists to worship you through the art that they create and that you take the laziness and complacency out of the Christian artists whom you have already raised up.

- **Artists and Engineers**

Applied scientists (engineers, scientists, etc.) benefit mankind on the outside. Artists benefit mankind on the inside. Of course, it could be argued that engineers and scientists are just other types of artists that are being creative. But their craft has more to do with function than with form. Scientists deal with function that effects people's minds. Artists deal with form to affect people's hearts.

- **Pop Culture and Abortion**

It is common knowledge that if you want to start or stop a revolution you write a book that influences the masses. Look at: Uncle Tom's Cabin, A Christmas Carol, Mein Kampf, A Communist Manifesto, Common Sense, The Origin of Species, etc. For evil or for good, revolutions have started due to a single book. However, in this day and age, I'd like to advocate motion pictures as a major influence in today's culture, especially in the U.S. I read somewhere that after Bambi came out in the 1940's, deer hunting went down 40% (or some figure like that). Also, when Top Gun came out, air force enlistments went up some kind of percentage. Movies shape people's opinions. I have an idea for a movie. It would be interesting to see a movie about an abortion doctor coming to Christ. It would certainly help if the story was based on a true story (is there any former abortion doctors who have repented?) But throughout the movie the doctor would be performing abortions- this is where the medium of film comes in. The director would be able to show abortions in almost all their decadence. (I say "almost", because if the truth were shown, people would be throwing up in the theatre). Motion pictures, it seems, is the medium of choice for getting any disgusting thing

on film and in people's faces. So why not abortion? Now, before I continue, let me emphasize that this subject matter of abortion is absolutely disgusting to think that it could be done on film. I'm not advocating showing abortions in all their disgust. In a previous essay I wrote about showing reality in comics, and the same can be applied to movies. You get around showing evil by "closure", or "showing parts of a whole". There are many ways that a director could show abortions without actually showing them. Nonetheless, because of the seriousness of this issue in the world today and the fact that 50 million+ babies have been killed, I would say that bumping up the "showing parts of a whole" a couple notches would actually get the point across better that abortion is evil. At any rate, this film would have to be rated R. This movie shouldn't be thought of as a Christian movie, but rather as a Christian outreach. Some may say that this project is a propaganda piece. Don't kid yourself. Almost everything produced by Hollywood is a propaganda piece. Most Americans have no idea what goes on in a Planned Parenthood. I've read some information on it and it is truly disgusting. To show abortions as part of the movie (and what actually turns the doctor to Christ) would be of tremendous value in shaping the public's opinion of this "freedom" that women enjoy. How do you fight something so disgusting as abortion? With love. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". To show the reality of abortion, in this movie, would only be done in love: love for advocates of abortion, love for our fellow pro-lifers and love for the women who have had abortions (with the message that, yes, there is forgiveness found in Christ). As I look at the issue of abortion today, politics is having little impact in shaping people's opinions. Pop-culture shapes people's thinking everyday. That's how come the homosexual movement has so much force in politics today. It's advocated by Hollywood. If Hollywood can shape the public's opinion of evil homosexuality, then why can't Christians use the same medium to shape people's opinion against abortion? A verse comes to mind: "Be as wise as serpents and as gentle as doves." This abortion movie, most definitely, would not be for everyone to see. In fact, it would take a special kind of saint to even produce this kind of movie. The Passion of the Christ was rated R and

it had a tremendous impact on me. I believe the same kind of impact could be done with this movie. Isn't it time that Christians started making movies that shapes people's opinions against evil? Christians don't just serve God in politics, or in church; they serve Him in the pop-culture they create. One final thing: this movie would have to have top-notch writing and directing, not necessarily "big name", but something of high-caliber. Anything less than high quality could actually cause more harm than good. (Christians should start producing at higher technical quality rather than settling for mediocre work.) I'm convinced that if everything was done right in this movie, and prayer was a major part of it, Planned Parenthood would go bankrupt almost overnight. Think about it.

- All artwork should be done to praise God, to worship Him. How could one worship Him subtlety?

- Honesty and Reality

Honesty and reality have taken the place of right and wrong, both in storytelling and reality shows. Someone can be honestly right or honestly wrong; people really don't care as long as they are honest. Reality shows give an excuse to glorify sin.

- The gospel of Christ is eternal and will never short-change you for ideas in changing this world through art and stories.

- Being a hero is about counting the cost and doing it anyway.

- His Strength vs. Their Strength

It is pretty sad that non-Christian artists exhibit more faith in getting their artwork done than Christian artists. Christian artists have God, who will actually give them strength and yet they are still afraid to sit down and do artwork. The non-Christian artists have themselves (and art as their idol) and they produce more art, but only in their own strength.

- Unto Themselves

God didn't create art to be secular. All art was designed to

be “Unto the LORD.” And, instead artists (non-Christian or Christian) have made their art “unto themselves”.

- Apart from Art

Every Christian artist should ask himself “Could I live a satisfied existence apart from art?” If the answer is “No”, there is a serious problem. That artist has made art his god. Art is an unforgiving god. It is the kind of god that will run you into the ground and not even think twice. Art is a god that will destroy your life and send you to an early grave. Christian artists can live a satisfied existence apart from that god, because they have a true God of gods inside me.

- Hollywood VS. the Body of Christ

Ever since “The Passion of the Christ” came out in February 2004, there have been some really great movies with a spiritual/overtly Christian message. For example, I was really blessed to see “The Chronicles of Narnia” this last December. It touched my heart, because the gospel was symbolized within it. At the end of January 2004, another movie, “The End of the Spear”, expounded the forgiveness found in Christ. Movies like these are worthy endeavors that promote Christianity and, to a lesser extent, morals and values. However, there have been other projects that have come to attack the Christian worldview, namely “Brokeback Mountain” (with its pro-sodomy point-of-view) and a TV show by the name of “The Book of Daniel” (with a Jesus that is not the Jesus of the Bible). But the attacks from Hollywood don’t stop there! At least two more movies are coming out this year that seek to blaspheme Christ. They are “The DaVinci Code” and “The Omen”. One movie is based on lies and the other is about glorifying the devil. The attack on Christianity, from Hollywood, is nothing new; it’s been going on for decades. But it does seem to me that Hollywood is stepping up the attacks and are making more calculated blows to the beliefs we hold dear. So, what can we, as Christians do to stem the tide? Well, first, I think we need to pray for the salvation of these producers in Hollywood. We need to pray that audiences will discern the lies being force-fed to them from the silver screen. We need to pray that these blasphemous

movies bomb at the box office. We need to not support these movies or the studios making them. For instance, I will never support a Tom Hanks and/or Ron Howard (“The DaVinci Code”) movie again! These people ridicule my beliefs and expect me to support their endeavors? Forget it! We need to get the word out that these movies are evil and need to be prepared to tell the world why they are evil. And, finally, we need to be preaching the gospel not only by our daily lives, but also in art that glorifies God. It is one thing to tear down these evil movies, but what are Christians putting in its place? If there is nothing else to see at the movie theater, or buy at the bookstore or music store, can we really blame the world for all the evil entertainment they buy? Remember, Hollywood doesn’t sell movies; they sell philosophies. What kind of art are Christians creating to sell their “philosophy” that Jesus is Lord? God has given us a tremendous responsibility to create art that glorifies Him. Let us heed the call and do it.

2006

- Satan is his own tragic hero. He is fighting for something that he can never obtain: the throne of God.
- A good artist stays one step ahead of his audience’s expectations.
- To love the gift more than the Giver is sin. If you love your talent, or creating art more than God, there is a serious idol in your life.
- Creativity is something to be controlled; not to be controlled by. Art Sabbaths are essential to the Christian artist, as they force the idol out their heart.
- Where to Get Inspiration From
I want to talk a little about where to get inspiration for artwork. As an artist, where do I get my inspiration from? Well, from looking at people around me and from looking at myself. I’m interested in characters that have personalities that I’ve seen in others. I watch people in public places or listen to them at work and categorize them into different categories of people. I look at

the motives for what they say and do. I'm often quite critical of people, because I can usually figure out why they act certain ways, but I'm also critical of myself. I cannot stand why I do certain things differently in some scenarios than others. My personality is a convoluted mixture of a lot of emotion, past experience and my own personality (which is not unlike anyone else). I look at my past failures and victories as things that I can write about as well. I also place myself in future scenarios and question what my response would be. I also look at the past, present and future time contexts. These are all areas in which I get ideas from.

- Idea Book

I keep an idea book. Well, actually, it's an idea book/Bible study book. It's where God gives me ideas, either reading His Word or meditating on Him. It's a place where I jot all my ideas, thoughts and quotes down. I would highly encourage any artist to do the same.

- Imperfect Biblical Heroes

It's interesting to me that the Bible stories of old all show real, flawed, human characters. When I read the Old Testament, I see heroes with weaknesses, I see outcasts and I see sinners. (You know, the all-too-human characters that each of us can relate to). Why are Bible stories so enjoyable to read? Because the heroes and heroines are just like you and me! They are real, fallible, human, sinful characters just like each of us. The writers of these stories didn't try to whitewash these people. There is just something reassuring when an artist or writer spills his guts about his failures in life. It's hard to do. The natural thing to do is to make oneself more perfect than he is. So, when I see art that exposes a man as he truly is, it really does allow truth to be told. And, it's within that context of truth that I want my readers to be in because then I'm going to be telling them all the wonderful things God has done in spite of one's humanity. The Bible is a truth Book. It paints people as they are with no sugarcoating. The hard facts of life are there for the world to see and that is also what I want to do with my characters.

- Creating Characters

All of my characters have something of me inside of them. Doing so makes the characters more interesting to me (which lets me write a richer story). It is also a way of exploring who I am, how my relationship with God is. It is also interesting to see what I would do if God put me in certain situations.

- Imperfect Situations

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” In this verse, “All” means exactly that: past failures and victories, our present failures and victories and our future failures and victories. There is so much to make comics and art about. Who needs to “create” characters or situations when our very lives have so much that God has written into them. Take events and situations from your own life, that you have learned from, so you can teach others.

- Write Your Testimony

To write your life story is one of the most important and gratifying things you will ever do in life. Writing an autobiography is the equivalent of writing history. It’s great, because history deals with facts (indisputable facts). That indisputability is what I want the world to see. I want them to see that God is all-powerful and all-loving even to love a sinner like me. I want them to see that God is alive and well today; not a God lost in the pages of yesteryear. He’s a God who has given me a new life and a real hope. I want to share Him with the world. Who does the world want to share but some loser named Satan who is bound for the Lake of Fire? Our God is greater and bigger than the god of this world and He’s the Hero of this story. It’s difficult, no doubt to put your life story on paper. If someone would’ve told me 10 years ago that I would be creating autobiographical/deeply personal art, I would have laughed at their face. This was never my plan. This never occurred to me. It was only by God’s perfect timing that He brought me to a place where I could expose my feelings to the world and not be ashamed of who I am. Here’s my thinking: If my life can affect change in someone’s life towards God then it will have all been worth it.

In other words, if my embarrassment/discomfort is the tradeoff for someone coming to know Christ, then of course it is worth it. When you are honest with people, they will be honest with you. And in an artist/audience relationship, what more can you ask for than that? That's exactly where you want the audience to be. If I can get the reader to not only be honest with me, but to be honest with themselves and with God, then I will have accomplished much in my art. Honest art is a prime location for a person to hear the gospel.

- **Cartooning**

I like using cartoons to tell my stories. The public has perceptions about cartoons that make my job easy: cartoons are easy-to-understand, interesting, have simple art, etc. But I don't tackle humorous subject matter hardly ever. I tackle the serious issues in cartoony comics, like sin, justice, righteousness, redemption. Cartoons give me a chance to disarm the audience; to prepare them for the message I want them to hear. I don't think I could accomplish that in any other style.

- Showing sin (in your stories) in all its glory is not a sign of maturity; it's a sign of immaturity.

2007

- **Innocent Hero**

Every story starts out with an innocent hero who eventually takes the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil (i.e. exchanges innocence for experience). But to win, he has to use the knowledge he has learned with his long-forgotten innocence.

- **Input and Output**

To be a Christian artist is to input and output. An artist should be inputting the Bible, good teaching, your conscience, preachers, friends, nature, etc. And they should be outputting: witnessing, creating art, relationships with people, etc. The problems occur in a Christian artist's life when they are only doing one and not the other. If all they are doing is inputting and not outputting,

they should consider yourself like Hoover Dam about to break. If all they're doing is outputting, they should consider themselves a dried-up tree with no more fruit to give.

- There are songs to Jesus and then there are songs about Jesus, but everything needs to be done “unto the Lord”. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- The way of a hero is always: 1) Be Humbled first. 2) Be Exalted later. That applies to Jesus and every Christian.
- There are basically two different kinds of stories: 1) Something invades the hero’s world (war, disease, a new person, etc.) or, 2) The hero invades another world (new job, new goals, etc.)

- His Goodness Is Shown in His Art

I don’t want people to like me just because of my talent; I want them to like me for who I am. And that is no different for God, either. He doesn’t want people to love Him for what He’s done for them. He wants people to love Him for who He is. His goodness and righteousness are shown in the things He does, just like any artist.

- What’s the difference between humbling yourself and self-sacrifice? Self-sacrifice is the end result of humbling yourself.

- Churches Were Centers of Art

Between the 4th and 12th centuries, there were hardly any museums per se in Europe. So, where did people go to see beautiful art? Where did they go to get culture? Why, they went to church of course! The churches, in those days, were pretty much the only places to get culture and to see magnificent sculptures and paintings. Of all the things the Roman Catholic Church did wrong, in one thing they did right: they were the leading patron of the arts. Even non-Christians went to church. Why? To see art and architecture that they couldn’t see anywhere else; art that showed beauty, goodness, truth and Jesus. Rather than the Church following whatever the culture was doing, the Church was leading

the culture! That's what today's Christian artists need to do: start creating art that the world won't get anywhere else. And likewise, the Church needs to become a patron of the arts again; not for the love of money, but for the love of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Stories aren't escapism; they're education for the writer and the audience. When writing stories you are learning about your own fallenness and your own potential Christlikeness (i.e. heroism).

- The Ultimate Patron

As an artist, the only donor/patron I have is God. He is the One supporting your art projects ultimately, not your clients or your employer. And, if He isn't supporting your art projects, you should probably stop working on those and start working on His projects.

- Love is His Art

God is the ultimate artist and He is the ultimate Lover because He is Love. He cannot stop loving or expressing His love any more than a singer can stop singing, a painter can stop painting or a writer can stop writing.

- The Gospel in A Conversation

The Father and the Son: "You wanted to see me, Father?" "Yes, my Son, please sit down. I wanted to talk to you about something very important." "I'm listening." "I have a mission for you... and you're the only One that can do it for me." "What is the mission, Father?" "I need you to sacrifice Yourself for my subjects. You will be beaten, mocked and killed for their sake. You are guaranteed success in your mission, but you are also guaranteed excruciating pain and sorrow. You will also need to be separated from me for a season." The Son looked at His Father with tears in His eyes, "If this is your will for me, Father, then I will do it."

- You cannot separate your creativity from the God who gave it to you. If you do, you will be a man cut in half, knowing that you should be using your talent for God and yet not doing so.

- There is no shame in excellence. It is a gift from God. So be excellent in the art medium that God has given you.
- What Kind of Christian Comics Should Be Created?

1. Christian Missionary Stories

If you've ever talked with or listened to missionaries, you know that they always have awesome stories of being in the mission field—stories of miracles, grace and redemption. Many of these stories are published. Besides the many famous missionaries throughout history, there are tons of missionaries living today that have incredible stories to share with the world. I would love to see these stories adapted, so that it may be edifying to the Church.

2. Adaptations of Hymns

There are so many hymns that are just asking to be illustrated. There is just something about those old hymns, with their rich lyrics that I find inspiring. (I don't feel the same kind of inspiration of today's worship songs, sorry!) One hymn that I'd personally like to illustrate someday would be Fanny Crosby's "Near the Cross". (On a related note, I'd like to see comic biographies of hymn writers like Fanny Crosby, John Wesley, etc.)

3. Adaptations of Events in Church History

I own a book, "100 Most Important Events in Church History." Most of these events I could easily see being adapted into comics form. So many Christians don't know the history of the struggles of the Church. These stories would be educational and edifying to all Christians.

4. Apologetics/Theology

I'd like to see more Apologetic tracts like Kevin Yong's "Marking the Trail" and "Where Did the Bible Come From?" and Fred Sander's "Dr. Doctrine" series. I really liked the Dr. Doctrine Comix. They blended theology into a fun and entertaining way. Who says theology can't be fun? I don't know about you, but I like learning, and what better way to learn about Christianity/Theology/Apologetics than through the comics medium. The

audience for these books could be Christians or non-Christians.

5. Your Testimony

Everyone should write (or make a comic) of their testimony of how they came to Christ. I don't care who you are or what your story is, because we all could share our story with the world. I've been trying to encourage Christians, for years, to get their testimony/life story down in writing.

- A good artist is always reinventing himself. (i.e. bending the rules of a genre). Create something new, that no one has ever seen before, for the glory of God.

• Violence in Stories

Fighting, war and violence are themes that are always going to be a necessity whenever artists are telling stories of Truth.

Whenever stories depict Truth, violent scenes sometimes have to be portrayed. We just need to be careful in how we, as artists, portray those scenes as not to glorify the violence. When an artist has to portray physical violence in a story, I personally would recommend starting out from the bottom and work your way up as needed (see my essay, "Showing Reality and Sin in Comics"). The "bottom" for "fighting" would probably be close to "wrestling" (i.e. Jacob and the Angel of YHWH), then the next step would be like a brawl or a rumble. The next step up from there would involve weapons like knives, guns or swords. Whatever the story dictates, that's what you have to depict, but I think in each of these there is a right and wrong way to draw it. A sword fight doesn't have to have dismembered limbs and a bar brawl doesn't have to have missing teeth and puddles of blood. But, again, the type of fight should be within the context of the story. If missing a limb or a tooth is part of the story, then it needs to be shown. At that point, you can still be conservative in your visual representation of the violence: silhouettes, other people's reactions, having the violence happen "off scene", told at a later date, etc. In other words, there are ways that you can "show" scenes without actually "showing" them. Even in the most graphic war violence or torture in a story, a Christian artist still doesn't have an excuse to glorify the violence

of it. The important thing in all the stories we tell is to ask God how we should depict difficult scenes. If He has called you to make a particular comic or art piece, then only He can show you the proper way to draw it. We shouldn't rely on our own wisdom and creativity. He's the One with the ideas. He's the one with the plan. Remember, if He brought you to it, He'll bring you through it. The important thing is to follow God's Word—in all we create—and not place our “great ideas” above it. “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

- In God's Will

Only God can tell you, as an artist/writer, what kind of stories you want to tell. Do you want to tell Christian stories or regular stories? What do you feel will fulfill your mission in life? What do you feel will fulfill the Great Commission? Ask yourself, “Are the stories I am telling the stories that God wants me to be telling?” I can only answer that for myself and no one else. Only the artist/writer knows if he or she is in God's will or not.

- God has provided some guidelines within His Word that we should follow when telling stories visually or with prose. Just read the Bible; He'll reveal how He wrote that Book. That's how we should write.

- Jesus' Stories

It's interesting to see how and for what purpose Jesus told his stories (parables). For example, Mark 4:2 says, “And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine. . .” Matthew commented on Jesus' parables and said, “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.” (Mt 13:35). Jesus' parables also seemed to reveal knowledge to His disciples and also conceal knowledge from those who would destroy him. When asked by his disciples why he taught the multitudes in parables, He responded, “Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they

understand.” (Mt 13:13). Mark 4:33-34 says, “And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.” So, Jesus would explain his parables, but only to his disciples, away from the crowds. As far as the crowds were concerned, Jesus trusted that the Holy Spirit would reveal the parables to whom He willed. Jesus was constantly explaining the parables to his own disciples because they would ask him questions after they were spoken to the crowds. There were always deeper meanings to Jesus’ parables.

• Christian Stories

For a story to be considered a “Christian” story would mean that it has Christ and His teachings very apparent in that story. Christian authors can gauge by what level His teachings are shown, but they are always shown, at least His principles, in one way or another. Christian stories should have a clear division of what is “right” and “wrong” based on Scripture. Our stories should show justice being fulfilled; not denied. The world’s stories don’t show these things. They depict justice as “wrong” and injustice as “right”. Their stories are filled with “situational morality”, meaning there are no absolutes; that the situation dictates their actions. Our stories have to stand in contrast to the world’s stories by offering the hope of God’s Law and the fulfillment of that Law (Christ) to them. In short, our stories should follow Micah 6:8, which says: “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

• Christian-esque Stories

I like C.S. Lewis and Tolkien’s work. But I like their work as a Christian. Sometimes I think that only the Christians are picking up on Lewis’ and Tolkien’s Christian worldview/themes. I, personally, would not label either of their works as “Christian” per se, but as “stories done by Christians”. When writers (like Lewis or Tolkien) want to label their work as Christian when, in fact, they are not, I think it creates a false definition of what a “Christian

story” is. It’s almost as if Christian writers want to justify their work as “Christian” to give them standing with the Church. But if they are doing God’s will, then they don’t need the Church’s acclamations; they’re simply doing God’s will. That should be acclamation enough. But apparently it isn’t and audiences and authors try to twist definitions around of what it means to be a Christian story. But, let me clarify: I’m not saying that artists shouldn’t create regular stories for the sake of creating stories, I’m just saying that regular stories can’t be called “Christian” if Christ and/or his teachings are not apparent.

- Subtleness

I’ve read both Bob Briner and Franky Schaeffer’s books on pop culture, but neither of their works resonated with me. Their books talked about being “salt and light”, but the salt and light they are talking about is a little pinch of it. Is that what Christ meant? When Jesus told us to be salt and light, I don’t think he was talking about small quantities. How much salt does it take to preserve a dead piece of meat? A little bit? Likewise, a city on a hill cannot be hidden, but the city on the hill that they are talking about is an invisible city! How much light does it take to brighten a really dark cave? A little light? The world’s deadness and the world’s darkness is billions of times more vast than a piece of meat or a dark cave. I don’t think Jesus was talking about tablespoons when he told us to be salt and light unto the world. I think the stories we tell have to shout Christ’s love to the audience or they will never get it.

- In God’s story, He, as the Hero, defeats the enemy and gets the girl (the Church)! That is two missions accomplished!

2008

- He Is the Hero

God could have chosen any archangel to redeem us from our sins if He wanted to. But He didn’t. Instead, He chose to become our Hero. He would do it right and He would do it best! He is the Hero of His own story and he brings us in as heroes as well.

- When Jesus rules this earth, all art that is created by people will be Christian art.

2009

- Prayer for My Story

I bow my will to Your will, Father. I bow my wisdom to Your wisdom, Father. I bow my ideals to Your ideals, Father. I bow my ideas of beauty to Your ideas of beauty, Father. I bow my story to Your story, Father.

- His Holiness Supersedes

Something tainted can never make the untainted tainted. Unholiness can never make the holy unholy. The devil's scenes can never overwrite God's full story. Whatever sins or taintedness, or imperfections we think we have, it doesn't matter because Jesus conquers all things. On the cross, He took all the evil we committed, and He became sin for us. Our lives were bought by His sacrifice. I am no longer my own. I want to obey my Lord. Sometimes my story doesn't sound like the best, but because God wrote it, it is the best story for me. God showed grace to me when I was dirty. All I know is if I hold onto Jesus, I will have the brightest future. And, if I take control, my life will only be pain and loss.

- You should never feel sad or a waste of time when you have done God's work. It's all God's time anyway. He brought you through things to teach you lessons.

- Water Droplets

Trillions of tiny water droplets act as tiny prisms that reflect the light from the sun and create a rainbow. And just like each of those tiny water droplets, we too, reflect the light that Jesus gives us and create beautiful works for Him and the world to see.

- God Cares About Beauty

If the long, detailed chapters of the building of the tabernacle,

tools and the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus should show us anything, it should show that God has a very good sense of beauty. He cares about the littlest details and wants things done right. That should inspire us artists do better work that reflect a beauty-loving God.

2010

- Starting an art project without praying for God's blessing is like starting a car with no ignition.
- God multiplies your time as He sees fit. Give Him His time first and you'll see.
- Accomplishing art projects should be a product of spending time with God; not vice-versa.
- All the art that Jesus didn't do on earth (when he was here), I want to do for Him. That keeps me from doing my own art, and only doing what Jesus would draw.
- Ordained Hero

There are two parts to being a hero: one part is ordained by God and one part is ordained by your free will. First, you have to be in a position (time or space) to right a wrong (i.e. "the right place and the right time"). You have to have the power to do it, too. Second, you do it. You can have the first part and never get to the second. Jesus was/is God and He chose to redeem us. God's sovereignty and His free will made Him Our Hero. And, I want to be a hero, too, like Him.

- My hands are only as productive as when I'm following the Spirit's leading.

2011

- Each day is like drawing petals of a flower: I curve around the center and come back to God all day long.

- Draw for Him

My desire to create art is my ministry for the Lord. It has no other purpose for me than to lead people to Christ. Art is a means to an end— a means that is one of the supreme joys of life! The reason I draw is because of Him.

- Breaking Personal Legalism

I had written some artistic rules when I was still a baby Christian about 8 years ago. So, why am I drawing Jesus and angels now? Well, I'm not the same Christian I was 8 years ago. I have grown. Ideas change. My relationship with God changes. God is the one that has grown me up to be able to have the freedom to draw supernatural things now. When doing art, I have to be in much prayer about the final result. I won't ignore my conscience. In all my art I have to have integrity to: 1. God and 2. to myself. Anything other than that is not Christian and not pure art.

2012

- I have no faith in the most technically excellent art to be more powerful than God-ordained art to lead someone to Christ.

2013

- God Isn't Art

To observe God from afar and not wanting to know Him is treating God like a piece of artwork. God isn't a piece of art to be admired from afar. He commands our absolute worship. God wants to be known, not looked at or have a hat tipped at His attributes.

2014

- Hypocritical Christian Artist

The book of 1 John is all about attacking hypocrisy in the Christian's life. John basically says beliefs and actions have to match up. If they don't match up, then that Christian really doesn't believe God and is not a follower of Him. Well, here's

the thing: my life is full of hypocrisy. A lot of the essays on this website have been written because of things that I've learned; not because of practice. Likewise, creating art can't be done in a vacuum. Art has to flow from your beliefs as well or it's just hypocritical art.

- Making a Difference in Hollywood?

What kind of pastor would teach one of his youth in his congregation that it is OK to blaspheme the Lord? Not a very good pastor, right? Well, unfortunately, this story isn't made up. This happened many years ago at a popular church I attended. There was a young boy in the youth group that was pursuing acting as a career. He had gotten into acting through an agent and had done a few small parts in some medium to big movies. Over the years, he had gotten more and more jobs acting. Well, while he was considering a script for his next movie—the biggest movie of his career—the script called his character to take the Lord's name in vain in several scenes. He really didn't want to do it, though this would be his biggest part to date; this movie would be his big break into Hollywood. But through the influence of his friends, parents and, yes, the pastor, they convinced him to take the part. How did they convince him you ask? They convinced him by saying: "It's really not you that's saying the blasphemy; it's your character." "You're just playing a character and it's not real." "God knows that you're really not blaspheming him." So, he took the job and the movie was made and everyone was happy. Right? Well, I don't know for sure, but I have a feeling that boy has guilt over what he did to this day. Unfortunately, in acting, you have to put your whole heart and soul into your character—which includes all blasphemous dialogue to God. His taking the Lord's name is forever etched on film and is on millions of DVDs around the world. Those words can never be taken back. What saddens me about this whole situation is the reaction of the congregation when the pastor was telling us (the congregation) this story one Sunday. They applauded. Everyone approved of the boy taking the part so that he could "get his foot in the door to make a difference" in Hollywood. They thought he was such an honorable young man. Unfortunately, there won't be any difference being made

in Hollywood if a young actor is already compromising just to “get his foot in the door”. Compromise never leads to growing God’s Kingdom. It’s sad that this boy’s friends convinced him—by calming his conscience—that it was alright to take God’s name in vain. It was the wisdom of the world that convinced him to take the job. The wisdom of the world never is glorifying to God. The wisdom of the world leads you to hell. What’s even more disconcerting is the worldly wisdom that was given by the pastor! This is a man of God who is supposed to lead his people towards God—not take jobs that blaspheme God! And certainly not to sear a young boy’s conscience! It’s despicable what these people did to this poor boy.

- **Digital Art**

The best art you can have is the original, then printed, then web. The best teaching you can have is in a classroom setting, then printed, then web text/video. The best music you can have is original concert/studio setting, then audio CD, then web. Do you see a recurring theme here? When it comes to visual media (i.e. art, the original is the best). The next best is printed because you can actually feel the texture even if it’s a copy. Art on the web is the least relational of all types. It’s cold hard pixels. You can’t feel the texture. If you’re going to create art digitally (which is fine as a medium, make sure you print out your art rather than leaving them digital). It will make a huge difference in connecting with your audience. Art is all about connecting with your audience. Digital media tries but is inferior in most cases.

- **Relativist Art**

Abstract art is all about “finding your own meaning”. It’s very much the philosophy of the man on the street. Putting your own meaning into art is very appealing to the modern man; it means you don’t have to be constrained by the artist’s original intended meaning. But, abstract art as a genre, lends itself to that kind of “self-interpretation” anyway. It’s not like a war painting or a self-portrait (paintings that depict and state something very concrete). No, abstract art allows the viewer to put into the art whatever the viewer wants. The viewer can find meaning and value in

something that doesn't look like anything. A bit of imagination and—poof—a seemingly useless piece of art can suddenly give meaning to someone's life. This relative way of living corresponds to when abstract art came on the scene. At the turn of the 20th Century, philosophers such as Darwin, Marx, Russell and Freud had already made their mark on everyday life. They had, in fact, freed the man on the street from being tied down to any "concrete" way of living. "Right" and "wrong" were just ideas that the Church had come up with years ago to keep people enslaved (or, so they said). Thus, every man was free to choose how to live and it would be "right" to him Hitler and Stalin, notwithstanding. It was within this environment that abstract art came onto the scene. It followed in the shadow of the philosophy of relativism. And, abstract art, served to further propel the movement into society as a whole. Its message was "find your own meaning". And, society hasn't recovered from that mentality since. In a world of no absolutes, your own meaning can be put into anything. You can put value into something, or not put value into something. The baby in the womb, for example, is valuable to some and not valuable to others. Taking care of the elderly or mentally retarded is fine for some people. Euthanasia is fine for others. Relativism disregards the fact that all people have intrinsic value in and of itself; that there is absolute right and a wrong. Religion is another area in which people "can find value in it or not", thus eliminating any need for "absolute truth from God". People can find value in "God's Words" or not find value in "God's Words". Relativism, with its evangelist, abstract art, has brought about so much evil in the world—evil that can't even be judged as evil, because "there is no such thing".

- A well-written story is like a car: finely crafted, sleek, can move fast or slow and is a tool for getting somewhere.
- Perfectionism makes you lazy. Perfectionism always leads to procrastination.
- Readers' Imagination

Lest I be worried of the subject matter of the stories I write and draw, most Christians at church watch worse stuff on TV than

would be found in my books. But, as an author, it is the reader's imagination that I have to be concerned about. Reading (i.e. your imagination) can lead to much more powerful images than a movie. Though a movie is a constant stream of unimagined images, books can lead to sin just as much. As authors, we need to be very careful of the images we are putting in readers' heads, with the words we choose.

- Discontent from Movies

Movies tend to make people discontented with life, whether it is in their personal relationships or just in their boring day-to-day life. That is why it is fantasy. Movies are simply an escape. But movies can lead people to believe that all these wonderful things can happen, and then, when they don't, people get discontented with life because they reference the movies they've watched (as if movies were a documentary or an authority on how life should work). Life is as God made it, and entertainment is simply made up fantasy of something that "could" happen. But God makes things happen, not chance. Movies are just about "chance".

2015

- How to Win An Oscar

How does one win an Oscar? It's simple really. As a director or script writer, just feature a homosexual as a main hero and you will at least get nominated for an Oscar. Or, if you don't want to go that route, any sexual deviant character will do. Americans love to watch licentious acts on the screen. They are willing to pay money for it. Movies have been reduced to porn-fare: pay a little money for a little fleshly pleasure. Fleshly pleasure is short-lived though, because it's not long after watching a Oscar nominated movie (of sexual deviancy) that you will need to watch another one and another one. You'll never be satisfied by what Hollywood has to offer. They offer a life without God—useless, hopeless and devoid of joy. Hollywood can keep their Oscars. I don't care what they deem the "best of the best". If it is the best of the best then it is the most sinfully, sexually deviancy one has ever imagined on film.

- The Trance

Music is the driving force that is shaping this generation. Music is designed to put a whole generation into a trance. Music is meant to speak the philosophy that a generation already believes. But music is also a prophet in that it tells a generation what to believe. Music is very dangerous as the beat and repetition of words can easily seduce an audience into believing anything the singer is trying to feed them. Music, without God, simply becomes a god to teenagers. Idols are being raised up every day to worship. Young people don't put your faith in these singers. They are here today and gone tomorrow. They know nothing about real life; they only want to sell albums. Don't drink their Kool-Aid®, but read the Bible instead. And listen to music that aligns with the Bible's teachings.

- Showing Unredeemed Man

I don't really need movies created to show me the depravity of man. I know man is a reckless sinner. I don't need to be shown all his evil deeds. What I need is movies that show that man can be redeemed from his sin. These are the movies that give hope to humanity. Christian movies exist to show that men and women can change. Secular movies want to keep sinners as sinning.

- Hero's Journey in Song

It's interesting to me that in most songs, the design follows a four-scene structure, much like a story. 1. starts out slow 2. Picks up speed 3. Bridge (unexpected) 4. The journey home. (I'm sure there are technical names for these, but I have never studied music theory). In short, a well-crafted song follows the Hero's Journey.

- Preachers and Teachers of Today

Entertainers are essentially the preachers that people vote in. These musicians and actors wouldn't be preaching to you if they couldn't get speaking engagements. The only reason they have a job is because the people have "voted" them in (by buying their records, their movies, their concert tickets, etc.) Entertainers are just preaching to people what they are being paid to preach. Entertainers are just a reflection of society (just like politicians).

They preach what the people want to hear, because the people voted them in.

- Creativity Used the Wrong Way

If creative movies (or artistic) movies cause people to sin and become more sinful, then the movie is only devolutionary creativity. The movie is only a vehicle for creating sin, much like Islam is a vehicle for creating terrorists. Abortion doctors are very creative, too; they have several inventive ways of destroying a baby's life. However, that creativity serves sin and death. It's a creativity that is used against the Creator of creativity. Music is very deceptive in how it talks about sex and immorality. But it's creative only in the degrading sense. Today's music is degrading to people's consciences. Today's comedy movies are inventive in their crudeness of sexuality. But their inventiveness is very short-lived as the next movie has to one-up the previous one (i.e. Will Ferrell movies). Homosexuality likewise is creative—but only in destroying manhood and womanhood as God designed it. Creativity is a tool that can be used by Satan, as he also is very creative. Terrorists are always inventing new ways to blow things up and murder mass amounts of people. Lawyers are always creative in arguing for more pornography and more atheism into our schools and governments; very inventive and very deceptive tactics. Creativity that doesn't glorify God is simply a bucket of lies. Creativity that glorifies sin is the product of Satan's imagination. Do you want to serve Satan or God? That's the age-old question. How does Quentin Tarantino feel now that he's upped the level of violence in movies? Now what? He made his money and now can retire. But what no one really sees is the carnage that his movies have left behind. The same can be said for Frank Miller's Batman and Sin City comics. Violence and anti-heroes are standard fare now. What now? All the sin looks the same. All the stories look the same. Sin is inventive only in the beginning, but it soon wanes and then new levels have to be attained by others. Clint Eastwood's movies have brought a new level of suicide and death to people's minds. Is he happy about that? Is he content to have put these disgusting scenes into people's heads? See, movies and pop-culture aren't just a mirror

of the culture; it's a prophet. It's an influencer. Satan uses men's sick minds (i.e. directors, creators) to influence the mass public. They want to create a world filled with darkness and hopelessness. They glory in death and destruction. They love kicking God's Law to the curb and creating their own new law in its place. Don't be deceived by these evil creative people. They know nothing about the love and grace of God. Fill your mind with God's words and his imagination. To say "Oh, it's all done in good fun", really isn't going to work when you stand before God. The movies and music have influenced even how people talk. The F-word was never as prevalent before the movies (like Scarface and the Godfather movies) started flooding the marketplace with its filth. People mimic what they see on the screen. They want to be tough just like gangsters or mobsters. And guess what: violence in our streets is the result of that. To rob, murder, rape and pillage is to be considered heroic and exciting now. No wonder, the antiheroes in the movies have portrayed those things as noble. Think about today's movie heroes: zombies, witches, sorcerers, demons, pirates, dragons, vampires. These are the movies people like seeing. But each of those characters are like living deaths, stealing from the living. Any quick glance at the Word of God will show you that the heroes you should be admiring are the ones giving (not stealing), building (not tearing down) and praising God (not themselves). Any quick glance at the Word of God will show that theft, murder, lying, blasphemy, sorcery are forbidden in God's Kingdom. These are the values worshiped by today's society. They love Satan's law; not God's law. They love rebelling against anything holy, good and just. They want a world made in their own image. A world filled with injustices, disgust and ugliness. They love sinning and they love blaspheming the Almighty, taunting Him to judge them. Ah, but there will be a Day when they will be judged and all propaganda from Satan's kingdom will be destroyed as it should be.

- Do Web Designers Want to Be Found by Google or Found by God?

As any creative web designer knows, Google is who you want to be in favor with. Google determines everything you do with a website.

Why? So, you can be found by the biggest internet company/search engine in the world. Google sets the criteria of how a website will be found, so, a web designer wants to please Google in designing his website. For example, there are certain keywords, SEO tricks and special code that Google wants on each webpage. So, a web designer has to bend his creativity to whatever Google wants. What happens if a web designer goes against the grain and doesn't do what Google wants? Well, his website will never be found (which kind of defeats the purpose of designing a website). So, let's talk about God: God is the real person who you should be jumping through hoops to be found. If a web designer is willing to jump through hundreds of hoops to get noticed by Google, wouldn't it be a logical step to think that a person would jump through millions of hoops to get noticed by God? God is infinitely more important than Google. Google can only find so much; God knows everything. Google can never save your soul from hell; God can. Google can never give you any lasting joy, peace and comfort; God can. So, how do you get noticed by God? You are only seen by God if you are in Jesus. Jesus is the only One God sees, because God (the Father) only sees holiness. He only sees those like Him (sinless). So, if you aren't holy or if you aren't in Jesus (same thing) you will never be found. God, theoretically, could search for you and you would never come up as a search result. You could do all your good works and SEO work and keyword stuffing that you want; you could even "go against the grain" of His Law and try to have your own morality, but you will never be found by God. You wouldn't even be found by Google if you didn't follow their rules. Do you think that you are going to be found by God if you don't follow His rules? Here's the summary: God's search (for anything) only yields one result all the time. And that result is Jesus. Be in Him or you will never be found.

- Hollywood's Vendetta

Does Hollywood go out of its way to destroy America's morals? I mean, do those who work in Hollywood wake up every morning and say, "Hmm, what long-held morality shall I destroy today with my art?" I think there are some that do because there are always those who think the present age is boring and not attractive. They

are called progressives or liberals. They want more “exciting” stories to tell; more “innovative” movies to create. Their lust is after money because only the “truly original” movies will make them money. Traditional morals and old fashioned Judeo-Christian ideas can all be thrown under the bus if an Academy Award is in sight. Christians are seen as a hindrance to their “creative” process (thus making Christians a hindrance to making a lot of money). In response to the “utterly boring” subject matter of traditional America, other morality must be put in its place; man’s morality must be elevated: homosexuality, veganism, pet-adoption, the war on terror, the war on poverty, etc. These are the heroes of today’s movies. These are the original storylines being pumped out of Hollywood today. How sad that they are tearing apart the very country we all live in (by “freedom”) just so these movie studios can make a buck.

• Cartoons and Entertainment

You know we’re living in a lazy, immature, materialistic age when you have whole channels dedicated to cartoons. I mean, when I was growing up, cartoons were special. They were only on in the afternoon and Saturday mornings. Now, Americans gorge themselves on cartoons. There’s nothing special about cartoons anymore. It’s like having dessert for all three meals a day or having sex all day long. Eventually, it’s not special any more. Man’s sin nature will always gorge itself on the good and then get sick of that which was good and then turn to sicker, more deviant pleasures to satisfy the need. But it never works. More evil cartoons and entertainment will never satisfy. On the other hand, a little self-control goes a long way and allows you to focus on the giver of good things, rather than on the gifts.

• Christian Entertainment

The world wants to push Christians to stay inside their churches. They also say that religion should not be out in the entertainment industry or culture. Why? Because Christian entertainment convicts and tells the truth. Christians need to be living and publishing their religion in the entertainment industry. It’s been too much of “let’s keep it to ourselves” that has put America in

the position it's in. America doesn't know what is right or wrong if the Christians aren't saying it! Christians need to live Christ in front everyone—not just retreat to their pop-culture kingdom of safe movies and music. Christian entertainment is fine, but the evil pop-culture still needs to be fought in the public arena. Satan is more than happy to keep pushing Christians into their safe sub-culture pop-culture as he keeps enslaving his followers by his pop-culture. I don't let my kids watch TV; so I let them watch only Christian stuff. . . that's fine. But what about the other kids whose parents don't care? What parents are fighting the evil media (and not just retreating)? We should be fighting evil wherever it is and protecting innocent minds wherever they are. Creating a Christian subculture is not the answer to saving souls. You have to be fighting, too. Christians cannot just live defensively. They have to live offensively, too. Christians have been quiet for too long; they haven't spoken out and they have retreated. The stakes are too high not to fight the culture publicly, by creating good entertainment.

- **Actors' Blasphemies**

Most actors and actresses have no fear of God and thus take his name in vain because "they were told to" by the script writer. They do it for their paycheck. True. But they also do it for the rebellion in their hearts against the Almighty. I would hate to be in these actors' shoes on Judgment Day when they have to answer to the King of the Universe for blaspheming His name in their popular movies. I don't think actors like Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Denzel Washington or Tom Cruise realize that their popularity votes won't matter when they stand before Almighty God. God won't absolve these actors' blasphemy based on their status or "the good things they did" (i.e. Brad Pitt adopting orphans). No, they will stand in their filth and plead for mercy, but if they haven't fallen at the feet of Jesus (whom they blaspheme in every movie), then there won't be any mercy for them on Judgment Day.

2016

- **Boycott Hollywood**

Why shouldn't Christians boycott Hollywood? I mean, what does Hollywood truly offer us? Blasphemies against our Lord? Sexual deviancy, immorality, violence— all these go against what Christians believe. Why should Christians support an industry that doesn't support its customer base? (And, if you are part of its customer base you might want to reevaluate if you are a follower of Jesus). It's not like one or two directors or producers are anti-Christian— most of them are! The movies Hollywood makes testifies to who they love and hate! And, they hate Christ! Hollywood truly does hate Christ and his followers. Why give our money to them? Our money (and time) is much more valuable than any petty entertainment they can offer us! We don't need Hollywood! Go beyond boycotting the Oscars to a full-on boycott of Hollywood. Would you continue frequenting a restaurant that spat in your soup every order? Would you continue going to a mechanic's shop who keeps burning up your engine? No. Christians (or anyone) deserves better! Heck, Christians will moan and complain about their Starbucks order not being right—but they'll continue supporting Hollywood's filth? Hollywood has been kicking the Church in the teeth for over 80 years—enough is enough. Our message to Hollywood should be: start making movies that promote our values or we will never support you again! I'm not going to support a world-system that glorifies itself. I'm not going to give my hard-earned money to an industry that openly defies God's Laws, Character and people. I'm going to support those who are growing God's Kingdom (in music/movies/books). His Kingdom will last and Hollywood's kingdom will crumble.

- Purpose of Storytelling

Storytelling, as an art form, was never intended to just entertain. Storytelling, designed by God ,was designed to inspire, teach and create new audiences in God's ways. Entertainment for Entertainment's sake is a tool of Satan and simply a waste of time. There is a purpose to storytelling and it can either be used for God or for Satan.

- True Art Produces Action

True art moves past creating feelings in an audience to producing action in an audience; just like God's Spirit: He does create feelings in us, but those feelings can't just stay dormant; they must be released in the form of action. Being loved by God means that you are to show that love to others.

- **Oscars for Law Breakers**

If you have to sin to win an Academy Award, don't do it. Your life is worth more than the sin it takes to get some temporary recognition. God honors faithfulness to Him. Hollywood is full of blasphemers and adulterers. Hollywood hates God. The more you hate God and His Law on the screen makes you a bigger candidate for an Oscar.

- **The Media's Control**

The government has less control over people than the media does. The media rules everything. The media even rules politicians. The media tells politicians what to do, just like they tell the masses what to do. Politicians don't want to get out of favor with the media or else their career is completely obliterated. Granted politics does have rule over our lives, too, but only after the media has taken its share. The politicians just eat the crumbs of what is left over.

- **The Heaven Part of a Story**

The structure of every good story starts out with the hero in "heaven". Then the hero goes down to "purgatory" to fight the villain. Then, in the darkest moment (when all seems lost) goes down to hell. Finally, the conclusion brings the hero back up to a renewed heaven. This is the structure of every good story, not because mankind has some cumulative knowledge, but because it all comes from the same true story of Jesus Christ.

- **Art for Art's Sake**

I've never really liked the saying, "Art for art's sake". I used to hear it quite often in college. It sounds very pious, like you, as an artist, are simply doing art just for the sake of doing art. Or, like Rocky says, "A boxer boxes." It sounds like a harmless saying,

but upon closer examination, you have to ask, “Why is the artist doing art just to do art?” From a Christian artist’s perspective, I do art for God’s sake. Art is not an idol to me. But for the artist that does not have God in his life, all he has is an idol of art. He must worship this imaginary god called, Art, or he feels he will die. Art is done for the idol’s sake. Art for art’s sake is a blasphemous statement because it substitutes God for something He created (art and creativity). This kind of artist dethrones God and puts art in His place. This idol of Art, though, can never be satisfied. All the paintings and sculptures and drawings can never appease this idol. This idol doesn’t care about what measly sacrifices you offer it. Art is a demanding god. A cruel god; a god who wants your very soul. Art for art’s sake is just an enslavement to a false religion. Art isn’t worth it. Art stands in utter contrast to the God who is gracious and loving and merciful and is willing to help you to become holy. The idol of Art offers none of these things to its worshipers. It only leaves a broken and unfulfilled heart that is always striving for more. The idol of Art laughs at all those who try to worship it. Art for art’s sake will take your very life, all the while you thinking that it is giving you life. Don’t buy into this cult. Turn to Jesus, who made art as a vehicle of worship for Him. I am never more alive when I am creating art for Jesus’ sake; not for some imaginary idol’s sake.

• Hollywood Hates Women

Any woman who chooses to work in Hollywood must choose between being naked in front of the camera or making ends meet (or not working at all). There are hundreds of stories of female actresses who chose not to pose naked and they are blacklisted by the industry. Hollywood doesn’t want women who respect themselves and their bodies. They want women who despise themselves enough to take their clothes off. Those women who despise themselves love money more than self-respect. Is it any wonder why Hollywood is the pornographic machine that it is? It is built upon a heap of used women and girls. Hollywood is the antagonist of all women. Hollywood hates women and only wants their beauty and their bodies. They want to use women up like prostitutes. They see no value in women other than to make

mountains of cash. Hollywood disrespects women because they don't fear God. God says to respect women, to protect them, to love them. Hollywood only wants to use them up, like a child-molester, and then leave them for dead. This is the opposite of women's liberality. Hollywood is the antithesis of Christianity which believes in respecting women. That is why Hollywood ridicules Christians. They say that Christians are suppressive. No. Christians are protective of their women. It is Hollywood that chooses to abuse women. ("Me too" anyone?)

- Defining A Generation

"The music that defined a generation". We've all heard this statement in regard to a generation's music. First of all, if a generation is looking to be defined by something, why would they define it by music? How shallow it is for a generation to pick an anthem to be defined by. Music is temporary and won't last. The only thing a generation should seek to be defined by should be the Lord. What does the Lord want from this generation? What is His will for our generation? What is His mission for us? Musicians don't know what God's mission is; only their own mission, in one moment. How could a musician know how to give purpose to a generation? Only an eternal, omniscient loving God can define a generation.

- Disney is Religious Entertainment

Some people don't like to watch Christian movies (you know, the movies that are "evangelistic and try to push their religion onto me"). Those types of people would rather watch movies made by Disney. Unfortunately, Disney is one of the biggest religious conglomerates in the world. They are pushy with their religion of "me". They evangelize their audience with the world of magic. God, by the way, is never the source of that magic. (I'll let you guess who the real Source is).

- Comedy's Cycle of Immorality

It is sometimes amusing to see 80's TV shows and see how "tame" they were compared to today's standards. It's funny because even back then they were trying to push the envelope. The envelope

back then was tame by today's TV shows. But it was those TV shows that pioneered more nasty and gross subject matter for today's shows. They were ingenious and they paved the way for today's filthy TV shows. What is horrific to think about, though, is that 20 years from now, people will be saying the same thing about 2016 TV shows. "Man those shows were so tame back then." I can't even imagine the fornicating filth that will be broadcast on the airwaves in 2036. By then it will be pornography on every channel, every cuss word imaginable. Rated R movies won't have to be edited for TV. Nope. America will be so numb to it all. That is, if America is still around in 2036.

2017

- **Form and Function**

Form and function are simply other ways of saying male and female. Have you ever read a well-written essay versus a poorly written essay? Both essays say the exact same facts, but one says it more beautifully. That beautiful part is what women are to men (or should be). That beautiful part is how God designed women to be for men. Men are functional. Women bring the fun. A car could simply be four tires and a steering wheel. Design is what makes cars functional and beautiful. That is what men bring to women: functionality and practicality. Both men and women are needed in this world and in marriages, just like form and function.

- **Hollywood's Offense to Little Ones**

Mark 9:42 says, "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea." Hollywood offends little ones almost as if that is their identity. Their TV shows that are aimed at children to teach them blasphemy, lust, immorality, theft, adultery, homosexuality and more. Most of Hollywood is equivalent to pornography. Its movies cause children to sin because "they saw it on a show". Hollywood's scripts are the antithesis of loving your neighbor as yourself. God will not hold Hollywood guiltless for offending "little ones". Their art has produced murderers, pimps, drug addicts, whores, thieves,

blasphemers, idol worshipers, etc. Hollywood deserves to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around its neck.

- **Evil Sells**

Evil sells. That's why there are so many monster/alien/vampire/zombie art direction in Hollywood. Why not create beautiful things? Because people like evil more than good. Lord of the Rings is a good example of beautiful and ugly (good vs. bad). It is rare. Most of the movies are unashamedly glorifying of evil.

- **Drawing**

The discipline of drawing is really lost in this culture. Movies, comics and TV are all consumed, but never created by the mass populace. Drawing is an important skill to have as it develops a child's imagination. It develops a child's ability to train their eye and hand coordination; to control their imagination. Drawing allows children to bring their own ideas to life. It is a beautiful thing to watch a child create and thus echo the Creator. Most children don't echo the Creator in creating, and thus echo Satan instead (by either laziness or evil creativity). Teach children to draw, artists, and to draw for God's glory.

- **True Creativity**

True Creativity would mimic the One True Creator. True Creativity would not promote licentiousness or immorality but would promote the Creator's Law and goodness. Artistic types think that they have to be creative in their own personal lives (what they wear, their sexual preferences, what they eat, etc). However, artists don't have to follow their own base whims. They are free to follow God's Law which is life-giving. If they follow the One True Artist, they will never lack in creativity. If they follow their own sinful desires, they will worship their own genericness, blandness and unoriginality. Satan is a copycat; a bandwagon fan. He seeks to offer thrills that only God's gifts can offer. He counts on artists to be "creative" in throwing off morals and Christianity, but he does that only to enslave. Follow God, the true source of all creativity, and you will never lack in being original.

- Cartoons Have No Soul

Do you remember when cartoons used to be hand drawn (and not Flash-based or 3D). It seems like cartoons have lost their soul over the years as they have tried to keep up with movies and video games. Likewise, video games, as they became more “realistic” lost their charm. I liked the old 8-bit cartoony games. They were fun. They were an escape from the real world. Ironically, now, video games mimic the real world (the world you are trying to escape for a little bit). Why should cartoons be created on the computer? Why should video games be more realistic? Several reasons like mass production, cheaper, etc., but I think the real reason is the lack of imagination. Cartoons and video games have such a rich history that is linked to art. All that has been stripped away by the computer. The more mechanical the arts become the less human it becomes. The original 8-bit Mario brothers, though done on a computer, still had a lot more soul than the later 3D rendered Mario brothers. Likewise, I can’t stand the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse cartoons with complete 3D rendering. It feels like I’m watching a robot interact with my children. Mickey isn’t a relatable character. Back in his hand-drawn days he was someone that was “real”. Hand drawn cartoons are closer to humans and I think that is one reason why I think they have more “soul”. Computer-rendered cartoons introduce an intermediary between the creator and the audience - a soulless machine.

- Angry Eyebrows

I see quite a bit of logos featuring characters with angry eyebrows. Whether it’s sports teams or motorcycle gang logos, angry eyebrows seem to really spread the cliché message of power. Why is that? Why is the representation of anger equivalent to power? Think of a logo of a dog for example. If a logo has a dog in it, it wouldn’t be powerful, right? But if the logo has a dog with angry eyebrows in it, then it gets more powerful/aggressive. Now, say that generic dog is changed to a bulldog. Now, the logo is even more powerful. If we add snarling teeth and a spike collar we have a complete angry bulldog logo that represents power. Without the spike collar and sharp teeth, anger, by itself, really doesn’t do anything. No, anger has to be able to be shown to have some

power behind it. Anger has to be able to hurt you personally before you really listen to it. An angry Chihuahua isn't much of a threat, but this bulldog is. Even when representing people, some people's anger don't have any power behind it. What can their anger do? They don't intend to do anything about it. Some people, on the other hand, when they are angry, fly off the handle and will do the most horrific things. Angry eyebrows are just the first step to representing anger with power behind it. I wonder how many people think of God that way: God is powerful and He's angry. Then they translate that into every other aspect of their lives.

• My Goal As An Artist

My goal in life as an artist is to find truth and beauty in the world and then transfer that truth and beauty to the art I create. I would also add righteousness, holiness and justice are major themes of how I live my life.

• Every Artist is A Hypocrite

Every artist is a hypocrite because every artist is a sinner. Artists create beautiful visual art that promotes love and peace (when they themselves don't promote love and peace). Musicians create beautiful love songs and sing lyrics (that they really don't believe or act upon). The hypocrisy runs deep among creative types. We all want to give people hope but we don't live out the hope. We don't act out the hope and, sometimes ,we really don't have hope. Sometimes our art can become a "wishful thinking" endeavor. Our art can become, "Let me inspire someone else, even if it's hard for me to believe this". Many times, artists struggle with depression and suicidal thoughts. That's because artists are trying to create something beautiful in a fallen world. No art will ever be perfect. No philosophy will ever be perfect. Nothing will ever truly express what our hearts long for. Our hearts are evil, but they were also made in the image of God. Deep down we, artists, know that we want beauty, truth, justice, love and hope. We seek to create art that points to those things, but without Christ, those ideals are just imaginary. Christ is the only way those truths come to life. He is our hope for change; not some art or music (or even a sermon). Our hope isn't in our ability to create a piece of art that

can “change someone”; our hope is God. And sometimes, He will honor our puny scribbles to bring many hearts to Him, despite our hypocrisy.

- Creativity in Humor

Man’s creativity in humor has been reduced to double entendre, deconstruction of morals and blasphemy of God. It’s difficult to even find a unique comedy that doesn’t do one of those things. (The two Mall Cop movies being an exception). Humor can be found in life but it doesn’t have to be destructive humor. Humor should uplift your soul; not corrupt it. You shouldn’t feel dirty after watching a comedy.

- Female Characters

Comic book artists mostly just create artwork of females to sell their books. They use the female body simply for sexual pleasure and to sell books. Many of these female characters are unimportant to the actual story. Females, unfortunately, only serve one purpose in stories: sex. That is completely contrary to how God designed women to be. Women were never to be reduced down to sex objects, sold and traded on the marketplace like a commodity. Evil men (including comic book artists) have downgraded women to such a state in their stories. A naked woman serves no other purpose in a story than to entice the reader to buy the book. And many of these naked poses are copied straight off of porno magazines. Many artists use porno as their “art reference”. The pornography industry (through “art reference”) therefore infiltrates comic book storytelling and reduces it to only one purpose: sex. Storytelling has actually taken a backseat to sex. Who cares about the story anymore, just as long as there is naked women (beautifully drawn, of course). When did women’s value become backdrops of this sexualized culture? When did women become devalued to only one purpose in serving men in sex? It’s a pathetic state of affairs when comic book artists, movie directors and musicians have all contributed to the deconstruction of woman’s innate value. Christians on the other hand should reclaim femaleness and beauty. The Bible describes what a beautiful woman is (Proverbs 31). Godliness and humility

and chastity are beautiful in God's eyes. And, actually, sex is beautiful too, but only within the confines of marriage.

• Nakedness and Art

Many artists draw the naked human body. Here is my take on it: the naked human body should be for one's spouse only. Any other viewing of a naked body is against God's design for humanity, marriage and morality. Single men may have no problem drawing from a live nude model, but God has a problem with that. A woman (with no clothes on) shouldn't be standing up for men to draw her. And, men shouldn't be drawing a woman who isn't their wife. I think that there is beauty that should be preserved only within the context of marriage. Not all beauty should be preserved on paper. If a husband wants to draw his wife naked, I think that would be OK. However, that drawing should then be put in a safe or something, for their eyes only. The problem is, once these drawings are done, they get out. It's like the adage for the internet: once on the internet, always on the internet. Likewise: once on paper always on paper. A husband drawing his wife naked would be proper because they are husband and wife. They know each other intimately already. Basically, nakedness is tied to intimacy. It can't be divorced from it; therefore, nakedness should only be within the context of marriage (for only two people to enjoy). I also think this type of nude drawing should be agreed upon on a per couple basis. If a married man and woman want to draw each other naked, fine. If not, that's fine too. This is one of those categories where there is room for Christian liberty. I would also say that a husband should not think of his wife only in terms of a body but a whole person. In other words, if lust is the incentive for drawing your wife, it should not be done. If drawing her is to express the beauty God has made in your wife, then draw her in all her glory. Here are some questions to consider: Will drawing your wife naked make you appreciate more what God has made? Is it for your eyes only? What is your motive—glory for yourself or for God? Is the drawing to please yourself or God? Can you reduce your wife down to a drawing? Is this how God wants you to use the talent He has given you?

- The Value of Christian Movies

Some Christians ridicule the Christian movie industry. Some of the cheesiness of many of those movies are justified, but others are not. My wife and I enjoy Christian movies. Why? Because the values in Christian movies are different than the values of secular movies (sex, money, power, fame). I am willing to take lower production values if the values are in the right place. Fancy computer graphics and famous actors can't save an immoral storyline. The heart of a story is what makes it valuable. Christian movies, if anything, are putting the emphasis back on story—not on the special effects. Hollywood is losing ground with their lack of creativity. They have nothing left in the idea department other than sexual debauchery, violence and porn. Hollywood is known for its spectacle, it's outward appearance. How many handsome actors and beautiful actresses get married and divorce a year later? They have it all—or so it seems. What they are lacking is heart. It is no different than movies. The heart has to be there even if the spectacle isn't. How many times have you gone to see a blockbuster summer movie to walk out disappointed? Popularity and box office tickets don't equal quality. How many times have you watched a TV show, after being enticed by a teaser commercial, only to be disappointed? It happens all the time. Hollywood is the leader in false advertising. They market poor movies as good/exciting movies. To Hollywood it's "all a show". Get through the show and you kept your end of the bargain. But first, you have to trick people into the show (like a carnival barker). That's why the commercials and trailers are always false advertising. In fact, I wonder if the commercials are designed before the movie—then the movie is written around the cool scenes. It's all a show. But Christian movies aren't like that. They don't promote by spectacle, but it is the values on the inside that count. That is why I watch Christian movies.

- It's Just Image

How often have you heard, "It's all about image"? Unfortunately, it's just image (with no underlying substance). The company, Image, specialized in well, image. Their stories were very basic, but the computer colors were amazing. They got the fans to

read their books, but were they good books? Any story can have spectacle and everything together on the outside. But it is only when the reader gets past the cover that they discover the mediocrity of it all.

- **What Does A Character Worship?**

From a storytelling perspective trying to get to the heart of a fictional character can sometimes be hard. Try it from another angle. Ask, “What does this character worship?” That will put all things into focus. Questions like, “What are this character’s dreams, ambitions, desires and mission in life?” kind of hit the mark, but not all the way. The worship question really gets to who the fictional character is, what he finds most desirable and beautiful and worth living and dying for. For added drama, bringing a character with an opposite worship-target can add a lot of drama.

- **Other Worlds Besides Comic Books**

When you are in an industry for so long, say comic books, if you remain in that industry, you never are really exposed to anything else. I’m not talking about just exposing yourself to other industries, while still working in comic books. I’m talking about leaving comic books, taking a sabbatical, by working in other industries, then after some time, coming back. One’s natural instinct to such a preposterous statement would be, “Why would I do that? I love comic books. Why would I leave the industry I love?” And that is a valid response. The reason has to do with exposing yourself to other industries and opening your eyes to the world around you. There are so many other art forms out there, that if learned and studied, could benefit the comic book artist/writer/publisher. Sometimes artists incubate themselves so much that they never get any outside feedback. It’s like in political circles: if you only stick with your friends in one circle all you have a constant cycle of affirmation and no outside criticism. Outside criticism and reflection is essential to becoming a well-rounded artist. If an artist sticks within one industry, he is never exposed to other forms of storytelling, processes, design and communication skills. Exposure is a good way to learn. And, by all means, come

back to the art forms you really enjoy. I, for example, work as a graphic designer, but I still love comic books. Comic books didn't make me a living; but graphic design did. But my decades of graphic design experience has not hindered my love for the comic book medium. In fact, if God allows, I would love to come back to comics and create new stories based on what I've learned in the design world. In other words, outside industries are not wasted time; they can truly benefit you as an artist and your future storytelling. No fan should be upset if their favorite artist leaves the comic book industry to go into another art-related industry; they should be happy, for if they come back, they will be a better artist (though they've been away from it for a while). And, let's face it, if they don't come back, then they have moved on. And that's OK. If their heart isn't in the comic book medium anymore you wouldn't want their art anyway . A forced artist makes lousy art. Art comes from within.

- Musicians, Quit Selling the Gospel

If you are preaching the gospel only to sell me your music CD, you can stop talking. Why is it that Christian musicians feel the need to sell us their gospel-centered music? Should I have to pay for the gospel? Look, I get it: I, also, as an artist, would love to sell my artwork, but I can't. And I don't want to. God's Word, in my art, should be given out for free. I may not make money at it, but it is getting God's Word out (and He still takes care of me). He sees my faithfulness; I don't have to chase after the dollar. If a Christian band/musician needs high-quality studio time and instruments, I also get that as well. So, save up for that in your part-time job and then buy them. Don't make your fans buy your stuff. Paul made tents and preached the gospel. There are too many artists these days that just want to preach the gospel (and then charge for it). I get it that all artists think they are original and talented, but who gave you your talent? Did God charge you when He gave you your talent? No. You should give (at least some) of your music away for free. Here's the other point: Christian fans don't have a lot of money. How can they afford \$10 albums? They can't. In fact, that money would be better spent elsewhere (unless it could be shown that these Christian artists don't love money—by giving away some

of their music).

- Birthing and Sustaining Ideas

God births you and then sustains you. God births your ideas and then sustains them (gives you time, talent and treasure to make them a reality). God births your marriage and then sustains your marriage. God births your parenting and then He sustains your parenting. God births your children and then He sustains your children. Why is it that once something is birthed, we think that we can take the reins away from the Almighty? Why is it that we think, “Thanks, God, for giving me the main ingredients. I couldn’t have done it without this starter kit. I will take it from here.”? If God gave you all these good things, don’t you think He can sustain them and make them realities? Don’t you think that each of these good things—gifts—He will keep in His care? Of course, He will. It is up to Him. But, of course, we need to ask for His will to be done and be content with that. Asking for God’s will to be done is submitting your will to His will. Your control to His control. Your Kingdom to His Kingdom. You will be better for it.

- Lazy Taggers

If there’s one thing I can’t stand, it’s tagging (i.e. illegally spray painting a wall). If there’s something worse than tagging, it’s lazy tagging. If you are going to tag a wall, at least put your heart in it. Or, how about this: finish what you start. For example, if you are tagging in full color—don’t be lazy and start crosshatching it at the end just because you are running out of paint. Also, plan ahead: bring extra paint. Now, I know that I am beating a dead horse here. Taggers aren’t known for being the most studious or the most industrious hard workers of society, but I feel like if you are going to tag, at least do it right. If you are going to go to jail over some stupid spray paint on some private property, can you at least go to jail in style? You are already risking your safety (on the freeway) and losing sleep for your art (by tagging at night). You are already sacrificing tremendously for your art. Have you no respect for yourself? (Probably not; that’s why you are tagging). Have you no respect for others? (Obviously not; that’s why you destroy other people’s property). Note: this is obviously a satirical

post. I am by no means advocating tagging in any way shape or form. I am advocating that taggers turn their God-given talent into a career and start worshiping the one that gave them their talent.

• Art and Science

The difference between art and science is that art has freedom in the process and in the result. Sciences, like math, have to operate within certain rules. But to get to the result there is creativity. It could be argued that even in art, certain rules need to be followed, like using a brush over a stick, using a flat surface rather than painting on rocks. Artists don't use sand as pigment and they don't use tree trunks as canvas. Obviously, all these rules could be broken but, at that point, you are just isolating your audience. Certain general rules need to be followed in communication, syntax and delivery. The same goes for math except more so. There is no "creative way" in saying $2-2 = 6$. It's wrong. There is no creative way in lying about the facts of physics. All science has to point to real facts or it's just fiction. There may be some leeway in how you get those facts, but the end result has to be the one and only fact. You could say, $1+1+1+1=4$. Or, you could say $2\times 2=4$. Or you could say $6-2=4$. Creativity, but real facts. Creativity is less forgiving in a science than in an art, nevertheless it can be done in the process, just not in the end result. I suppose that the glory of art is that it is (almost) rules-free and the glory of science is that it plays by the rules.

• Disney's The Little Mermaid

There is a lot of symbolism in this movie that echoes many archetypes in history. To start, this is a story of Forbidden Love. It is a story of a Prodigal Daughter, as she runs away from her father and gets herself into trouble. She is drawn away by love/lust, even sacrificing her own voice to follow her dream. This movie teaches girls to "follow their dream". Never mind that it actually might cost a person their soul. This story is the story of Eve. It is the story of anyone who has ever run away from God. But the problem is that Disney kind of glorifies the running away rather than the coming back to God (as King Triton symbolizes). Little children want to rebel against their parents, but there is a reason why

their parents put safeguards up, because they love their children. But it takes a bad influence (or their own evil heart) to convince themselves that the parents aren't protecting them out of love but that they are "keeping" them from something greater. This is the story of mankind's rebellion and redemption. The hero of the story is not Ariel. It is King Triton as he sacrifices himself to take her place. A bad mistake has several consequences. The consequences hurt the person who made the bad choice, but sometimes the consequences extend out to those closest to the hero, as they try to rescue the person. Innocent or not, sin always has consequences. Rebellion against authority (good or bad) always has consequences. In this case, King Triton, Ariel's father takes the wrath meant for Ariel. Not all rebellion has a happy ending. Ariel could have easily lost her father and her voice, had her father not taken the consequence. She could have lost Eric, too. Just because Eric defeats Ursula doesn't mean that it had to happen that way. It's a fantasy story, but this story is played out every day in people's lives. One bad decision leads to another and another and eventually the person is in a hole that they can't get out of. They keep hoping for a happy ending, but it just won't happen. Short of a miracle (or some kind soul who shows grace to them) their end result would end in death. It takes a God to interrupt the natural processes of sin, break through, and rescue someone. It takes a hero to rescue a princess that has lost her way. Does she deserve it? Of course not. But because the hero loves her, he is willing to pay with his own life to save her. The hero is the one who loves the sinner; not the sinner who is rescued. The sinner must then live with herself for the rest of her life knowing what her sin caused to others, and hopefully, with the same God's help, become a better person. Disney's The Little Mermaid, despite the lustful animation, is a great allegory to man's sin and rebellion against God.

- Slay the Dragon of Laziness

Most of the time, the dragon that artists have to fight is the Dragon of Laziness. That Dragon can come at the beginning, middle or end of a project that they are working on. To be a true, mature artist you have to conquer that dragon at every level.

Artists are self-conceited in that they think that their talent will carry them through to success. It won't. Talent is never enough if hard work is not in the picture. And even hard work isn't enough if God isn't in the picture. See, God is the One who created this creativity in each of us artists. He is the One who is a hard-worker and hates laziness. Why do we think that He won't sustain us through the process of a project? He sustains the universe—we need to not be lazy and trust Him. Trusting God is the key to fighting the dragon of laziness.

- Belief and Unbelief

I was recently watching Abbot and Costello Meet Frankenstein. It is funny how comedy is created by the interchange of a character who believes (Abbott) and another character who doesn't believe (Costello). I was also thinking of how X-Files had the same framework— one believing character and one unbelieving character, but in that case, it created drama (not comedy). And, actually, as I think of it, monsters (or aliens) were very much at home in each of those genres.

- Killing America's Soul

Movies that have LGBT themes are designed with two purposes: 1.) To make a lot of money and 2.) To destroy America's soul.

Let's look at the first one. Many movies portray LGBT characters/themes for the simple fact of wanting accolades from the Academy. Academy Awards equal dollar signs in the long run. The second reason for creating movies with Pro-LGBT themes is that it kills America's soul. It helps to create a culture that says, "LGBT lifestyles aren't all bad." Movies are a more persuasive argument than any scholarly work. Christians are losing the culture battle to Pro-LGBT directors and movie studios. What are Christians creating to counterattack the lies of culture?

- Promoting Base Sin

The Academy Awards are largely a promotion of the most raunchy, debased movies. It is not an endorsement of artistic, wholesome merit; rather it is a promotion of all things godless. So, when I see a movie winning lots of Academy Awards, it is usually a sign to

stay away.

- The Old Ideas Work

Many movies' climax feature a “going back to the old ways” to win the battle. Here are some examples: Transformers, Executive Decision, Jurassic World. Other movies put the old vs new right at the beginning of the movie: Rocky IV, Pacific Rim, Van Damme movies—basically any movie that kind of shows a “washed up hero” who is brought back to fight a new war. Why is it that movies rely so heavily on old technology, old ideas and old heroes? I thought that the newest ideas should win the day. The new villains with new technology should win. But that is not the case. The reason the old ideas are called old ideas are because they work. And the ideas that didn't work were forgotten by history. There's a reason why certain conservative morals and ideas and culture work—because they lasted so long to be called “old”. The new ideas are always trying to compete, circumvent, abolish the old ideas (Hollywood is famous for that). However, even Hollywood admits (albeit not intentionally) that the old heroes/ideas/technology works when the chips are down. They work because they are still around. When the world is falling apart, all new ideas have been tried and failed. There is only one solution left: to go back to the old ways. So, I ask: why wait to go back to the old ways when the world is on the verge of destruction? Why not rely on the old ways at the beginning? Why think that the old ideas are inconsequential to today's problems (and aliens, natural disasters and mutated monsters)? The moral of many of these stories is that humans are stupid because we went away from the old ideas so far that that is why we got into this mess. Therefore, we needed a restart to get back to the ideas that worked. It's a cycle that plays out in movies and in life. God's advice is to stick with the old and don't follow the new. Man's ideas are always inventive—what seems like a good idea in the moment doesn't work so well in the end.

- Emotions of Color

The emotions that color evokes come from nature—God's nature. Why are stop lights red? Because red is death and because blood is red. In other words, “Go through this stoplight and you will die.”

Why are “go” lights green? Because you are free to live. Living is synonymous with lush foliage and trees. God made these colors to mean things. If He made them different colors we would associate them with different emotions.

- Huge Responsibility

Artists have a huge talent and a huge responsibility. Artists innately can produce idols. Artists have produced/manufactured/carved idols since the dawn of time. That’s how they have made their living. Artists have taken their creativity and used it against God. Their imagination has been used to create gods out of thin air and sell them to the general public. Artists have traditionally been the idol producers (along with priests, engineers, architects and kings). But artists have been the ones to bring an idol to life, so to speak. They take the ideas on paper (or papyrus) and craft the idol in the real world. Artists create idols and today is no different. Today’s directors, producers and storytellers create idols on a daily basis. The movies, books and music promote idols that the culture absorbs and then worships. These idols include fornication, materialism, Capitalism, Communism, LGBT and atheism. See, religious ideas are idols if they aren’t centered in YHWH. Artists can lead people to YHWH or lead people away from YHWH. Will artists create idols or point people to the true God?

2018

- Perfectionism and Fear

As a visual artist, you cannot be afraid to draw. If you are, you are giving yourself over to the idol of Perfectionism. Perfectionism is the antithesis of God. Serve Perfectionism and you will never serve God. You can’t serve your Perfectionism and God. If you serve God, you will accomplish artwork for Him. If you serve Perfectionism, you won’t produce art, and if you did, you would produce it for yourself. The sacrifices that Perfectionism accepts are laziness and fear. Every time you have it in your heart to draw, and don’t, is another sacrifice to Perfectionism.

- Entertainment and Porn Culture

The stripper culture has changed everything: music, movies, entertainment. That's where the money is at, and that is what entertainment flocks to. People's lust of money is the reason why entertainment has gone to the dark (porn) side. Money for pleasure. That is the motto of strippers, porn stars, prostitutes and Hollywood. We will take your money and pleasure you (even if it hurts you). The pleasure that the entertainment industry peddles is damaging to people's souls, but they don't care. They received and continue to receive their bags of cash from people.

- Spotlight on Who?

As an artist, you have two choices: create art for God's glory or create art for your own glory. To put it another way, you can put the spotlight on God or put the spotlight on you. Which will you choose? Will you use your creativity to please God or yourself? Will you pleasure God or yourself? The ability to create art is a gift from the Almighty (for not everyone can create art). For what purpose will you create art? Will you give to yourself or to God (the One who gave you that ability)? Colossians 3:23-24 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." As artists, we have the ability to serve the Lord Christ and receive the reward of the inheritance, which far surpasses any earthly gain. Give your talent to God and He will provide for your every need. Earthly riches, honor and pleasure are but a fading shadow and will never truly satisfy.

- Hollywood's Educational System

Hollywood is out of touch with reality, so much so that their Academy Award ceremony viewers are declining every year. This is good news. It means Americans aren't drinking the violent/immoral/blasphemous/LGBT Kool-Aid (well, at least not as much as they were). But perhaps the damage has already been done. At any rate, Hollywood doesn't make movies to entertain; they make movies to re-educate society. They make statements with their movies; protests against conservative values. Why

should an industry be supported that undermines conservative and/or Christian values? Hollywood is simply a tool of Satan to lead the masses astray in their own sexual pleasures—actions that lead away from God. Americans aren't interested in Hollywood's distorted view of reality. They aren't interested in LGBTs patting themselves on the back and promoting their base lifestyles.

Hollywood wants your money and wants to turn Americans away from God's Law to do it. If they mock God's Law and blaspheme His name and say what He calls bad is really good, they think they can brainwash Americans into a godless life. The reality is that anyone who lives a Hollywood lifestyle (like the actors, directors and producers in Hollywood do) have lives filled with anguish, hopelessness and despair. If there is any group of people who are evangelists for Hollywood's morals portrayed in movies, it is the people in the business themselves. The stories of people who work in Hollywood are tales of despair, but only because they lived out their on-screen fantasies into off-screen fantasies. They mocked God onscreen and then proceeded to mock Him in real life, but God got the last laugh. A life lived apart from His Law is a destroyed life. “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” (Gal. 6:7)

- Receiving Reaction and Telling the Truth

As an artist, there is a constant balance between wanting to get a particular reaction out of an audience vs. telling the truth. As Christian artists, we should always strive to tell the truth (not strive for the audience's particular reaction). Truth should be told regardless of the reaction. True, there are ways and techniques to get that truth into someone's heart and mind faster, but those ways should never dilute the truth.

- Boycotting Christianity

To boycott a movie studio (i.e. Disney) because of their pro-occult/blasphemous/LGBT movies is a good but small reaction to a studio that already hates Christianity. To put it another way, a boycott of a company is simply a reaction to a studio that has already boycotted the Christian religion. If Christianity has been boycotted by a company, then that studio should be boycotted.

Why support someone (with ticket sales) if they don't support you (and your precious held beliefs). Boycotting is a good thing, but most Christians wouldn't think of boycotting a company that regularly denigrates the Christian worldview. Why is that? Probably because the Church doesn't really hold that their beliefs are all that important to defend. So, they cave in and watch just as much secular television and movies and music as the non-Christians. This is a major problem, because the movie studios know that they can get away with making godless filth, violent filth, sexual filth and LGBT filth and the Christians won't blink at it, in fact, they will support it! The movie studios know that the Church has no spine. They know that their movies are like cocaine to the church; they need it. They can't boycott their drug any more than a drug addict can boycott crack-cocaine. This is a pathetic state of affairs that the Church is in. And Hollywood knows that they are luring Christians away from their "God" so they can be destroyed along with everyone else with their lies.

• The Blender

Hollywood is like a blender: you put beautiful young women in and it turns out sluts. Hollywood attracts many beautiful ladies into its clutches by waving wads of cash. The unsuspecting ladies, wide eyed, enter the domain of Satan. A few years of concerts, parties, endless sex partners and more money they could imagine take their toll on a celebrity. They are but a shell of a person living the Hollywood lifestyle.

• Licentiousness Leads to Riches

Sexual licentiousness is the path to riches. If a movie features sex it will gain huge box office sales. If it features porn sex—even more. If music talks about sex, it's a huge hit. If it contains even more salacious verbage and porn-verbs, it is an even huger hit. In comics, if the story features well drawn female characters, it is a huge hit. But if the comic artist draws some characters naked and having sex, it is an even bigger seller. Sex sells and pushing the envelope sells. Searing your conscience as a creator sells. Essentially, what creators and audiences are doing are selling their souls for cash and pleasure.

- **Bittersweet After a Project**

As an artist, it is bittersweet when I accomplish a project. And I don't think I'm the only one that thinks this way. Artists look forward to creating and being creative. When a project is completed however, all of that is gone and has to be started afresh on a new project. The process of creating art is enjoyable. But I do feel sometimes it can become an idol. For example, why do I get depressed after completing a project? Shouldn't I be happy? Not if the creativity is my idol. It does make sense that depression and idol worship (i.e. creativity) do go hand-in-hand. It also makes sense that artists would guard against feeling depressed by never actually finishing any project. Why finish it, when they can keep their idol and feel happy. Unfortunately, that idol doesn't promise happiness either as the itch to get something finished is always driving inside an artist. Artists have these two pulls inside of us: finish something or perpetual creativity on a project. The God-inspired one is: "It is finished". See, God finishes things. He is not lazy nor did he relish indefinitely in the process (of creativity or salvation). No. He starts, works and finishes a project. God is our model and we must fight against the idol of creativity (i.e. perfectionism) to finish what God has called us to do.

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- **Lust For More Beauty in Art**

The constant search for more beauty is a problem for sinful men. The search for more beauty when you have God right in front of you is sin. There's nothing wrong with beautiful things, it's when the search for more and more and more – that's when it becomes an idol. Beauty can be found in anything God created: the opposite sex, nature, art, animals, music, design, etc. But the beauty of those things pale in comparison to the beauty of God. To turn from his ultimate beauty to lesser beauties is idolatry. All beauty leads to Jesus because He created all things that are beautiful. Many people worship the beautiful creation in place of worshiping

the beautiful Creator.

- Rockstar Rebellion

God's laws are mocked on the screen and off the screen— although, as most people in Hollywood know— a life in rebellion to God doesn't work out. Hollywood and “rockstar lifestyles” are the crème de la crème of rebellion against God. Unfortunately, rockstars and actors die miserable, lonely deaths (much like homeless people), and yet culture looks to these people as the mark of what to strive for.

- Best Liars

Actors are the best liars, for they are trying to convince an audience that “this” is really happening (when it is not). Actors are hypocrites; they play the part well. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites. They could have won an Academy Award for holiness (when their heart had no holiness at all). How often do Christians (myself included) put on a show of holiness, but our hearts are far from God. Why? To impress our audience? Look, there is only one Audience member worth impressing and He sees more than just your actions. He should be our aim and our focus. Worship of God isn't just outward; it's your whole being.

- Christian Storytellers Needed

Most people don't know how to tell a story, or I should say, most people don't know how to tell a good story. That is because they don't have anything to say. People are living their lives and have nothing to say that is meaningful. Social media is *prima facie* evidence that people don't have anything to say (or should have kept their mouths shut). People are living their meaningless lives, trying to find meaning in something, even if it is some stupid social media posts. Social media is but a gathering of neutralized opinionated drones, living life in a generic way. Storytellers are needed to point people to the truth (not false truth). Christian storytellers are needed to point people to Christ. We don't need more Fast and Furious movies or Underworld or 007 movies. I think perhaps fantasy and superheroes provide a good genre to produce Christian stories. This culture needs stories and all

they are getting is bad stories (from Hollywood) and nothing to say (from Facebook). People's dreary lives need hope. They need Christ. Christian storytellers can give this to them. The fields are ripe to harvest.

- Atheist Artists

A creative person, say like director Joss Whedon, who describes himself as an atheist, is actually going against his own philosophy. As a director, an artist is trying to create a story (which creates meaning) for an audience. But if there is no God, then there is no meaning. Thus, the creative acts of an atheist are ultimately futile. In other words, why create something with "meaning" when there is "no meaning"? It doesn't make sense. Meaning comes from absolutes and absolutes come from the Lord God. There really shouldn't be any atheist artists for they are going against their own philosophy.

- Offended With No Counter Argument

Being "offended" is a passive response. In this world, we see evil men being offended by righteous things and righteous men being offended by evil things. Being offended isn't necessarily a bad thing. However, we need to ask the question as to what is the object of the offending. When evil men are offended by Bible readings in public, cross displays, prayers, etc. They are just being passive about it. So, if they don't like those things, then they should go proclaim their gods to the world. And they do. Look at musicians, authors and actors. The entertainment industry is the biggest evangelistic effort for all false gods in the world (i.e. sex, money, power, materialism). What are evil men offended for? Because they have only 99% of the culture? That they haven't pushed Christians completely out of society? Nevertheless, they strive in pushing their lies to the culture. What are we, as Christians, doing with our feelings of offensiveness. In evil men, their feelings of offensiveness are turned into a powerhouse of media and culture to counteract what they deem as "lies" (i.e. Christianity). So, Christian, what art are you producing to attack their lies?

- Hating the Light and Loving the Darkness

Christian entertainment is ridiculed quite a bit by the world, but it is also ridiculed by Christians. Why? Low production value or cheesy stories are the common answers, but I think Christian media is hated because it is a light in the darkness. The darkness hates the light (and that applies to Christians, too.)

- Idol Entertainment

It is an interesting state of affairs when movies (i.e. entertainment) is produced by quarter-million-dollar budgets. Do you know what \$250 million dollars is? That is what is typically spent on the latest Hollywood blockbuster. Think about that for a moment. Americans value entertainment so much that \$250 million is nothing to spend to have a few seconds of a cheap thrill and a good story. Americans value story and entertainment to escape the realities of life. The proof is in the ticket sales. Studios don't balk at spending that kind of money either. Now, don't get me wrong. I love a good story just as much as the next guy, but seriously, do you know how many homeless people could be fed or children could be adopted for a quarter million dollars? Think about the African AIDS victims or polluted water or malaria ridden countries—do you know what \$250 million dollars could do to help alleviate our neighbors' pains? No, instead, Americans idolize their entertainment and are willing to spend their money on a director's view of life. It says a lot that entertainment is worth more to Americans than feeding the poor or helping their neighbors.

- Netflix Binging

It's a serious problem when people say they need to "catch up on some shows". The level of Netflix Bingers has gone up drastically in recent years. That number corresponds to how little people value their lives. People would rather be entertained than accomplish something in their lives. After binging, do people feel good about themselves that they "accomplished" something? Watching others live their lives in stories is not "accomplishing" anything; in fact, it's quite the opposite. Why is Netflix Binging acceptable? This is a serious problem that people don't take their

lives seriously and don't value their lives enough to minimize the entertainment in their lives.

- Entertainment for Royalty

Entertainment is simply being treated like a King, with a never-ending stream of jesters. Streaming services are simply the modern Jester for the modern Royalty. Americans have defined themselves as royalty. That's why the entertainment companies (i.e. media) are the biggest companies. The Kings and Queens (Americans) need to be entertained with constantly new material. Americans think their lives are for being served (i.e. entertained) not for serving others.

- Hollywood's Christian Customers

The big studios aren't going to make Christian movies you know why? Because they know the Christians are going to keep seeing their sinful, immoral, violent and sexual movies. Why make a boring movie (and lose money) when they could make a carnal movie (make lots of movie)and the Christians will come see it anyway? There is little difference between what the Christians watch versus what the the non-Christians watch. They are all the same customer. It probably is an enigma to the movie studios as to why they can keep making movies that blaspheme the Christian's God in movies and yet they still keep buying tickets to hear their blasphemy. The godless movie producers are probably thinking, "If I was Christian and I worshiped God, I wouldn't be seeing this movie. I try to push Christians away with blasphemy and they still see my movies. Oh well, let them come!" Godless producers can blaspheme God all day long and Christians keeping lining up to hear it. What kind of God-worshiping Christians are these? American Christians must not love God very much if they support blasphemy, immorality, sexual sins and violence. God hates all these things and Christians love these things enough to watch and support them. That's why these movies are being made. Christians aren't loving God or their neighbor enough to stop supporting this filth. No wonder the filthy movies keep getting made. Studios support the filth and the Christians support the filth. "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto

him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Proverbs 6:16-19)

• The End of Art

When artwork turns cheap, it is no longer artwork, it is just work for hire. I think of the animation that I grew up with in the 80's. The TV shows were so much more quality in terms of animation and story. Nowadays, there is no human touch. It is simply computer-churned out clichéd stories, one after another. When entertainment becomes so important to a culture that it actually destroys the art-form itself, there is a problem. When art becomes mass-produced just to satisfy the entertainment lust of a society, there is a problem. When watching “something new” is more important than patiently waiting for something of quality, there is a problem. There is no doubt that America’s greatest idol is entertainment. Because America worships entertainment, the entertainment industry doesn’t have to hold itself accountable to anyone but the public. When the public salivates for new material daily, well, who cares about quality stories.?It takes more time and effort to make a moralistic story. Why do that, the studios ask, when they can make cheap sexual and sadistic material and America will eat it up.?America’s appetite for sex and violence and “newest thing” is insatiable. It is because of all these factors that America is imploding, and, to a lesser extent, why entertainment is no longer considered art.

• Escapism

People are looking to escape whether it is a campfire horror story, urban legends, Netflix shows, a movie, a song, a piece of art—anything that will transport them away— though briefly—into a land far, far away from reality. Entertainment has, for the most part, promised to help us escape from the boringness or the suffering of life. It gives us hope and pleasure and love—things that we (maybe) haven’t had before. Because of its escapist properties, many people flock to entertainment as a form of drug to keep feeding the high. Social media, a performance, a story—people

need their escape (whether free or paid for). What are people escaping from? Sin, death, decay, hurt, pain, filth, hate, pride, lust. Though, ironically, many people flock to those things in today's modern entertainment. Entertainment is a tool that can be used for good or for evil. Any entertainment that points to truth and beauty is ultimately pointing at God, the Creator of those things. He is the source but is also what we are searching for in all the things we listen to, watch, read and experience.

- Conditioning Future School Shooters

Any parent who lets their child play Fortnite and watch rated R movies, shouldn't be surprised when that child commits a school shooting. School shootings don't happen in a vacuum. Shootings are usually a slow progression to an ultimate event, starting with watching and participating in "unimportant and fake" video games. Violent video games teach children that life isn't valuable that people can be shot at will "for fun". Life isn't precious, which is the antithesis of what God teaches. Life should be upheld, not cheapened in video games.

- Young Singers

What can young musicians teach us? I sometimes laugh when I hear young twenty-something artists sing about their woes and problems. Really? What problems have they experienced in life? That they lost their keys or were late for work or were stressed out over a relationship? Give me a break. The "troubles" these singers have gone through are laughable. Obviously, I don't know every artist's story, but most of these young singers have not had many troubles that would compare to real life troubles. It's hard to find an authentic voice in the music industry. I want to hear from people with real troubles that have gotten through them with God's help; singers who can tell their personal stories of victory in Christ, because that gives me hope. I don't need the shallow problems of life that musicians masquerade as "troubles".

- Reservations for Christian Art

It's hypocritical for some Christians to have "reservations" towards the arts in the church while at the same time having no

reservations towards watching Netflix. These kinds of Christians are two-faced as they criticize Christian art while at the same time embracing the world's filthy media. It's almost like they can accept sinful, filthy art from the world and yet have a hard time accepting honest, truthful and beautiful art from Christians. Why? Have Christians been so accustomed to the world's media that if they don't receive their daily fill of debauchery and violence and unadulterated licentiousness then they feel cheated? These Christians must feel as if Christian art shouldn't even exist because it doesn't meet the "high" standards of entertainment value for them.

• Hollywood's Responsibility

Does Hollywood seriously think that they are exempt from responsibility for what their movies have done? Do they think their movies have zero consequences upon society? Do they think their movies have produced a better society and not the filthy one we live in now? Hollywood people must think they are above it all. They must think their movies have no bearing at all on how people act, think or talk. It's a nice gesture when Christian Bale went to visit people after the shooting in Colorado during the opening night of *The Dark Night Rises*. However, could it not be said that he helped contribute to the violent culture we live in with the violent movies that he has helped create? Was Christian Bales' Batman a non-participant in this shooting? Was he completely exempt from what a psychotic shooter took to heart? I understand that we, as people, can't be held responsible to other's murderous actions, but the movies people make aren't non-verbalized messages either. There has to be some responsibility attached to the movie s being made, the video games being made. Listen to how people talk. Are the words coming out of their mouth said in a vacuum? No. They are getting their words from Hollywood. Look at their thoughts. Their thoughts are what Hollywood has put into their head. Look at what people do with their hands (murder, hatred, theft, cheating). This is done because they see it on the screen as well. Yes, people are born sinners and Hollywood doesn't put the sin in them, but they for sure don't call sin out as sin either. Instead, Hollywood glories in the sinfulness of man.

Hollywood has created this society, and this is the picture they have painted. When they bemoan the fact of violence and rape and war and greed and lust and envy— well, they are a party to it. Their stories have emboldened others to live out what they see on the screen. Their entertainment has destroyed the world; not made it better.

- **Marketing and Technology**

Because marketing is linked to technology (by what medium will you publish), marketing has to change with technology. Specifically, graphic designers have to change with technology. But the basics of design never change. Fads come and go (drop shadows, swoosh, grunge, sans-serif lowercase fonts, etc.) but the basics, the rules don't change. Break the rules and your design will break. Keep the rules and no matter what technology you use, your design will flourish.

- **Truth in Fiction**

I'm a daydreamer, as most artists and writers are. It's not a bad thing to use your imagination. It's not just an escape. In fact, it can be a means by which I can keep discovering Truth. It is important, however, to keep grounded in reality and not get lost in the "clouds" as one of my teachers would say. One way to do that is to stay in God's Word (reading, studying, listening). Artists and writers need to keep their feet on the ground and if they do that, they can still have their head in the clouds. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Phil 4:8)

- **Printed Vs. Digital Books**

Printed books vs. digital books can also be described as art form vs. information. Printed books have always been printed forms of art—everything paper (texture, color, weight), cover (embossed, color), binding, text (fonts, leading, kerning). Books will never go out of print. They may become more expensive, but they won't go

extinct. People can't read (or retain information) for long times. Technology came about for the need for information (and quick information). On that end of the thinking, it's great for sciences, math, etc. However, I don't think it is that way for fiction. Non-fiction is kind of in the middle. See, when I read fiction, I want to relax. I don't want to have to hold a tablet at a certain angle. I don't like radiation constantly bombarding my eyes. I like white reflective light (CMYK); not RGB (backlit).

- **Socialist Rap**

Have you ever listened to a modern rap song? There is usually a group of crude, tough men as background singers. These background rappers emphasize what the lead rapper is rapping about. This is a picture of socialism. It isn't just one lone person saying these things; it is a group of people affirming what the words of the song are. Now, what are the words of any rap song these days? Well, they are unspeakable words about sex, sexual immorality, violence, Marxism, materialism and more. Socialism asks these questions, "What are other people doing? Should I follow them? Everyone else is following them, so I might as well, too, right?" Those are questions that are asked by people who question if they should do a moral or immoral act. "Are others aborting their babies? Are others turning homosexual? The movies show these things, so I might as well, too right?" Rap music, with others rapping about nasty stuff is the concept. It gives the perception of "everyone" is doing these things; others are giving affirmation to these statements. So, they must be right, right? No. The disgusting things rappers talk about in their songs goes against God's moral Law. Just because everyone" is rapping about the same thing (in affirmation) doesn't make them right. They are all wrong and God is the One who is right. Listen to the Almighty as He is the One who knows all things. These godless rappers know nothing other than how to destroy their own lives and the lives of others.

- **Hollywood Hates God**

Do you ever wonder why God is blasphemed in Hollywood? Because Hollywood hates God. Its actors, directors, producers,

writers, editors and studios hate God. This isn't, "Oh, I have to read this script that takes God's name in vain because it's my job." It's, "I want to blaspheme God." Blasphemy of the Almighty runs deep in the veins of Hollywood's employees. Hollywood promotes everything God hates and ridicules everything God loves. Think of the recipients of the Academy Awards – awards are almost always given to those movies that "push the envelope" with morality and ridicule God's Law.

- Women in Rap Music

Hip Hop and Rap were designed to keep women in subjugation to men. It is a man's music as it appeals to all his senses. Why a woman would listen to this type of chauvinistic music is beyond me. Perhaps some of these women listeners have little self-esteem and want to be called every demeaning name in the book (including being a female dog). This music degrades women to the status of a sex object, whose only purpose is to satisfy men sexually. It's despicable and disgusting music. And the more people listen to this music, they live out their devalued perception of women (which in turn destroys lives and families). It isn't harmless entertainment; it is evil and serves to devalue women (which is what Satan wants). A devaluing of women is a devaluing of man for she is made in his image. And, a devaluing of man is an attempt at devaluing God (for man was made in God's image).

- War Stories and Christian Men

If you look at two of the top awarded movies of all time, Lord of the Rings (The Whole Trilogy) and Ben-Hur, I would like for you to notice the war themes in each of those movies. I would, also, like to draw your attention to both authors of the original books, J. R. R. Tolkien and General Lew Wallace. Both men were in war: Wallace was in the Civil War and Tolkien was in WWI. I find it interesting that both novels, which the movies were based off of, were written by men after their time in war. War produces stories; some cruel stories, but also some good stories, as former soldiers turn to writing after their post-war years. Likewise, another war hero, Louis Zamperini was the subject of the movie, Unbroken, (and also a Christian). Alvin York (General York). Hacksaw Ridge.

Now, I don't want to reduce the concept of war as "war makes great stories", but they do. Wars make great authors as they have lived through hell on earth. War makes great stories of God's grace and man's depravity. War is but a subset of real life. War teaches things that can't be taught any other way.

- Christians must decide whether to "redeem the time" or Facebook/Netflix/Amazon Prime. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph 5:15-16)

- Four Types of Stories

The 4 types of stories: Man vs God, man vs nature/technology, man vs man, man vs himself. The gospel brings resolution to all these areas. The gospel redeems our relationship with God, so we don't have to fight against Him anymore.

- Disney's Version or God's Version?

The Disney Corporation, because it has ignored God's Word, has its own ideas of what makes a male and a female. This is the cause of Disney's disgusting entertainment. It isn't rooted in the truth God gave us. It's rooted in man's ever-changing feelings and mores.

- The End of the World in Cartoons

When I was teenager, I remember watching a DuckTales episode called, "The Golden Goose", a two-part cartoon in 1991. It was a Midas-like tale in which a golden goose covers the entire earth in liquid gold. It was an end-of-the-world scenario, with only Scrooge left at the end, to save the world. This cartoon left such an impression on me that I've never forgotten it. Another similar cartoon (that I only watched recently was a Transformers Episode (another two-part episode, "The Return of Optimus Prime", 1987). A deadly virus breaks out among the humans and Transformers, leaving only Optimus Prime to save the universe. One last example of this end-of-the-world genre is "Turtles Forever", a TMNT animated movie in which the four turtles have to save the "multi-verse" from self-destructing. These end-of-the-world stories

continue to this day with any number of sci-fi or superhero stories rehashing the same concepts. End-of-the-world stories have always fascinated me. It is the ultimate high stakes kind of story, in which billions of creatures are at stake at losing their physical lives. What none of these stories address, however, is the spiritual aspect of people losing their lives. Sinners, who have not placed their faith in Jesus, may die in these scenarios but then they are sent to hell for eternity. That is the real tragedy. Yes, billions of people perishing is a major catastrophe. But that catastrophe is amplified when those people have souls who are unregenerated by God. There is a spiritual loss that is incalculable to the physical loss of people. People's physical lives are indeed irreplaceable and valuable. But their souls are even more so. Saving the world from aliens invading earth is a noble cause, but once the aliens are defeated, the humans go back to hurting and murdering each other. Does earth really need an outside force to destroy us? We are destroying ourselves with our own sinful nature. One person's soul is worth saving. That is why, on the scale of high stakes stories, redemption stories (biopics about historical figures) are just as powerful as end of the world scenarios. If a soul isn't saved, it is an end of the world scenario.

REFLECTIONS
ON
ART,
CULTURE
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