

## Articles and Sermons :: AWT Entertainment

**AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/17 13:34**

I hope that we will remove from our hearts every ugly thing and every unbeautiful thing and every dead thing and every unholy thing that might prevent us from worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ in the beauty of holiness. Now I am quite sure that this kind of thing is not popular. The world does not want to hear it and the half-saved churches of the evangelical fold do not want to hear it. They want to be entertained while they are edified. Entertain me and edify me without pain.  
(“The Chief End of Man,” Sermon #9, Toronto, 1962)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/18 7:51**

Then there are some among us these days who have to depend upon truckloads of gadgets to get their religion going, and I am tempted to ask: What will they do when they don’t have the help of the trappings and gadgets? The truck can’t come along where they are going!  
(The Tozer Pulpit, Book 8, p. 50)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/18 10:22**

The tragic results of this spirit are all about us: shallow loves, hollow religious philosophies, the preponderance of the element of fun in gospel meetings, the glorification of men, trust in religious externalities, quasi-religious fellowships, salesmanship methods, the mistaking of dynamic personality for the power of the Spirit. These and such as these are the symptoms of an evil disease, a deep and serious malady of the soul.  
(The Pursuit of God, pp. 62-63)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/19 11:05**

IN OUR DAY WE MUST BE DRAMATIC ABOUT EVERYTHING. We don’t want God to work unless He can make a theatrical production of it. We want Him to come dressed in costumes with a beard and with a staff. We want Him to play a part according to our ideas. Some of us even demand that He provide a colorful setting and fireworks as well!  
(The Tozer Pulpit, Book 8, pp. 48-49)

**Re: entertainment - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2004/8/19 14:10**

I wanted to thank you for posting this series. My daughter (14) has been wanting to read this because of her love and gift for worship and music. It will help keep her focused as she grows and ministers in her calling. We have not bought the book yet- but this is good for her for now. :)

In Him, Chanin

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/19 14:21**

The cuts and quotes are taken from:

A.W. Tozer  
On Worship and Entertainment

SELECTED EXCERPTS  
Compiled by

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Christian Publications  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

**Re: entertainment - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2004/8/19 14:32**

Thank you, Lars.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/21 12:15**

Let's pray that God will bring conviction on the world. Let's pray that He will send conviction back. Religion has become so popular now that it is shown in theaters, sung over radio and in barn dances. Just one more form of entertainment.

We fundamentals and evangelicals just will not believe the truth about ourselves and the kind of people we are. So we have a popular religion but very little power because we have very little conviction, very little repentance and very little sorrow.

(Sermon, "Men Do Not Believe the Truth about Themselves," John 8:38, General Council)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/22 4:46**

The tragic results of this spirit are all about us: shallow loves, hollow religious philosophies, the preponderance of the element of fun in gospel meetings, the glorification of men, trust in religious externalities, quasi-religious fellowships, salesmanship methods, the mistaking of dynamic personality for the power of the Spirit. These and such as these are the symptoms of an evil disease, a deep and serious malady of the soul.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/25 12:04**

But the evangelicals of which we are a part say, "Let the cross kill Jesus but we will live on and be happy and have fun." But the cross on the hill has got to become the cross in the heart. When the cross on the hill has been transformed by the miraculous grace of the Holy Ghost into the cross in the heart, then we begin to know something of what it means and it will become to us the cross of power.

(Sermon #40 on Hebrews, Toronto)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/26 15:04**

A church fed on excitement is no New Testament church at all. The desire for surface stimulation is a sure mark of the fallen nature, the very thing Christ died to deliver us from. A curious crowd of baptized worldlings waiting each Sunday for the quasi-religious needle to give them a lift bears no relation whatsoever to a true assembly of Christian believers. And that its members protest their undying faith in the Bible does not change things any. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (The Next Chapter after the Last, p. 14)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/27 14:58**

The old writers talked about the dark night of the soul. A time of emptying. A time when it became dark all around us. But we're too carnal to allow our hearts to get dark longing for God now. We're so determined we want to be happy that if we can't be happy by the Holy Ghost we'll drum up our happiness. Religious "Rock and Rollers"! We're going to get happy somehow if we've got to beat it up with a tom-tom. You can have that kind of happiness if you want it, but if you don't want it and are dissatisfied with it and you want the joy that comes out of Joseph's new tomb open now for ever, if you want the joy that comes from the Holy Ghost, a well of water springing up within you forever, then you will likely have a loneliness and an inner darkness and a despair with self and you'll wonder what happened to you and you'll say, "Am I backsliding?" No, you're not backsliding. You are going on with God. ("The Holy Spirit," Sermon #6, Romans 12:1-2, Toronto)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/29 2:05**

Anyone who needs to be chucked under the chin all the time to keep him happy and satisfied is in bad shape spiritually. He can ignore the fact that the Bible urges us to go on unto perfection for he is of that part of the church that cannot be satisfied without a visit from the latest gospel peddler, who promises cowbells, a musical handsaw and a lot of other novel ties!  
(The Tozer Pulpit, Book 5, pp. 42-43)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/30 1:32**

MANY ARE SETTling FOR far less than God is waiting to give. They try to stay happy by adding something to their religion that tickles their carnality from the outside. They introduce converted cowboys and half-converted movie actors, and I think they would even stoop to talking horses and gospel dogs to be able to join in saying, "We had a wonderful time!" They will pay a big price to feature some "ninety-day wonder" so they can get the people to crowd in.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/8/31 15:54**

We have the breezy, self-confident Christians with little affinity for Christ and His cross. We have the joy-bell boys that can bounce out there and look as much like a game show host as possible. Yet, they are doing it for Jesus' sake?! The hypocrites! They're not doing it for Jesus' sake at all; they are doing it in their own carnal flesh and are using the church as a theater because they haven't yet reached the place where the legitimate theater would take them.  
(Sermon, "Complete Surrender," Chicago)

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/1 9:45**

Religious shows leave a bad flavor. When they enter the holy place, they come perilously near to offering strange fire to the Lord. At their worst they are sacrilege; always they are unnecessary, and at their best they are a poor substitute for prayer and the Holy Ghost. Church plays are invariably cheap and amateurish, and in addition to grieving the Holy Ghost, those who attend them are cheated by getting wretchedly poor entertainment for their money.  
(The Early Tozer: A Word in Season, p. 98)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/2 14:30**

Pastors and churches in our hectic times are harassed by the temptation to seek size at any cost and to secure by inflation what they cannot gain by legitimate growth.

The mixed multitude cries for quantity and will not forgive a minister who insists upon solid values and permanence. Many a man of God is being subjected to cruel pressure by the ill-taught members of his flock who scorn his slow methods and demand quick results and a popular following regardless of quality.

These children play in the marketplaces and cannot overlook the affront we do them by our refusal to dance when they whistle or to weep when they out of caprice pipe a sad tune.

They are greedy for thrills, and since they dare no longer seek them in the theater, they demand to have them brought in to the church.

(The Next Chapter after the Last, p. 8)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/2 14:38**

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR current errors is the notion that as times change the church must change with them. Christians must adapt their methods by the demands of the people. If they want ten-minute sermons, give them ten-minute sermons. If they want truth in capsule form, give it to them. If they want pictures, give them plenty of pictures. If they like stories, tell them stories. If they prefer to absorb their religious instruction through the drama, go along with them—give them what they want. “The message is the same, only the method changes,” say the advocates of compromise.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/3 12:44**

I would walk five miles to keep from seeing him or hearing him and I wouldn't walk one inch to see him and I wouldn't give one dime to support him. All of this extra-scriptural claptrap that has been dragged into the church in recent times grieves the Holy Ghost. We have muted the lights, the bread has gotten stale and the altar of incense has lost its fragrance.

(Sermon #24 on Hebrews, Toronto)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/3 13:43**

Because we are not truly worshipers, we spend a lot of time in the churches just spinning our wheels, burning the gasoline, making a noise but not getting anywhere.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/6 4:39**

The reason evangelical Christianity has so many cowbells and handsaws and shows and films and funny gadgets and celebrated men and women to stir them up is because they don't have the joy of the Lord. A happy man doesn't need very much else.

(Sermon, “Fruit of the Spirit,” Chicago)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/8 1:12**

We don't have joy so we try to create it, and I think that God in His heaven is probably more kind and patient about all this than I am. But I think that even God must get awfully sick of what He sees: all the little cowbells we have to jingle to try to be happy when we are simply missing the fountain of happiness that ought to spring from within. When the well of joy isn't flowing, we try to paint the pump in order to get a little joy or tack jingle bells on the old pump handle, but it doesn't bring the water up.  
(Sermon, "Fruit of the Spirit," Chicago)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/10 5:46**

Religious entertainment has so corrupted the Church of Christ that millions don't know that it's a heresy. Millions of evangelicals throughout the world have devoted themselves to religious entertainment. They don't know that it's as much heresy as the counting of beads or the splashing of holy water or something else. To expose this, of course, raises a storm of angry protest among the people.  
(Success and the Christian, p. 6)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/11 14:14**

Because we are not worshipers we are wasting other people's money tremendously. We're marking time, we're spinning our wheels with the axles up on blocks, burning the gasoline and making a noise and getting no place. God calls us to worship and I find this missing in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in this day. Instead of worship, we are now second in entertainment to the theaters. I want to tell you something. If I want to see a show I know where I can see a good one put on by top flight geniuses who know what they are doing. If I want a show I'll duck out and go down to a theater and see a show hot out of Hollywood or London by men and women who are artists in their field. I will not go to a church and see a lot of ham actors putting on a home talent show. And yet, that's where we are in evangelical circles. We've got more show in evangelical circles than anywhere else.  
(“The Chief End of Man,” Sermon #4, Toronto, 1962)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/14 1:46**

I cannot determine when I will die. But I hope I do not live to see the day when God has to turn from men and women who have heard His holy truth and have played with it, fooled with it and equated it with fun and entertainment and religious nonsense.

We cannot deny that this attitude is found in much of current Christianity. As a result, people have hardened their hearts to the point that they no longer hear the voice of God.  
Jesus Is Victor, p. 130)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/15 15:26**

We have simplified until Christianity amounts to this: God is love; Jesus died for you; believe, accept, be jolly, have fun and tell others. And away we go—that is the Christianity of our day. I would not give a plug nickel for the whole business of it. Once in a while God has a poor bleeding sheep that manages to live on that kind of thing and we wonder how.  
(Rut, Rot or Revival, p. 173)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/16 16:18**

The great god Entertainment amuses his devotees mainly by telling them stories. The love of stories, which is characteristic of childhood, has taken fast hold of the minds of the retarded saints of our day, so much so that not a few persons manage to make a comfortable living by spinning yarns and serving them up in various disguises to church people. What is natural and beautiful in a child may be shocking when it persists into adulthood, and more so when it appears in the sanctuary and seeks to pass for true religion.  
(The Root of the Righteous, p. 33)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/17 16:24**

It is because there are so many of these ignoble saintlets, these miniature editions of the Christian way, demanding that Christianity must be fun, that distinct organizations have been launched to give it to them. Yes, there are organizations that exist for the sole purpose of mixing religion and fun for our Christian young people.  
(The Tozer Pulpit, Book 8, p. 28)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/20 14:28**

IN OUR DAY WE MUST BE dramatic about everything. We don't want God to work unless He can make a theatrical production of it. We want Him to come dressed in costumes with a beard and with a staff. We want Him to play a part according to our ideas. Some of us even demand that He provide a colorful setting and fireworks as well!

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/21 14:19**

A Christian congregation can survive and often appear to prosper in the community by the exercise of human talent and without any touch from the Holy Spirit. But it is simply religious activity, and the dear people will not know anything better until the great and terrible day when our self-employed talents are burned with fire and only what was wrought by the Holy Spirit will stand.  
(Tragedy in the Church: The Missing Gifts, p. 23)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/24 9:57**

One of the very greatest calamities which sin has brought upon us is the debasement of our normal emotions. We laugh at things which are not funny; we find pleasure in acts which are beneath our human dignity; and we rejoice in objects which should have no place in our affections. The objection to "sinful pleasures" which has been characteristic of the true saint, is at bottom simply a protest against the degradation of our human emotions. That gambling, for instance, should be allowed to engross the interests of men made in the image of God has seemed like a horrible perversion of noble powers; that alcohol should be necessary to stimulate the feeling of pleasure has seemed like a kind of prostitution; that men should turn to the man-made theater for enjoyment has seemed an affront to the God who placed us in the midst of a universe charged with high dramatic action. The world's artificial pleasures are all but evidence that the human race has to a large extent lost its power to enjoy the true pleasures of life and is forced to substitute for them false and degrading thrills.  
(The Divine Conquest, pp. 107-108)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/24 17:25**

THE THINGS YOU READ WILL fashion you by slowly conditioning your mind.

The same thing is certainly true of the power of modern films on the minds and morals of those who give themselves over to their influences

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/25 14:48**

IT IS NOW COMMON PRACTICE in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people, a maximum of entertainment and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/26 6:08**

It is now common practice in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people, a maximum of entertainment and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him, for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/28 8:31**

IN OUR DAY WE MUST BE dramatic about everything. We don't want God to work unless He can make a theatrical production of it. We want Him to come dressed in costumes with a beard and with a staff. We want Him to play a part according to our ideas. Some of us even demand that He provide a colorful setting and fireworks as well!

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/29 15:36**

TODAY MORE THAN EVER we Christians need to learn how to sanctify the ordinary. This is a blasphemous generation. People have been overstimulated to the place where their nerves are jaded and their tastes corrupted. Natural things have been rejected to make room for things artificial. The sacred has been secularized, the holy vulgarized and worship converted into a form of entertainment.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/9/30 13:05**

The cross stands high above the opinions of men and to that cross all opinions must come at last for judgment. A shallow and worldly leadership would modify the cross to please the entertainment-mad saintlings who will have their fun even within the very sanctuary; but to do so is to court spiritual disaster and risk the anger of the Lamb turned Lion. (The Root of the Righteous, p. 63)



**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/1 12:56**

IN THIS DAY WHEN SHIMMERING personalities carry on the Lord's work after the methods of the entertainment world, it is refreshing to associate for a moment, even in the pages of a book, with a sincere and humble man who keeps his own personality out of sight and places the emphasis upon the in- working of God.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/4 17:20**

Any objection to the carryings on of our present gold-calf Christianity is met with the triumphant reply, "But we are winning them!" And winning them to what? To true discipleship? To cross-carrying? To self-denial? To separation from the world? To crucifixion of the flesh? To holy living? To nobility of character? To a despising of the world's treasures? To hard self-discipline? To love for God? To total committal to Christ? Of course the answer to all these questions is no. (Man: The Dwelling Place of God, p. 136)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/5 13:47**

Thanks to our splendid Bible societies and to other effective agencies for dissemination of the Word, there are today many millions of people who hold "right opinions," probably more than ever before in the history of the Church. Yet I wonder if there was ever a time when true spiritual worship was at a lower ebb. To great sections of the Church the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the "program." This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us. (The Pursuit of God, p. 9)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/6 16:07**

We have the strange anomaly of orthodoxy in creed and heterodoxy in practice. The striped-candy technique has been so fully integrated into our present religious thinking that it is simply taken for granted. Its victims never dream that it is not a part of the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/8 14:09**

WE NOW DEMAND GLAMOUR and fast-flowing dramatic action. A generation of Christians reared among push buttons and automatic machines is impatient of slower and less direct methods of reaching their goals. We have been trying to apply machine-age methods to our relations with God. We read our chapter, have our short devotions and rush away, hoping to make up for our deep inward bankruptcy by attending another gospel meeting or listening to another thrilling story told by a religious adventurer lately returned from afar. The tragic results of this spirit are all about us: shallow lives, hollow religious philosophies, the preponderance of the element of fun in gospel meetings, the glorification of men, trust in religious externalities, quasi-religious fellowships, salesmanship methods, the mistaking of dynamic personality for the power of the Spirit. These and such as these are the symptoms of an evil disease, a deep and serious malady of the soul.



**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/12 11:31**

This is the cause of a very serious breakdown in modern evangelicalism. The idea of cultivation and exercise, so dear to the saints of old, has now no place in our total religious picture. It is too slow, too common. We now demand glamour and fast flowing dramatic action. A generation of Christians reared among push buttons and automatic machines is impatient of slower and less direct methods of reaching their goals. We have been trying to apply machine-age methods to our relations with God. We read our chapter, have our short devotions and rush away, hoping to make up for our deep inward bankruptcy by attending another gospel meeting or listening to another thrilling story told by a religious adventurer lately returned from afar.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/21 13:36**

We have already seen the reaction among the masses of evangelical Christians. There has been a revolt in two directions, a rather unconscious revolt, like the gasping of fish in a bowl where there is no oxygen. A great company of evangelicals have already gone over into the area of religious entertainment so that many gospel churches are tramping on the doorstep of the theatre. Over against that, some serious segments of fundamental and evangelical thought have revolted into the position of evangelical rationalism which finds it a practical thing to make peace with liberalism.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/23 18:05**

One man wrote an article as an exposé of me. He said that I claimed that religious entertainment was wrong and he said, "Don't you know that every time you sing a hymn, it's entertainment?" Every time you sing a hymn? I don't know how that fellow ever finds his way home at night. He ought to have a seeing eye dog and a man with a white cane to take him home!

When you raise your eyes to God and sing, "Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me," is that entertainment—or is it worship? Isn't there a difference between worship and entertainment? The church that can't worship must be entertained. And men who can't lead a church to worship must provide the entertainment. That is why we have the great evangelical heresy here today—the heresy of religious entertainment.

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/10/25 8:32**

a steady decline in the quality of Christian worship on the one hand and, on the other, the rise of religious entertainment as a source of mental pleasure. Wise leaders should have known that the human heart cannot exist in a vacuum. If men do not have joy in their hearts they will seek it somewhere else. If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the Spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh for enjoyment. And that is exactly what fundamental Christianity (as well as the so-called "full gospel" groups) has done in the last quarter century. God's people have turned to the amusements of the world to try to squeeze a bit of juice out of them for the relief of their dry and joyless hearts. "Gospel" boogie singing now furnishes for many persons the only religious joy they know. Others wipe their eyes tenderly over "gospel" movies, and a countless number of amusements flourish everywhere, paid for by the consecrated tithes of persons who ought to know better. Our teachers took away our right to be happy in God, and the human heart wreaked its terrible vengeance by going on a fleshly binge from which the evangelical Church will not soon recover, if indeed it ever does. For multitudes of professed Christians today the Holy Spirit is not a necessity. They have learned to cheer their hearts and warm their hands at other fires. And scores of publishers and various grades of "producers" are waxing fat on their delinquency.

The Root of the Righteous, p. 69

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/11/2 6:38**

The church today is suffering from a rash of amateurism. Any untrained, unprepared, unspiritual, empty rattletrap of a fellow who is a bit ambitious can start himself something religious. Then we all listen to him, pay him for it, promote him and work to try to help this fellow who never heard from God in the first place. Amateurism has gone mad, gone wild. That's because we are not worshipers. Nobody who worships God is likely to do anything off beat or out of place. Nobody who is a true worshiper indeed is likely to give himself up to carnal and worldly religious projects.  
(*"The Chief End of Man," Sermon #4, Toronto, 1962*)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/11/7 1:54**

When I say we are suffering from a rash of amateurism, I mean that we like to have just everybody, anything, anyway worship. It can't be. You must prepare yourself to worship God. That preparation is not always a pleasant thing. There must be some revolutionary changes in your life. There must be some things destroyed in your life.  
(*"The Chief End of Man," Sermon #6, Toronto, 1962*)

**Re: AWT Entertainment - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/11/9 12:39**

Whoever will listen will hear the speaking Heaven. This is definitely not the hour when men take kindly to an exhortation to listen, for listening is not today a part of popular religion. We are at the opposite end of the pole from there. Religion has accepted the monstrous heresy that noise, size, activity and bluster make a man dear to God.

**Re: - posted by hredii (), on: 2004/11/17 2:06**

I was reading some of the excerpts of the book Lars posted and it interested me enough to purchase the book. "Tozer on Worship and Entertainment" I am not finished with the book yet. The reason for this post is that I just finished the chapter called "Entertainment: An Evangelical Heresy" And when I was reading it I remembered a lot of it from this thread. Anyway I was amazed by what Tozer had to say on the subject of entertainment. We as a church have been greatly Robbed. I was overwhelmed at what was said.

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/11/17 2:13**

Bless your heart. . .

You react the right way by buying the book and reading it as it is.

You react in the right manner by realising that we have been robbed.

I think we are reacting according to God's purposes and for the glory of the Lord if we begin to pray hard and protest distinctly against the robbery.

Lars

**Re: - posted by hredii (), on: 2004/11/17 2:14**

About a year ago I was at a fast-food establishment. I was able to talk to some old friends. When I got home to eat I put on The Jesus Movie. I was prompted by God to Pray for my old friends. I told God that I did not feel like it; watching a movie about you is good.

I deeply regret that choice. It has taut me a lot though.

May God help me.

And our church.

**Re: - posted by hredii (), on: 2004/11/17 2:25**

Lars,

What am I to do with this information about entertainment and its relation to the church?

I try to tell others and like Tozer said "To expose this, of course, raises a storm of angry protest among the people." (Success and the Christian, p.6)

I keep asking God to give me clarity and understanding to speak about this subject. God has done abundantly so. But I am asking for even more.

Most people in the church think I have gone off the deep-end in this and getting legalistic.

Your insight would be most edifying. Also how should I pray in regards to this?

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/11/17 2:43**

Dear Adam,

It must be a part of work of carrying a cross in this modern world;

To take their angry reactions when exposed by the ministry of interior which is Life given and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

To see them leave the Heavenly way, heading for the tables of delusion.

To be left lonely, and yet being a part of a company which is dear to the Lord.

It is certainly a glimpse of the horrendous grief of God.

It leads to a deeper commitment to Him who is Lord and our true joy.

It leads to a work carrying the reality of the Heavenly realm, and this is our true work – a confrontative work, a work and a battle without words and without provocations other than the inner reality.

The prayer:

Please, draw them to Your heart.

Please, revive love in this modern world in which dignity is lost.

Lars

**Re: - posted by hredii (), on: 2004/11/17 9:01**

Lars wrote

"It is certainly a glimpse of the horrendous grief of God.

It leads to a deeper commitment to Him who is Lord and our true joy.

It leads to a work carrying the reality of the Heavenly realm, and this is our true work – a confrontative work, a work and a battle without words and without provocations other than the inner reality."

Would you explain this a little further please?

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/11/17 9:23**

To begin to understand what we have done to the Christian faith and life by twisting it into theatre and spectacle is to come close to the heart of God to share His grief.

To begin to understand the contemporary cultural twist, adaptation and adjustment within the Church is to explore the necessity of the cross and to become a part of the priestly adventure to recover ground from the enemy.

If understanding grows, maturity will come and with maturity commitment and hard work in prayer and communion.

If communion intensifies the Heavenly reality will grow stronger within the saint. True saintliness will become an incontrovertible fact. The inner reality of spiritual togetherness with the Lord is in itself the contrast and provocation needed as an explanation why the Church system embraced and upheld is not valid as a testimony to the world.

The Cross is gone from our services, the confrontation is gone. The reason and need of repentance is gone because leadership as well as laity regards true fellowship obsolete and theatre and spectacle in its place.

Lars