



CFPC

THE DANGER OF THE GOLDEN COMPASS

[Comber Free Presbyterian Church] | Rev T. Murray

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

Psalm 53:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

On the 7th Dec. a new movie will be realised entitled **"The Golden Compass"** It is being advertised as "an exciting fantasy adventure" for children set in "a world where witches rule the northern skies, where ice bears are the bravest of warriors, and where every human is joined with an animal spirit who is as close to them as their own heart."

It is based on a book known as "The Northern Lights". It is the first of a trilogy of books called "His Dark Materials". It tells the story of an orphan called Lyra, who resides in Oxford's Jordan College. Children beginning to disappear she suspect a mysterious group called the "the Gobblers". It tells of her search to find them and it ends up with the killing of God.

The motivation for writing these books rose from Philip Pullman's hatred of C.S. Lewis' book "The Chronicles of Narnia". He is recorded as saying "I hate the Narnia books, and I hate them with a deep and bitter passion," He set out to write "the Northern Lights" or as it is known in USA "the Golden Compass" to counter the views of right and wrong as set forth by C.S. Lewis.

What makes the books more dangerous is that they are targeting children. In an interview for the Telegraph newspaper in 2002 he said "I wanted to reach everyone, and the best way I could do that was to write for children and hope that they'd tell their parents ... which is what happened,"

The indications are that the movie is toned down. In fact Terry Sanderson, president of the National Secular Society "It was clear right from the start that the makers of this film intended to take out the anti-religious elements of Pullman's book. In so doing they are losing the point of it". You might say, "Well what then is the harm in seeing the film". However, rather than making it less dangerous it actually makes it more dangerous. The danger is that parents taking their children to see the movie and thinking it is alright they will then buy their children, not only the first book but, all three books. As the books progress they become more and more offensive and atheistic. The film is like bait. It is out to catch children and to get them to buy the books.

Because the books are much more dangerous than the film I want to concentrate more upon the books. □Please consider -

1. THE MAN:

The author, Philip Pullman was born in Norwich in 1946 and has authored over 20 books. Although his grandfather was an Anglican minister he is a supporter of the **British Humanist Association** and an Honorary Associate of the **National Secular Society**. These organisations deny the existence of God. New Yorker journalist **Laura Miller** described him on 30th Oct 2007 as one of England's most outspoken atheists. In 2003 he along with over 40 academics, philosophers and scientist called for a new public holiday to be introduced on the 12th February known as "Darwin Day". He is a supporter of evolution and hails Darwin as "one of the greatest British scientists and thinkers that ever lived".

Just to give you an idea of the thinking of the man could I give you a few quotations.

- ❖ In Dark Matters he said, "My books are about killing God."
- ❖ Washington Post in February of 2001. "I am trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief,"
- ❖ The Guardian, 12th August 2002 as saying "I am all for the death Of God".
- ❖ He is even recorded as saying "I am of the Devil's party and I know it". (Tony Watkins, *Dark Matter*, p. 129.
- ❖ He told the Telegraph newspaper in 2002 "if there is a God and he is as the Christians describe him, then he deserves to be put down and rebelled against,"

He is engaged in a war to destroy Christianity. The Lord Jesus speaking in the Sermon on the Mount he said in **Matthew 7:18** "**A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit**". As the stream polluted at its source cannot bring forth clean water neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Philip Pullman's heart being atheistic it can produce nothing but atheistic views. His works are dedicated to the destroying of God. Sadly, Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury wants Pullman's "Dark Materials" to be taught as part of religious education in schools. What a contradiction he wants works that speak of killing God to be taught as part of religious education. It indicates how bankrupt the Anglican church really is. The Lord said **Matthew 12:30** "**He that is not with me is against me**".

2. THE MESSAGE:

Philip Pullman heart being against God his writings attacks the:

a) The Standards Of God: One of the problems with the book "The Northern Lights" or "The Golden Compass" (as it is known in America) is that it takes that which is good and presents it as evil and it takes that which is evil and presents it as good. For example it promotes the leaders in the Church as bad and witches as good. Sin is promoted as being beneficial. In fact, in the closing pages of the book, the heroine, Lyra, makes this shocking statement. She says, "**We thought Dust (Dust represent original sin) must be bad too, because they were grown-up and they said so. But what if it isn't? What if it's – Yeah! What if it (sin) is really good? If Dust (sin) were a good thing... What if it were to be sought and welcomed and cherished?**" It presents sin as something which is good and which is to be cherished.

In the third book, the main characters include two homosexual angels. Premarital sex between the two main teenage characters is encouraged and applauded. Dr. Malone is portrayed as opening the children's eyes to erotic love.

The promoting of evil as good and good as evil is not only deceitful but it is dangerous. Warning the people of his day the prophet said in **Isaiah 5:20** "**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**" It would bring down upon them the woe of God. Again, Solomon said **Proverbs 17:15** "**He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord**".

The justifying of wickedness is sin. It brings down the wrath of heaven. His books are a deliberate attempt to destroy the lines of demarcation between right and wrong. If the sins of Sodom grieved backslidden Lot surely such books should grieve our hearts.

b) The Son Of God: Balthamos, a rebel angel: "**The Authority, God, the Creator, the Lord, Yahweh, El, Adonai, the King, the Father, the Almighty— those were all names he gave himself. He was never the creator. He was an angel like ourselves—the first angel, true, the most powerful, but he was formed of Dust as we are.**" In these words he does not merely attacks the power of God as the great creator but he attacks the purity of God. Remember, dust represents original sin. In other words he is saying that God was made of sin. In this third and final novel, the two main characters Will and Lyra stumble upon God. He writes "**He was so old and he was terrified, crying like a baby and cowering away into the lowest corner. He must be so old - I've never seen anyone suffering like that**". God is represented as being old, infirmed and sinful. As far as Philip Pullman is concerned God is not the God of truth but a liar. His angels are not angels of light but the angels of darkness. Heaven is not a place of joy and freedom but a vast and drear prison camp where the dead are tormented.

The Lord Jesus Christ coming up into the temple he turning the tables upon the Pharisees and Herodians he asked them **Matthew 22:42** "**Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David**". Looking upon him merely as the son of David the Lord said he would make them his footstool. In other words he would place the whole weight of his wrath upon them.

What think ye of Christ? To allow your children to read these books is to tell them you think God is old, infirmed and sinful.

c) THE SAINTS OF GOD: □ A witch speaking to her fellow witches: "Let me tell you what is happening and who it is that we must fight. For there is a war coming. I don't know who will join with us, but I know whom we must fight. It is the Magisterium, the Church. For all its history...it's tried to suppress and control every natural impulse. And when it can't control them, it cuts them out... That is what the Church does, **and every church is the same:** control, destroy, obliterate every good feeling. So if a war comes, and the Church is on one side of it, we must be on the other." The Magisterium is the teaching body of the Catholic Church i.e. the pope and the bishops in communion with him. In that regard I have no argument with Pullman. Down through the centuries the Roman Catholic Church has been guilty of abuse. However, he goes on here to say, "Every church is the same". It portrays every church, even evangelical churches, as seeking to suppress and destroy peoples' lives.

However, the reality is that it is not the saints but Satan who suppresses and destroys men's lives. Enticing them he then enslaves them and then he damns them. Indeed, Legion beholding the Lord crossing over into Gadara he running to meet him we read *Mark 5:17* "and cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not". However, it was not the Lord who had chained him and caused him to wander aimlessly through the tombs night and day cutting and tearing his body. It was Satan. In contrast the Lord entering into this life he clothed him and put him in his right mind.

Rather than your friend the devil is your foe. He is out to destroy you and then to damn you. Think of his devices. Drugs, alcohol and immorality. What have they all in common? They destroy the body. Christ has come not to enslave you but to emancipate you. Do not believe the lie of Pullman. He makes life worth living.

3. THE MOTIVE:

In an interview in 2003 he said, "My books are about killing God" (Tony Watkins, *Dark Matter*, pp. 21 and 152). As a consequence the conservative British columnist Peter Hitchens labeled him, "The Most Dangerous Author in Britain" and described him as the writer "the atheists would have been praying for, if atheists prayed." In his 3rd book he portrays the children releasing God from a case and dissolving into the air. As well as killing God in his book he is seeking by his books and this film to destroy him in the hearts and minds of men.

However, the reality is that rather than destroying the Saviour he is merely destroying his own soul. The psalmist said *Psalms 53:1* "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God". Rather than referring to intellectual weakness the word "fool" here signifies the extinction of life. For example, using it in *Isaiah 28:1* the Lord said concerning Ephraim thy "glorious beauty is a fading flower". It literally means to fade or wither. When we bring these two meanings together we discover that in denying the Lord the fool was merely withering his own life and hastening death and judgement.

The denying of God's existence is a serious matter. It withers the soul hastening judgment. By denying God's existence you will never do away with God. All you do is wither and waste your own soul. However, God is a God of grace and although you in the past have been against him he is willing and able to save you. Ponder the following verses -

Admit your sin

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12)

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:10)

Turn from sin (repent).

Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5)

Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners. Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

Invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour.

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)