

## USE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS TO ASSESS THE MOVIES YOU WATCH!

I have not seen the film *Titanic*. However, the following assessment of it, entitled "*Titanic or Satanic*" is worth careful reading. Pastor Ronald Stelzer, a Pastor in New York, and published in Christian News, 23 Feb 1998, wrote it.

"The blockbuster movie ' *Titanic* ' is a masterpiece of satanic craftsmanship. Ostensibly about the huge luxury liner that hit an iceberg and sank in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic in April of 1912, it is in fact a subtle assault on the Law of God and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The historical event serves as a backdrop for a totally fictitious story promoting selfish autonomy and the 'god' of romantic feelings. Early in the movie the hero is established- a boy barely past adolescence, who very ingeniously, unselfishly, and courageously saves the life of the damsel in distress, who is about to take a suicidal leap into the ocean, because she doesn't want to marry a fiancé she doesn't love. This girl eventually survived the sinking ship, lived to a ripe old age, and sentimentally retails the story how this boy 'saved her in every way a girl can be saved.' His brand of salvation was leading her to ignore, despise, and reject her parents, cast aside all clothes, morals, and sexual inhibitions, lie, cheat, and betray her fiancé, and in general let whatever romantic feelings she has or yearns for be the sole guide for her life.

This is mockery of the Fourth Commandment: 'You shall honour your father and your mother.' The picture drawn of the girl's mother is negative in the extreme, whereas the boy hero is an orphan who has no parental influence or positive relationship with any older person. The subtle message to the movie-goer is that parental authority is tyrannical, parental guidance is unnecessary, and this yoke must be overthrown if one is to find true happiness, freedom, and salvation.

The Sixth Commandment, along with all sexual boundaries, is out, replaced by the hero's sole moral compass: 'Don't think... just feel it.' Shedding one's morals and clothing is a salvation experience, according to the movie.

The Seventh Commandment, with its command against stealing and its implicit encouragement to honest labour and financial responsibility, is also denigrated. The hero uses gambling to achieve his dreams. Neither he nor the girl he 'saves' has any experience of labour, or appreciation of it. Feeding the typical theme of class warfare, all who had money were portrayed as superficial and evil. The hero's preferred occupation was painting nude models wherever he could find them. In the end the sentimental old woman, living in luxury, accepts a free helicopter ride from someone who has spent enormous time, effort, and money to find a diamond amidst the wreckage of the *Titanic*. After telling her story she privately tosses the diamond she has concealed all along into the ocean, an offering to her saviour, whose remains lie in the ocean's depths.

This movie is a three-hour sermon, whose theme is that sin has no consequences. There is a totally unrealistic lack of awareness of what happens in real life to people who have no job, no care about family, and no sexual restraint. Such folks can typically expect to live a life marked by poverty, disease, squalor, woundedness, lovelessness and failure. But Hollywood hides all the consequences as it lures you into its godless beliefs and value system, just like Satan.

Today in America 82% of teens have had sexual relations by the age of 19. More than 600,000 teenage girls get pregnant each year, of which 90% are unmarried and 50% get abortions. Sexually transmitted diseases are epidemic and often incurable. Many wind up presenting their wedding partner with an incurable disease and psychological baggage that vitiates a joyful, fulfilling sex-life in marriage.

PG-13 does not mean that parents should decide whether or not their impressionable youth should see this film. It means that if they're going to see it, you had better go with them and point out what the movie leaves out, namely that: 1. Sin has consequences. 2. The godless hero is today and for ever in hell, and the heroine will soon join him. 3. The Earth is the 'Titanic', which is doomed to destruction, and we're all on it. 4. We all need a real Saviour, who alone in Jesus Christ.

Early in Genesis we are introduced to the serpent, Satan himself, who is 'more subtle' than any of God's other creatures. 'Subtle' comes from a Latin word originally meaning 'slender', 'fine', 'delicate' - qualities that attract, not repel. The word comes to mean 'artfully clever', 'highly skilled in craftsmanship', and so evolves to mean 'difficult to distinguish', 'deceptive', 'manipulative', 'treacherous', 'insidious', 'enticing but harmful', 'poisonous' and 'destructive', having a cumulative effect.

Satan is subtle. He disguises himself as an angel of light, whose lies and temptations are very seductively attractive and reasonable, but deadly. If Satan would always appear with scowl, horns, and a pitchfork with full disclosure of the consequences of sin, we should not be fooled. Instead, he comes subtle, like 'Titanic'. That's

Satanic.