

THE Biblical Worldview

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Building a Christian Civilization: Part VI

Setting the Agenda

Art is a reflection of life. Since we live in a world created by God and film producers are created in the image of God, we can expect all movies to reflect the divine image in some way. This is why non-Christian film makers can produce "Christian-like" movies. *Tender Mercies* and *Chariots of Fire* are two good contemporary examples of how fallen man yearns for absolutes, meaning, and triumph. Older movies are even more Christian-like in their outlook, without being explicitly so. A Biblical world view jumps out from nearly every frame of *San Francisco*, *Angel on My Shoulder*, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, and *Sergeant York*. Each film may have nothing to do with Christianity as a subject, but the chosen theme cannot be explained without a reliance on the Christian world view.

Movies can help us understand the fallen human condition as well because film-makers can only create within the context of their own natures. Fallen film-makers will always produce films that manifest their own fallenness and the fallenness of the world around them. Tremendous lessons therefore can be learned from movies. More often than not, the lessons are missed because our minds are not used to seeing things in wholes. As Francis Schaeffer wrote, we tend to see things in bits and pieces. But because the Christian has a world view grid (the Bible), he or she can see behind the scenes of any movie. The particulars can be grouped and organized to tell another story that the producer never had in mind. What applies to one particular situation in a movie's context can be seen as a general principle to be applied to other situations that are seemingly dissimilar.

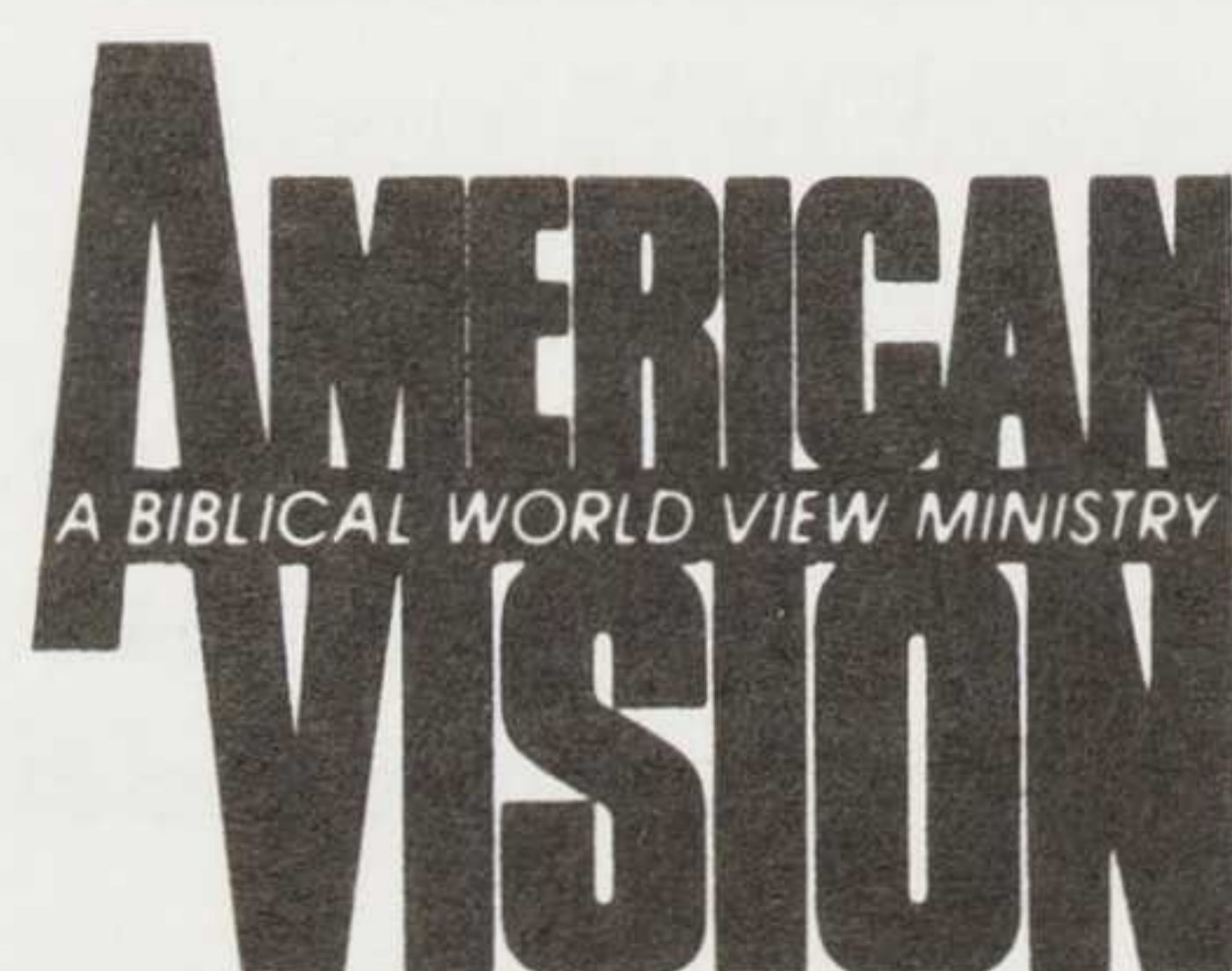
The movie *The Miracle Worker*, the story about Helen Keller, the blind, deaf, and mute girl who went on

to college to become a world-acclaimed speaker and writer, is one such movie. The stars were Patty Duke, who played the part of Helen and Ann Bancroft who played Helen's equally tenacious live-in instructor, Ann Sullivan. A scene that teaches a great lesson for the state of the church today is meal time at the Keller home in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

The Keller family has just sat down to eat. Helen is going from plate to plate feeling for scraps to shove into her mouth. This was Helen's usual eating habit. Ann Sullivan looks in astonishment to see this child acting like a dog that begs at her master's knee during supper. Helen was content with scraps. When Helen gets to Ann's plate, Ann refuses her begging. What follows is a battle of wills. Ann is determined to teach this handicapped human being what it means to live in the world with those who have the advantages of sight and sound. While Helen may be blind and deaf, she is still an heir of all that is within her potential to realize.

Content With Scraps

This scene reminded me of the state of Christianity today. Christians are fighting for the scraps that drop from the feast of Humanists. We're fighting for the scraps left behind as Humanists gorge themselves on the fruit of the land that was promised to Christians. For example, Christians are fighting to get prayer and Bible reading back in public (government) schools when they ought to be establishing schools of their own where in Jesus Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Just think of the generations of Christian young people who sit day in and day out in schools where the Bible is not even mentioned. At this point in time we can't even get a simple law passed that will allow a moment of silence in a public (government) school classroom. Is God trying to tell us something? Are we



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