

The Pastoral Staff has received an extraordinary number of requests for information on a movie entitled “The Golden Compass.”



It was just released in our area on Friday evening. Because of this, our research has been limited to multiple reviews from various sources. Here’s a summary of what we’ve found:

THE AUTHOR

The movie is based on a three-part series for children entitled “His Dark Materials” by English author Philip Pullman, an outspoken atheist. In various interviews Pullman has been very forthright about his belief that religion is a poison.

THE BOOKS

“His Dark Materials” is a trilogy. The anti-religious establishment themes get progressively stronger with each book. In the last book, the characters succeed in killing a character called God, who turns out to be a phony, and not God at all.

In an alternative universe where the characters travel, everyone has a spiritual alter-ego, or “daemon,” (Middle English spelling of “demon”) in animal form. On the official Web site for “The Golden Compass,” you can click on a box that allows you to meet your daemon. (For information only; please don’t do this).

THE MOVIE

According to reviews, the anti-God and anti-Church elements found in the books have been removed. “Church” is replaced with “Magisterium.” It is not known what future installments will hold. Various ones have voiced concern that the movie could be a launching point for buying and reading the trilogy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

First and foremost, it is a parent’s responsibility to review and determine what is appropriate for their children to view or to read. We recommend that you search the Web and glean what information you can. Evaluate the themes in the movie and the books through the truths in the Bible. You may want to read one or more of the books in order to come to your own convictions. And by all means, make Scripture the basis by which you evaluate.

Parents are the door to their young children’s minds, hearts and spirits. We strongly recommend that whenever possible, parents review all movies, television shows and books before exposing their children. At times, even the most innocent-appearing, child-friendly materials hold unwelcome and unwholesome surprises.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverbs 4:23