

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

"Time Changer" starring David Morin, Gavin McLeod, Hal Linden, 2002, PG, 95 minutes

Major themes:

- The Gospel
- The authority of Jesus Christ
- Truth
- Time Travel
- Ethics & Morality
- Discernment
- Sowing & Reaping

Major characters:

- Russell Carlisle
- Norris Anderson
- Dr. Wiseman
- The Dean
- Michelle Bain
- Eddie Martinez

Background info:

- The film setting begins in 1890. Here are some interesting statistics from that era:
 - Electric lighting, skyscrapers, automobiles, phonograph recordings, and drinking straws were in early stages of development.
 - Construction had recently begun on the Panama Canal.
 - The eruption of the Indonesian volcano Krakatoa had occurred a couple of years earlier.

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Scriptures:

John 14:6 (NIV) – *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

Matthew 7:13 – 14 (NLT) – *"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."*

Ephesians 5:10 – 14 (NLT) – *"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, 'Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.'"*

Romans 5:20 – 21 (NLT) – *"God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Luke 6:22 – 23 (The Message) – *"Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—skip like a lamb, if you like!—for even though they don't like it, I do . . . and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this."*

Galatians 6:7 – 8 (The Message) – *"Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to*

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life."

Mark 4:3 – 9 (NLT) – " 'Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!' Then he said, 'Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.' "

Ezekiel 37:2 – 6 (NIV) – ". . . I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD"' "

Hebrews 5:11 – 14 (NASB) – " Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB) – "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Discussion points:

1. When we realize we've become desensitized to elements of our own culture, how can we "re-sensitize" our hearts and minds?
2. The premise in Dr. Carlisle's original manuscript is, *"Even if it is apart from His name, and if people are rejecting the authority of Jesus Christ in their lives, we must still teach the ways of Christ for the better interest of society. The Lord's teachings are best for all."* Is morality a matter of opinion or is it based on who is the authority behind it? Who has the authority to establish moral standards?
3. Is truth absolute? (Are you absolutely sure your answer is true?) What is our obligation regarding truth? Why? What are some of the reasons we humans have a hard time hearing and accepting the truth?
4. *"Satan is not opposed to good morals; He is against Jesus Christ."* Discuss.
5. The Oxford dictionary begins to define "good" as *"to be desired or approved of."* How would you define "good"?
6. *"There must be a connection between the Lord and His teachings. We cannot separate the two."* Discuss.
7. When we realize that we've become numb, sleepy, or apathetic in some way, how can we wake ourselves up?