

# Opinions *and* Editorials

## Why Don't We Study the Bible?

by Tyler Greene

One of the great cries of the Reformers during the Protestant Reformation was Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone. Their battle was to reclaim the Word of God and to passionately believe and live every word of it. My greatest fear is that we, the descendants of the reformers have, to a great extent, lost this. Not because we don't believe the Bible, but rather because we don't know the Bible. We live in an age when Christians who have read the entire Bible are but a small minority.

The reformers fought to claim the Bible for everyone at a time when only the hierarchy of the church was allowed to own it. It seems odd to me that since we have the privilege to own the Scriptures, we do not study them. Before the Reformation,

Bibles were chained to pulpits by the church to keep them from the laity, but now the Scriptures are being kept from us, attached to our bookshelves by chains of neglect. Why is this?

I agree with theologian R.C. Sproul who says that it is due in part to two myths about the Scriptures: difficulty and dullness. First, he believes that many people think the Bible is too hard for the average person to understand. But, this is the very idea that Martin Luther fought the Catholic Church over. The Catholic Church was saying that if the common man had the Scripture that no good could come from it. But this is precisely the point that Luther was trying to make: the Scriptures' basic message was so clear that even the dullest

mind could understand it. Sproul writes, "This is not to say that all parts of the Bible are equally clear or that there are no difficult passages or sections to be found in it. Laymen unskilled in the ancient languages and the fine points of exegesis (interpreting Scripture) may have difficulty with parts of Scripture, but the essential content is clear enough to be understood easily."

The second myth is that the Bible is boring. I believe this is because we have so many things fighting for our affection. Things like T.V., movies, music, Internet, and video games fill our time. They provide us with entertainment that keeps us occupied for a while, and when compared with studying the Bible they are more entertaining. However, the

Bible contains something we all need that these other things don't: the very truth of God.

The Bible was not given to us by God as a divine form of entertainment (though I believe it is entertaining), but rather as his Word that gives us life. It alone contains the information that we need to know about who God is and what His will for us is. With such an important message how could any Christian possibly neglect the constant study of it?

In the next issue I would like to look at some reasons the Bible gives for the study of Scripture. Let me know what you are thinking; write me a response (approximately 100 words) at [greenbt@montreat.edu](mailto:greenbt@montreat.edu).



Theologia

### Sacra

In the next issue I would like to look at some reasons the Bible gives for the study of Scripture. Let me know what you are thinking; write me a response (approximately 100 words) at [greenbt@montreat.edu](mailto:greenbt@montreat.edu).

## Movie Review: *Matrix: Revolutions*

By Moriah Geer-Hardwick

Undeniably, the first *Matrix* was a work of genius. Brilliant special effects married in happy union to a well-written, innovative plot. The second one admittedly shook my confidence as a blind worshiper, and had me praying for a miracle in the third. Now, having seen the final installment of what has been called the "Star Wars of our generation," all I can think is, "Why, oh why, didn't I take the blue pill?"

In my opinion (untainted by such trivialities as humbleness), a good trilogy builds and ultimately completes a framework of theme, language, and image that exists inherently throughout all three parts. The Hollywood trend these days is to try to top the first successful film by exploiting whatever formula worked in the first place. Thus innovation is reduced to formulaic, and predictable, patterns. So you liked the kung fu fights between Neo and Agent Smith? Well, how about Neo fighting a million Agent Smiths! And you think big scary robots are cool? How about a million of those!

What was added into the second and third films that didn't seem to be in the first was the extensive use of blatant movie clichés. Like, why do good guys

have enough time to orate their own lengthy epitaphs as they die, while bad guys die without so much as a whimper? And how is it, after an impressive display of advanced combative technology, the fate of all humanity is decided with a drawn out kung fu battle, the likes of which have not been seen since "Dragon Ball Z"?

Not that the film was a complete waste of time. The special effects at least are enough to warrant the price of a movie ticket. The battle sequences were absolutely incredible. Watching swarms of hundreds of thousands of Sentinel robots attacking a handful of resisting humans is definitely an experience of epic proportions. Spectacular martial arts and brutal gunfights within the Matrix are enough to make any John Woo fanatic swoon.

My real dissatisfaction is

found in the story, or rather the lack thereof. It's not even the fact that the ending leaves the explanation of events rather vague. It's more that I felt annoyed that this last film didn't seem to take the adequate time to explore artistically the themes and elements of the story. Everything felt rushed and glossed over for the sake of superfluous eye-candy.

Finally, there is the obvious temptation to label this film as "Christian." Neo indeed seems to represent a noble Christ-figure, and there are undeniable faith driven messages. No doubt the entire religious community will be quick to jump on this bandwagon, holding up *Matrix: Revolutions* as a banner for their beliefs. I would recommend extreme caution with this, as there are also many obvious anti-Christian elements within the movie. For example, the equality

of Agent Smith and Neo, as well as the fact that one cannot exist without the other, is definitely a Buddhist principle. If Christianity wishes to remain effective in this day and age it would do best to take the innovative stand of not using pop-culture as a crutch for validity.

Final take: Not a bad Sci-fi flick, but uninteresting and annoyingly patronizing with its vague religious dogma. Watch it for the cool effects and impressive fight scenes, but don't go looking for a life changing, mind-altering experience. Really, because if this movie completes the meaning of existence for you, then you should volunteer for experimental medicine and save the life of some poor lab rat.

*Rated R for sci-fi violence and brief sexual content.*

### PROVERBS



Man who eat many prunes get good run for money.

The bigger they are the harder they fall.

This week's new poll is...

Do you support Lorem-Ipsum?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Indifferent

Submit answers to [Montreatpoll@hotmail.com](mailto:Montreatpoll@hotmail.com)  
Or drop responses in Box 839

Results will be printed in the next issue

December 12

**Black Mountain**  
Tire Connection

With Student ID Card:  
One free rotation & balance per 6 mo.

[wmcgee2631@aol.com](mailto:wmcgee2631@aol.com)

828.664.1300 117 Sutton Ave. Blk. Mtn 28711

CAR • VANS • TRUCKS • BOATS  
CLEAN • WASH • WAX

**The Detail Shop**

(828) 669-0199

George Thompson  
Owner

206 E. State Street  
Black Mountain, NC 28711