

TOPIC AND DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRAISES POTTER

Imari Scarbrough

Montreat's President Struble praised Generation Y's magical pop icon in his Opening Convocation address on Tuesday, August 23. Struble gave a speech entitled "Harry Potter: Good or Evil?," touching on a topic that, especially at a Christian college, is somewhat controversial.

While acknowledging theological debates about Harry Potter—such as the use of sorcery—Struble said that magic is used primarily as a literary device in the story. He compared Harry's "good" character and willingness to sacrifice to Christ, extolling Harry's virtues.

Struble said that the biblical analogy is very visible. He especially considered Harry's unselfish love for his friends, comrades and even enemies throughout the series, comparing it to the description of love in Corinthians 13.

For a generation that grew up with Star Wars, South Park, Family Guy and the Lord of the Rings, the Harry Potter series has a debatably significant place among the pop culture lineup defining Generation Y. Arguably centered in America's popular culture—as billions in total sales may suggest, according to TheNumbers.com—Harry is a household name, often regarded as either a childhood 'friend' or a antigodly sorcerer in many circles. Whether students agree or disagree with Struble's positive "despelling" of popularly-employed biblical criticism is irrelevant in its significance to their generation. As suggested by the total books, movies and other paraphernalia sales, whether students like it or not, J.K. Rowling seems to have worked her magic and firmly entrenched her fantastical creation in Generation Y's culture.



JOSHUA VAN DINE

I feel compelled to respond that I disagree with his view that because it's a good story, it is not evil to read.

-Harry Potter is detestable to the Lord because he practices sorcery, engages in witchcraft, and casts spells.

-Philippians 4:8 lists and encourages activities that please the Lord. Harry Potter has none of those attributes, therefore Harry Potter should not be a part of our lives.

-Harry Potter series was compared to the Gospel Message. The Gospel writers and Jesus would have seen Harry Potter for the evil it is. If there's any connection between the Harry Potter books and the Gospels, it's because J.K. Rowling has perverted it.

ENMANUAL MEDRANO

I feel compelled to address an opposing argument that the Harry Potter series is a work of the devil.

-God finds magic detestable, but what does that have to do with a fictional book series about a boy who fights the dark forces of magic? If Harry Potter is of the devil and detestable by God, I must say that God doesn't understand the concept of fun.

-Philippians 4:8- The love that Harry and his friends have with one another and the sacrifice that his mother made for him fits into that category.

-There is also no mention of situations that indicate Harry being a devil worshiper, except for the fact that he practices magic, like a lot of important characters in literature (i.e Merlin).