

THE BULWARK

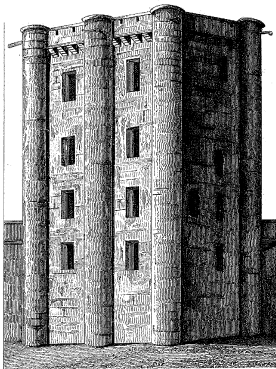
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Winnetka Ave. Church
Of Christ

7054 Winnetka Ave.
Winnetka, CA 91306

818.795.5566

- W. Bruce Evans,
Minister
- FREE Bible
Correspondence
Course
- In Home Bible Clas-
ses On Request
- Bible Based
Counseling
- Website:
winnetkachurchof
christ.com
- E-mail To:
wbe@wolfenet.com



*"Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following"*
Psalms 48:13

HMM...WATCH THE MOVIE OR READ THE BOOK?

Have you ever heard someone utter, "oh, the book was so much better" when contrasting a movie with the novel from which it was derived? That statement carries with it that at some point the book was read and the movie seen. Over the years I have been asked what I think of certain movies that were based on novels, but I really can't answer, even though I have knowledge of the story line. The reason being I more often than not have not seen the movie, but have read the book. A movie has a pace that is accelerated, while a book allows the reader the opportunity to linger. To be able to drink in the atmosphere, attitudes and even the drama brought forth on the pages. Translate that over to the reading of the Bible and the ability to become absorbed in what is being read.

The Bible is replete with stories of people not unlike us, who faced victories and defeats and everything in between. In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews there are nineteen people named as the "heroes of faith". *"By faith"* or *"through faith"* time and time again throughout the forty verses in the chapter. All of those mentioned in the chapter faced dire life circumstances, however, by faith they chose to obey God. Verse thirteen seems to encapsulate the tenor of the chapter. *"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and*

exiles on earth." (Hebrews 11:13)

Now herein is the beauty of reading, one doesn't have to rush through reading the Bible. Time can be taken, to contemplate the people and events in the text. We don't have to be caught up in limiting time due to

our self imposed frenetic life-style. Take the time and drink in what God lays out for us in His word. We can look and ponder deeply what drama took place in the lives of others and realize therein are lessons for us. *"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the*

ends of the ages have come." (1Corinthians 10:11, see also Romans 15:4, James 5:7-11) They serve as well as *"so great a cloud of witnesses that surround us"* and we would do well to embrace their stance and place our full faith and trust in God as did they.

The Bible has for centuries been informally referred to as "the Good Book". It came to have that designation by Christians who have developed a personal, intimate relationship with the truth found therein. Who wouldn't want to linger in God's word, not only does it present stories of faith and steadfastness; it also provides as Peter states it in his second epistle, *"seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness..."* (1:3) *"The word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."* (Psalms 119:105) Now who wouldn't want to linger long in the word? (wbe)

