

## ***“THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HARRY POTTER” IS A DIFFERENT GOSPEL***

**By Jan Markell**

The latest excursion into the devil’s territory is now available at theatres everywhere for holiday entertainment. Enter at your children’s risk. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* targets children ages 7-12, though it should be rated PG13. It’s “Witchcraft 401” not “101.” Harry himself has said in numerous interviews, “This is a very dark movie.” He’s being honest—more so than he is in the books and movies where he continually lies, cheats, steals, and more, and is often rewarded for it. But then author J.K. Rowling was also honest. She said that her intention was to write about evil and she wasn’t going to lie about that. Since the Bible says we are to abstain from every form of evil (I Thess. 5:22), I am baffled why Christians spend money on the books and movies, praise it, and even write books on its supposed virtues.

Sure, Harry is trying to overcome evil, but he does so by utilizing occultic practices. Thus, he is using evil to overcome evil and in the end, the winner is—you guessed it—evil!

Popular author Connie Neal has now written two books praising the “virtues” of Harry Potter. Her first was *What’s a Christian to Do With Harry Potter?* Her new book is titled, *The Gospel According To Harry Potter*. She states in the early pages of the new book that it was partly inspired by Potter expert Wendell Amstutz and me, as I featured them in a debate form a year ago on my radio show, Saturdays, 10 AM on AM980, KKMS in the Twin Cities. Amstutz stated then that he had found 64 occult practices or themes in Potter forbidden in the Bible. Neal had to trump that by finding 80 ways in which she found the gospel in Harry Potter. She claims the books and movies can be used for witnessing tools to children, and she says she has led kids to Christ this way.

She states in the book and many interviews, including one in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in early November, that “Almost every kid on the block knows the Potter stories. Like any good missionary, you learn the language of the culture; you don’t go and demand they learn yours.” With all that the Bible has to say about witchcraft, I simply cannot follow this logic. This may be the classic case of “evil called good” (Isaiah 5:4).

O.K., fasten your seatbelt and let me give you some examples of her philosophy and pop-theology. She says, “The story opens with Lord Voldemart throwing the curse of death to kill Harry’s father, but when he throws the curse at Harry, Harry’s mother jumps in front to take the curse of death and she dies. That’s the story of Jesus’ death for our sins.” Then she says, “He’s a wizard who went bad, (Lord Voldemart) worse than worse. That, in a nutshell, is the gospel message—that before the world began there was an angel who went bad, worse than worse.” It stretches credulity to think Rowling had these thoughts in mind. Pagan societies are leaping for joy at the new blood (no pun intended) they’ve gotten into their societies thanks to Potter.

Yes, we’re in an occult-saturated society, but are we now using the occult and its offshoots as evangelism tools? *Are we compromising that much just to meet the sick needs of our decaying culture?*

I have talked to Connie Neal for hours off the air at her home in California. I have no doubt she loves the Lord and is sincere. However, she is sincerely wrong. She clearly has a heart for kids, and she is a former youth pastor and mother of three pretty normal-sounding children. But to be honest, Connie has been deceived by the evil one and is peddling some dangerous stuff in her books and comments. The bottom line to those of us who understand the occult is that if Harry’s evil ways are perceived as cool by a whole generation of kids who are spiritually-illiterate, in over 140 languages, with book sales only rivaled by the Bible (thankfully), then some, though most certainly not all, are being lured into witchcraft.

**What would Jesus do with Harry Potter? Connie says He would turn the scenes into parables for children. I think He would weep for the children being fed occult-laced novels and movies, passed off as not only harmless, but as tools to lead kids into the Kingdom. The question is, which kingdom?**

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