



God's Not a Philosophy 150

Introduction pg.1

Summary of the philosophy theme pg.2

God's Not Dead – the movement pg.3

Jeffrey and the Newsboys pg.4

Jeffrey's girlfriend, Mina pg5

Humanist Reporter – Amy; Boyfriend – Marc, who is Mina's brother pg.5

Secretly Christian – Ayisha, Daughter of cruel Muslim man pg.6

Philosophy from Pastor Dave that is not Biblical pg.6

Relationships with and without faith in God: Relationships 1-5 pg.7

Topic of Christians going to secular re-education pg.9

The Institutions of Higher Education pg.9

The hidden heart behind a heart of unbelief pg.10

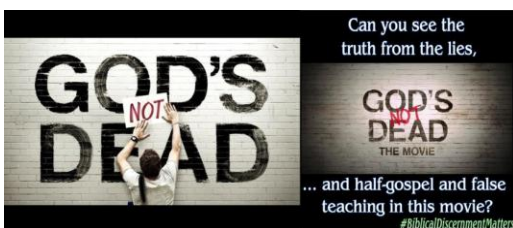
Josh's searching though not yet having a personal relationship with God pg.11

Being ready to give an answer for what you believe as displayed pg.11

The Gospel Proclamations of the film pg.12

God is not a Philosophy 150

As much as I would enjoy writing a movie review of **God's Not Dead** for you, it seems that I have gotten into more of a description of how an atheist will watch this movie. If you would like to read a movie review with the primary story lines and good analysis of some of the conversations and such, then you will appreciate my brother's review called "God's Not Dead – Movie 1 Review". We work together to produce 'Start@theWord' to encourage believers to learn any topic of life by starting from the Scriptures. We also write and record Christian music and lead worship together for fellow believers as 'Praise Offering'. You can find a link to Steven's Review here:



www.incpu.org/GND-movie1-review.pdf

www.incpu.org/GND-movie1-review.htm

When I first watched this film, it has a bold, loving Josh giving his best try at avoiding denying his faith. It has a gentle, good pastor Dave who we all love from old Christiano movies from our younger years, giving his wisdom to younger believers. It has the Newboys' strong lyrics to encourage believers to show God's love and share His message with whoever will receive it. It has three well-played atheist characters – Jeffrey, Marc, and Amy – two of whom come to faith in God during the course of the movie. And so I feel that it is important to share with you some of the view-point that I acquired by watching it a second time from an atheist mind-set, which I have studied for many years from back when I began to question everything about my faith as a teenager. That part of my journey is not anything I would have wanted. But it taught me why every Christian needs to work through with their own questions and learn to leave behind their own rebellious, sinful heart that will try to mislead you as you go through that process. It is so important for Christians to know why they put their entire life and obedience and heart in Jesus' keeping and set apart from the ways of this world; because then they can then understand the depths of the heart of an unbeliever who desires sin and ignores or despises the heart of God. This is how we learn to preach the gospel as Josh does in the movie – sort of... So I invite you to walk through this brief journey of the story of this movie with me as an atheist would. And I assume that you understand that an atheist does not have very positive things to say about God.

Summary of the philosophy theme

The movie – **God's Not Dead** – has some interesting commentary on the relationships between student and teacher, boyfriend and girlfriend, parent and young adult, and leaders and followers of American luke-warm Christianity. It also has some complicated parallels of these human-to-human relationships to the higher element of human-to-God relationships that I do not approve of, because I understand their effect on my friends who are atheists. To the atheist who is watching this movie, these parallels about God verify their view of God as a detached, abusive old theory. If you are not familiar with this, then to prove that this is what is going on, go listen to Professor Radisson say to Josh: "Do you think there's any argument that you can make that I won't have an answer for... Now I want to make this clear... in that classroom, there is a god: I'm him. I'm also a jealous god, so do not try to humiliate me in front of my students." He's giving harsh, bold, atheistic philosophy speaking directly to the Christians in the audience about how college professors behave. In short, this movie is packed with humanistic ideology and not just from the voices of the atheist roles as you would hope. The film is built around two statements – Professor Radisson's metaphor "**god is dead**" which he explains to mean that God never existed in the first place except in imagination; and the Newsboys concert and song title **God's Not Dead**, which is supposed to be a response to what is happening in colleges across America suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:17-32). What the producers of this film failed to mention is that with the

entire thought process from beginning to end, they are talking in the realm of theory and philosophy. So that when you give the phrase **"god is dead"** and its anti-thesis – **God's Not Dead** – you are still talking in the realm of philosophy by way of saying that the concept of God in society or culture is, in fact, not yet dead or past its usefulness to mankind.

If you understand this humanistic philosophy that the movie is built on, it will be much easier for you to understand why your friend who is a scoffer or atheist will be using this movie to explain and excuse their unbelief in or disgust for God. We realize that most genuine followers of Christ are unsure about what I just said, because it is such an opposite view-point of the same movie to the extent that it seems impossible. But I plead with you for the sake of the gospel and for the sake of the souls of your very friends – please listen to this difficult philosophy enough to understand their heart. You will discover that these are more common beliefs around you than you wish. And you will discover things about your own relationship with God that you never thought about, and you will help to turn a sinner from the error of his ways by stopping their use of this movie as an excuse to hate the detached, abusive God that the movie suggests.

God's Not Dead – the movement

We at FEDBP, usually avoid the hype of new movements, because they usually are intended to replace preaching of the gospel and also avoid focusing on the root causes of the heart. They are sometimes not in agreement with God's heart at all, and yet they become widely popular with Christians. This movement built around the theme **"God's Not Dead"** is somewhere in the middle. However, we noticed that they intend to build a second part of the movement on **April 1st 2016**. So we decided to work on the confusion included in **God's Not Dead 1**, so we can work on **God's Not Dead 2** after it comes out. It is interesting that it will be released one week after American Christianity has celebrated the death of our Lord as a criminal/martyr to accomplish our salvation from our sins. There is a reason for this date of release. The reason that we are concerned about **God's Not Dead 2** is that it begins to suggest that followers of Christ are eager to break laws, offend unbelievers by forming political protests, and are even happy about being considered lawless for the sake of Christ and the gospel. This premise is completely in contradiction to Jesus' heart on the matter. We should not be preempting secular government's interest in dissolving Christianity by use of our own strategies and prideful assertions of our influence on secular cultures and governments. The proper response is found in the following words of Jesus, and then we will proceed to talk about the philosophy of the death of God.

Jesus' words in **Matthew 10:19-28** "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause

them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My Name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of His household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both their soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:19-28

So we have some commentary to offer about God's Not Dead on three topics:

- 1) Because it has a primary intent of showing that people are convinced by evidence or experts to be converted to faith in the existence of a "God", which by the way, is not equivalent to faith in God's Son and His redemption. We live in the time after Christ has appeared to all mankind as Mediator between God and men.
- 2) There are many troubling stereotypes along with a secondary intent to convince Christian youth to go re-educate themselves at college, as my own brother and I also were pressured when we were younger to go to college because people felt that we needed a different form of education after having been **home-schooled**.
- 3) There are dozens of underlying humanistic messages that help atheists to further their disrespect for God. But I plan to only address a few of the most painful attacks against God's heart, because many Christians have not studied atheist ideology enough to recognize some of them and I am limited by time/space. I certainly didn't notice some of them on the first showing of the film and couldn't work through their reasoning until I gave more careful attention to them.

List of concerns about the script's effect on the heart of an atheist:

Jeffrey and the Newsboys

These philosophical tendencies betray at least one scoffer among the writers of this script. Here are some examples that cause me concern: I have serious questions about the writers of this film choosing to have God's wrath with thunder, lightning, rain, and a weird hit-and-run accident against the primary atheist while there is a preacher in the car next to him (not to protect him but) ready to go talk to him in three minutes before he dies as if God had to set this up to bully Jeffrey into believing in Him. This event is followed immediately by the lyrical imagery of God roaring like a lion and is preceded by the lyrical imagery of the prophet-like Newsboys calling to make way for the Kingdom on earth which includes the lyric "burn away everything that's not for you... we won't stop until your heavens come down, we won't stop

until every knee bows to You. And all our hearts will sing: make a way for the King". He lost his class, his life's work, his understanding of the world, his girlfriend, his reputation with his fellow professors, and then he dies in a freak accident with Christians gloating over his defeat within the span of two weeks – now that is tragic and makes you want to question the heart of whatever Christian hates atheists this badly. In addition, the film directors have the admissions guy describe atheists this way when he says to Josh: "Think: Roman coliseum, lions, and people cheering for your death." The students weren't cheering for his death, and even the Professor allowed him to present his views to the class. The movie also suggests as a psychology caveat that Jeffrey just has detachment issues – as shown by his being scared of dying, his refusal of Mina's breaking up with him, and his anger against God for losing his Mom when he was twelve years old – to explain why he hasn't believed in God.

Jeffrey's girlfriend, Mina

It is offensive that they play Jeffrey's girlfriend Mina as though she has the same supposed weakness of mind that her mother has with dementia? And they definitely played her as being overly-stressed about her mother's loss of mind to the point of not being able to move on with her life. Why would they have Jeffrey describe that she used to quote her mother and Emily Dickinson (which is a harsh and tragic commentary), and Spongebob "with equal self-confidence"? When she says that she feels that they are unequally yoked, every atheist is definitely agreeing that they are unequal in intelligence as verified by the next situation with the Merlot being cooked in her trunk and the fact that she is acting as a servant to Jeffrey at his party rather than being his partner and best friend at the party. It seems to have been written as an accidental insult, when Jeffrey quotes Socrates and thereby suggests that she doesn't think well enough to purchase and store a bottle of wine. But how would Jeffrey accidentally belittle someone's intelligence unless he actually believes that it is true; but to verify that statement contradicts the fact that Jeffrey does actually know God and hates Him. So in summary of Mina – as Jeffrey said to Josh from the atheist point of view – the mind-virus of Christianity seemed to rise up again into her thoughts while she is already weak and distressed about her mother's health.

Humanist Reporter – Amy; Boyfriend – Marc, who is Mina's brother

One of the other prominent humanists, Amy, throws a weird temper-tantrum like a child when she finally realizes that she might actually die. It's as if that is the first time that she ever thought about God – as though God never even tried to teach her, and now she feels abandoned and is depressed. So from the atheist point of view – suddenly God, if He exists, is the only one left who could possibly care about her as she is dying. This is one of the primary ways that atheists believe a person comes to Christ – they are depressed and afraid, therefore they turn to an imaginative friend who can be adapted to fill the need, unlike normal humans who are not so abstract. Notice also that there is a complex philosophical meaning to her relationship with Marc who is also anti-God. Notice also that both Marc and Jeffrey roles are played by

Kevin Sorbo and Dean Cain who are former super-heroes Superman and Hercules from the '90s. Again this is from an atheist perspective – he acts as if everything is about him and won't even give her directions if he doesn't get some benefit of ego-power, which is literally the exact same opinion that atheists have about our God. Then at the dinner, in spite of noticing her distress, he insists on telling his good news first being that he has just become a full partner (thinking of Jesus sitting next to God after his resurrection – and yes, atheists really do think this way) and when her human frailty (thinking of sinful nature) – which she has no ability to control – gets in the way, he doesn't care about her anymore. It's like whoever wrote this part of the script is basically asking – is our relationship with God a contract negotiation that can be broken or is it love; and if it is love, why does God not care that we are dying and instead He just walks away from us as Marc does from Amy? That is definitely from the perspective of an atheist or scoffer, whoever put this in the film.

Secretly Christian – Ayisha, Daughter of cruel Muslim man

It is also really messed up that they seem to (accidentally?) parallel God also with Ayisha's dad who is Muslim (again, from the atheist mind-set). Please compare the two quotes here. When he picks her up from school, he says to Ayisha, "I know it's hard, living in a world and being apart from it... a world you can see but can't touch... We must never forget who and what we are; that is the most important thing." Then while he is slapping her around, trying to control her mind and her life and force her to acknowledge his god, and then rejects her as useless to be abandoned on the street, they are playing these lyrics sung by Tricia that are eerily similar to the dad's words from before: What I know is You, my God, are real, no matter how I feel... And through it all, I've got to hold to what I know. Gonna hold to what I know. What I know. What I know.

Philosophy from Pastor Dave that is not Biblical

It is tragic that Pastor Dave and Willie Robertson both suggest the need to acknowledge God because they are afraid of God rejecting them according to the passages of Scripture that they both quote. Is that really why we preach the gospel and talk about our relationship with God? That doesn't describe my faith and love for God. It is concerning to me that Pastor Dave is lazy about his pastoral work, rather than looking for ministry, and even gets angry with Christians going to worship God at the end saying to the missionary, "I can't believe this, the car actually starts, and now we're being done in by believers... Please, no more words of wisdom... MOVE!" (as he angrily honks his horn). He gives psychology advice to Mina that I could not give, talking about generating her self-worth internally, rather than looking for approval from someone outside herself, at which point, many atheists will undoubtedly insert God alongside Jeffrey as people outside herself that she should not look to for her self-worth. And why is he quoting the psychologist cinderella complex to begin with? Then to make it worse, she says: "don't most people do that"? And he responds: "Yeah, a lot of people do, sure. But using romance to shore up self-image is an unstable foundation". After that,

does he literally just switch to suggesting that she should look to Jesus to be the right person to care about her and that she means everything to Him? Atheists do notice the hypocrisy of quoting secular psychology and then trying to pull Jesus out of your psychology statement. Just after that, he literally says "to the point where God's only Son would willingly be crucified again for you, just you, if that's what was necessary." That would not be correct, Biblically. God says: "It is impossible... if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." **Hebrews 6:4-6** At another place in the film, Pastor Dave also passively agrees with Josh that God was out at the moment, saying: "Well... maybe that's why He sent me." (thinking of Elijah taunting the prophets of Baal about their god who can not hear nor speak nor act). From the atheist point of view – if your God is imaginary, that would explain why Josh can't seem to hear from Him and has to hear from the pastor. It is sad that Josh does not actually have a relationship with God which I will prove more thoroughly in moment. But just to start as evidence – the fact that he can not hear God talking to him, does not seem to love Jesus' death and resurrection enough to mention the gospel to the philosophy students or to Martin or to the Professor or to his girlfriend as she is thinking about breaking up with him over his God, and the fact that Josh was willing to put God on trial for the atheists while not even using Christ's own words to defend the truth, but instead quotes human "experts". Now, I do understand that he is young in the faith and also a young man still. But you almost have to not know God to do these things.

Relationships with and without faith in God

There is one thing about someone who preaches the gospel and their way of life guided by the Holy Spirit of God inside of them to be able to obey the truth that causes division in families and relationships. Some of this division is explained in this film to good effect. However, the writers of **God's Not Dead** have actually removed the gospel as the barrier in the relationships except in the case of Ayisha and her dad who were Muslim. Instead they have inserted the very existence of a "god" as being the obstacle in relationships. I will deal with this more shortly, but there is not even one human on the planet that does not know that our Creator will also be our Judge. Atheists and unbelievers have to willfully choose to deny and suppress the truth; it is not a human instinct to ignore God. This is a grievous distortion to play against Christians and people who are searching out their faith in America. Let's take a look at five of the relationships in the movie – the good and the bad.

Relationship 1: Josh finds out the hard way that his girlfriend – who is three years older and smarter but chooses to go to her third choice school to stay with him – does not have belief in the existence of a "god". Josh clearly does not understand what is going on around him, but he does love and trust with a good heart. His girlfriend Kara uses her best manipulative, caressing attention and outright demands to convince him to stay with her plan for his life, even using the imaginary existence of a "god" who "wants you with me,

so it's the same answer". She says that he should sign the stupid paper saying that **"god is dead"**, and several other statements that prove that she was using God as a manipulation tactic because (it is suggested that) she is so much smarter than he is – according to the atheist's point of view. They end up breaking up after six years of dating. How is it possible that he did not understand the conflict in the previous six years?

Relationship 2: Jeffrey Radisson is played as a dangerously angry professor of philosophy who forces his atheism on everyone, but seems to be passive with Josh for some reason, even allowing him to give lectures to the class. His girlfriend Mina, however, gets the brunt of his attacks in a very personal way. Mina, who boldly proclaims her belief in the existence of a "god", somehow came through his class with an A- grade. He then risked his career to charm her and they have been dating for years now. They manage to avoid talking about God, which would suggest that she really doesn't know what she believes. However, because of her mother dying of dementia who asks her why she is not married, she begins to think about God more and also to rethink about being unequally yoked with him, which doesn't make any sense since they are clearly not married and it is unclear whether they are living together. Finally, his abuse, insults, and degrading her lack of intelligence forces her to leave him. So she announces to him in front of fellow professors and his students that she is leaving him.

Relationship 3: Marc is an arrogant, selfish, heartless man. It's not a bad match for an arrogant, conniving, leftist reporter named Amy. However, her heart begins to change when she realizes she is about to die, while he maintains his firm grip on his life's ambitions and ditches her even while knowing that she has cancer. This is not really caused by belief in God's existence, but rather by rebellious hearts hurting each other. It is a good ending to the relationship for her sake though.

Relationship 4: Ayisha comes to belief in the existence of a different God or seemingly even of faith in Christ's sacrifice and resurrection (I say seemingly, because she questions her entire faith to Pastor Dave, wondering if it's all a big mistake. I would hope that someone in her position of life would firm up their faith quickly). Her father is an oppressive Muslim man who can only love her through his hardened heart of rebellion in loving his false god. So he demands that she follow his dictates, not knowing that she has been hiding her interest in Jesus for a year. She is discovered listening to a sermon of Franklin Graham from the Scriptures and is beaten and kicked out of the family. This happens all over the world in many different forms; it is very common for a family to reject a family member who comes to faith in Christ or belief in the existence of a different God or gods. **Luke 12:51-53** records Jesus' words: "Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter

against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." **Luke 12:51-53**

Relationship 5: Martin is an exchange student in the U.S. while his dad lives in People's Republic of China. They talk briefly on the phone and his dad tells him that if the professor says there is no God, then that should settle the matter. Martin however discovers that there are other experts who state that some form of theistic "god" does exist, so he ends up agreeing with Josh's side of the debate – namely, the existence of a "god" (Jesus is never proclaimed; only generic and broad theism). In the process, he remembers a woman who secretly helped the Christians and they worshipped God. This recollection angers his dad who tells him that they will never speak of this again, because it could cause the Chinese government to keep his other son from going to the U.S. to get an education. We do not get to see the rest of this family conflict because they are in two different countries.

Topic of Christians going to secular re-education

My next concern is that the entire movie suggests that Christians can go to college or university without having their faith undermined or tested in any significant way, as long as they enter it with some level of desire to retain their faith. This couldn't be further from the truth. The establishments of higher education are designed to subtly break and rebuild what you think you have learned from your family and your first years of playing at reality. In **God's Not Dead**, they establish some very inaccurate stereotypes. They have a rather weak professor who allows Josh to give 60 minutes of lecture without significant criticism, who allows Josh to use his podium and then feels that his authority is undermined by the result, who makes open threats and looms large over Josh in very obvious fashion which betrays his own uncertainty. Then the professor ends up admitting outrage against God rather than the usual atheist position of indifference and passive authority and expert knowledge. What world do they live in where no one (meaning students) thinks about God and therefore have no problems writing the philosophical statement **"God is dead"** regarding the concept of God being past its usefulness or cultural relevancy? When has there ever been an entire room of unbelievers (only two are still sitting) who decide to reverse their opinion and claim that a "god" does exist and risk their grade? What professor openly threatens to use his bias to hinder the student's career path, but then walks off in defeat at the end when the entire class disagrees with his philosophy? It's as if Josh became the philosophy professor. Is he now going to continue with humanistic philosophy or will he proclaim Jesus Christ and turn the class into a church? It is so unrealistic that it is painful.

The Institutions of Higher Education

Higher education does not work this way. There are networks of friendship built to keep a system of ideology progressing in the country. If that foundation of thought conflicts with your Scriptural world-view, you do not get to be the new teacher. The professor just comes back with more confidence and other experts, and they don't really let you speak. To a

college student, the barrage of "facts" from multiple disciplines of science, sociology, religions, history, literature, mathematics, finance/business, etc are overwhelming to every single student that sits under these professors who appear to have the exclusive knowledge from the experts in each field. Even in a "Christian" college, the attacks against faith are subversive and almost unavoidable. They are just not obvious so that no one feels that their beliefs are threatened. It's the exact same atmosphere in secular colleges. Every student gets a mindful of questions and mis-guided perceptions crammed into very short spaces of time, with resulting grades and their entire future hanging in the balance to make sure there is enough pressure to make them absorb the provided world-view as much as possible. On top of that, most young people are in a time of rebellion and self-exploration and pride that opens their heart to all sorts of evil pursuits. It seems that this movie is intended to promote this indoctrination of our young people. We cannot recommend strongly enough to just study the Scriptures for yourself, and learn secular knowledge and how to work with your hands only as needed and as God directs. Seek His kingdom and righteousness, first and all of this wisdom will be added to you by the relationship with His Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves apart from the snares and fears of people's opinions in this social structure called higher education.

The hidden heart behind a heart of unbelief

Now that we've talked about the professor/university problem, let's talk about how to make an argument for proving God's existence. They have played Jeffrey Radisson as a moral and caring individual who is a good person who passively "knows" that there is no god. They did the same with reporter Amy; she loves animals, she loves people, she even loves her neglectful boyfriend who only cares about himself. This movie intentionally changed the fact that real people who are like Jeffrey, Amy, and every single one of those philosophy students all really have the same evil heart as Marc; they are just varied in how determined they are about the details. But unbelievers certainly are not passive about their choices and the knowledge that they need to reject God in order to allow themselves to choose sins in whatever way they want. This is why you do not put God on trial. It is scoffers and mockers who put God on trial, not a Christian. We should not agree that God is on trial, because we know that it will be the professor and the students who will be on trial. There is not a single human who does not know their Creator. And every single human even in the furthest corner of the earth knows that God will judge them. Their conscience bears witness and all of creation explains His power and unity in righteous, orderly care for us. The reason these producers have built the story this way is to make it seem that most people are ignorant of the truth and therefore just need a preacher. American culture is so dishonest about this. Every single person knows enough to be able to look into the gospel and ask God for the truth and get saved very easily whether they have been inundated by American Christianity or live in the jungles of East Asia and have never heard the gospel. The reason pseudo-Christian leaders are presenting this view of unbelievers is to cover their own lack of obedience that gets uncovered from

time to time. To avoid these truths is to agree with liars, which is why they had to write the story with Josh reverting to quoting so-called “experts”, rather than quoting the Expert from His Word – the Scriptures. He does quote **Genesis 1:20** which had a good result.

Josh’s searching though not yet having a personal relationship with God

Let’s talk about something more personal – lack of obedient faith in American believers. Josh’s mannerisms and questions show that he does not yet know God. He does not recognize God’s voice. Even when he is at the church to specifically block out the world and hear God speak to him, he still can not hear God talking to him. He doesn’t know God’s Word and instead has a C.S. Lewis quote that keeps reminding him that he needs to test himself to find out if he even has faith in God. It is shocking that the producers edit out all of the negative consequences and persecution that a true follower of Christ would experience when they start preaching about God, with the one exception being that he lost his manipulative girlfriend. Even his relationship with her is superficial and he should not have been accepting of her caressing and flirting. How did he not know during six years of dating her that she despises Christ unless it is because he himself does not have a relationship with the Holy Spirit of God up to that point in his life. His presentation does not show much love for Christ’s sacrifice for sins which he never talks about. When he talks to Martin, he casually admits that he doesn’t know why he wants to honor God, but that he thinks of Jesus as a friend and that he wouldn’t want to disappoint Him. That is not the same as saying, “Jesus is my friend” which would have been a lie. He says, “[To me, God’s not dead. He’s alive.](#)” Jesus is alive or He is not alive. It is not subject to personal opinion (“to me”) or to philosophical debate. But again, if he does not know God, then he has to make it subjective so as not to offend or make a statement that he cannot stand behind. What about: “[I wouldn’t want to disappoint Him.](#)” Disappoint Him how? By denying His existence entirely? Or by agreeing that Jesus died and pretending that He never rose back to life? Or by agreeing that God is no longer a relevant philosophy in society? Which equation would even seem like a possible accurate statement? How is “**God’s Not Dead**” a suitable response to any of these? Why do they have Josh use the phrase “[academic suicide](#)” twice, and then also have Professor Radisson use the phrase “[academic suicide](#)”?

I would like to discuss two more very important topics: being ready to give an answer for what you believe as displayed, and the gospel proclamations of the film.

Being ready to give an answer for what you believe as displayed

Let’s look at the **advice** that Pastor Dave gives Josh, the defense that Willie Robertson gives Amy for praying to Jesus on his show, and Michael Tait’s reply to Amy’s question at the end. David White’s advice was that if Josh will not acknowledge God in the classroom, God will deny him, and that because he is given this opportunity, much will be required of him. It is interesting that Josh skips the first half of **Luke 12:48** when he reads it. Go look up

Luke 12:48. They even showed the entire verse right there on the screen but he somehow knew to skip the first part. Are Christians in the habit of skipping parts of verses that they do not want to read? **Luke 12:48** reads Jesus' words: "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Does Willie think that by acknowledging Jesus and praying on his TV charades/show, that this somehow obligates God to accept him as His son? That is a terrible misuse of Jesus' words. Why does Michael say that God is more real than we are because He has existed longer than we have? How does length of existence make you more real? Again why is he giving a "To us, they are as real" subjective opinion? The entire movie is written in philosophy as I described at the start of this report. That is the only way to explain the disaster of thoughts that were given to us as though they are a strong defense of faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus is barely mentioned in actual conversations. Okay, let's look at the use of the gospel in the movie.

The Gospel Proclamations of the film

There are several attempts at this: Franklin Graham sermon on 1 Corinthians 15 to Ayisha listening, Pastor David to Professor Radisson, Newsboys to Amy Ryan, Willie Robertson to Amy Ryan interview, Josh Wheaton to Martin, Willie Robertson's challenge to send text messages.

Franklin Graham: "1 Corinthians says you're saved. That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. If you believe this in your heart. If you accept this by faith you see, God will forgive you, He'll cleanse you and He'll set you free." Sermon from Franklin Graham – 1 Corinthians 15. Why is Franklin saying that anyone is saved; how can he know that over audio recording? Where is the need to repent from those sins, as opposed to just wanting Jesus to remove the consequences? No one wants the painful consequences of our sinful decisions, but most people also don't really want to be saved from sin. Faith in Jesus Christ is not recognition of the fact that he died, was buried, and rose again. This is false teaching.

Conversation between Jeffrey Radisson and Pastor David after Jeffrey had his ribs crushed and is within short moments of death -

Radisson: I can't die. I'm not ready. **David:** Do you know Jesus? **Radisson:** I'm an atheist. **David:** I believe it's God's mercy that brought me here right now. **Radisson:** I'm dying. What is... how can you call that mercy? **David:** Because that car could have killed you instantly. And I'm sure right now you probably wish that it did. But I'm here to tell you that it's a gift, because the God that you don't believe in has given you another chance... another chance to change your final answer. **Radisson:** I want to die, but I'm so scared. **David:** Well if it's any consolation, so was Jesus. So scared He sweat blood. He asked the Father if He could remove it from Him. But the answer was "no". **Radisson:** he says "no" a lot. **David:** He gives us the answer we'd ask

for if we knew what He knows. **Radisson:** As far as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than Your ways, and My thoughts are higher than your thoughts, says the Lord. **David:** Exactly. So the question is... Stay with me... stay with me... Are you willing to put your faith in Jesus Christ? Are you willing to take that chance? **Radisson:** Yes **David:** God is willing to forgive you of your sins... all of them, if you accept His Son and ask Him into your life. That's all you have to do is accept His Son, accept His love, receive His forgiveness right now. Do you accept Him as Lord and Savior? **Radisson:** Yes, I accept Him. **David:** It's all right, in a few minutes your going to know more about God than I do, or anybody else here does. It's okay. It's okay.

Then Professor Radisson dies... with David looking over him. The accident is not a gift from God. And David did the exact same thing that Franklin Graham did. There is no repentance required, just acknowledgment. Jesus sweat blood because of fear of rejecting the Father's will and disobeying which He did not want to do. And it so distressed Him, that He would rather be that strained but not commit a sin, especially one so great. Look at **Hebrews 12:4** in order to understand this. God does not say "No" a lot; rather He does not look at outward appearance to make decisions. He knows how to talk to people's hearts as their own special person. He also knows when we are about to make a mistake that we will regret and that will affect the work of the truth. It seems that the atheist humbles himself, but it also seems that he is just quoting what was drilled into his brain as a child. How can David say: "Are you willing to take that chance?" Faith in Jesus is not a risk we take; it is an understanding we come to by humbling our heart and admitting our own sin, which David failed to deal with. It's no wonder he got confusing results. He then does the same outrageous claim that Franklin did – claiming to know that Jeffrey is now saved and going to heaven.

Michael Tait's prayer for Amy Ryan: "Dear God, we don't know your plan for Amy, Lord. Lord, we're asking that you would save her tonight, Lord. Change her, cleanse her, giver her fresh start, Lord. Let her know that she's loved. And more importantly, that's she's loved by You, the Master of the Universe. Giver her strength for the journey ahead, Lord. And let her know, speak to her, that You're going to be with her every step of the way. We pray this Jesus, in Your Holy Name. Amen." Once again, this is clearly not a gospel explanation or call for repentance or anything of the sort.

Why does Willie say: "Jesus, now that's eternal... whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge before the Father in Heaven; whoever disowns Me, I will disown him to the Father. Now those words are written in red, so they're important... C'mon, let's go do some acknowledging." There are so many things to say here. Why doesn't he say "He's eternal" or "life with Jesus, now that's eternal" or something? Why did they choose to be so blurry with those words? Why is he afraid of being disowned and therefore goes to do some acknowledging in the church and invites the atheist to aspire to the same? Why does he say those words are in red – red ink? Does

he not know that the atheist would see written in red as written in blood? That was not a gospel presentation and sounds more like fear-mongering, which Willie knows because he deals with media and talks to atheists and scoffers every day of his life.

Martin decides to become a Christian, based on what gospel? **Martin** says, "Your decision to prove God is not dead has affected me greatly! **Josh:** I'm glad. **Martin:** Yes, and it has changed everything! I have decided to follow Jesus. **Josh:** That's great, Martin! Hey... you know what? You've gotta check this out..." Now it is possible that Martin read the entire life of Jesus in his own private time, but the way they wrote this makes it seem that a mere debate about the existence of a "god" can bring about faith in Jesus for salvation from our sins.

And finally, let's look at what **Willie Robertson** had to say to the Newsboys audience. Now it's time to mass-produce the gospel message they have created in the movie:

"Hey, I'm Willie Robertson, speaking on behalf of the Robertson family. Me and the gang wanted to let you know: we've heard in the news that there's been a bit of a squabble down there on campus. One of your professors insisted that God is dead. **(crowd booing)** Well, I'm happy to announce that the reports of God's death were exaggerated. **(crowd cheering)** Now let me ask you a question: Have you got your cell phones on you? Good, all right, now while this next song is playing, I want every one of you to go to your contacts and click on everybody you know and text them three simple words: **God's Not Dead**. And there's ten thousand of you out there, and everyone knows about a hundred people. That's a million messages right there. A million times, we're going to tell Jesus that we love Him in the next three minutes. **Tait:** And for the young man, who took up the gauntlet to defend God's honor – and you know who you are – I can only imagine, the smile you put on God's face. This one goes out to you. (Song – **God's Not Dead**)

First of all, Willie and Tait are working together to spread their just-acknowledge-god kind of gospel. **Secondly**, how is Willie a representative to God to have to tell everyone that the report of God's death is not true. To an atheist hearing this, it's because everything Christians do is led by manipulative greedy leaders like Willie and Tait because their imaginary god is not able to speak at all. Well, I think they're pretty accurate on their assessment of Willie and Tait, but they are not correct about other followers of Christ who know God's voice and do not have to hear confirmation of the existence of God from anyone. **Third**, how is mass-producing the phrase "**God's Not Dead**" a gospel message or a message of love to God?? I already showed the meaning of this phrase above, and it clearly does not prove that we love Jesus and His sacrifice.

To you, the reader:

But I trust, that if you are still reading this, that you truly do love God's work of love in dying on the cross only once for all of us when He shed drops of blood resisting the temptation to run and hide and even forgave all those who crucified Him so that they could be released from the curse of death. It is that heart that we should teach to others, because He has given us His same Spirit inside of us that bears witness to the truth and teaches us the ways of Jesus. Jesus is the one foundation that can not be replaced, and we should be careful how we build on it. And some preach Christ out of contention and pride, but let all of us preach the gospel because we actually understand and love the hearts of our rebellious friends knowing that they are trying to choose destruction for themselves. Even while they are sinners, we teach them that Christ died for them, because God was willing to die for them while they hated Him. God causes His blessings to come on the just and the unjust, and to the good and the evil heart. Let us give freely what God has first given to us – the message of reconciliation that we preach in which we are God's ambassadors pleading with them: Be reconciled to God! With love in our Lord Jesus - Paul

*** ** ***

We hope you will check out Steven's analysis on the 'God's Not Dead' Storyline: The Professor and the Student, and their Creator.



www.incpu.org/GND-movie1-review.pdf

www.incpu.org/GND-movie1-review.htm

*To find our video teachings and music,
Start@TheWord YouTube page:

www.youtube.com/Start@TheWord

*** ** ***

And you can find a digital copy of this report you just read, here at this link:



www.incpu.org/Gods-Not-a-Philosophy150.pdf

www.incpu.org/Gods-Not-a-Philosophy150.htm