POTTER, TOLKIEN & LIFE'S MEANING

1. Although there will always be some Christians who seem pre-occupied with the reality of evil, Christians for the most part leave it alone. That is in many respects a healthy attitude.

2. But its negative side is that Christian preaching and teaching tend only to deal with the good and evil briefly and annually when Ephesians 6 crops up as a reading! This is not good enough.

3. Folk are hungry for some 'map' of reality; they want to know where they fit in; whether they matter; whether they are at the mercy of forces beyond their control; what makes sense of the stark evil that the media records daily. They want to know what's what; who or what is in charge of it; and whether hope is realistic.

4. It is more than co-incidence, surely, that when the average level of fear is so high, that folk are flocking to read/see fictional attempts to explain the good versus evil tension. Life tells us it is real. We need to understand it.

5. The Christian turns not to fiction, but to history and to God's revelation within it, culminating in the Cross & Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scripture understands it. Today's wider knowledge has merely clouded earlier insights which need to be recovered.

6. The Christian view is dramatic enough: …*the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* [II Corinthians 4:4]

7. Christ commissioned Paul thus –

'I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of their sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' [Acts 26:18]

8. We need to recover the reality of the Evil, not only to stop ourselves getting enmeshed, but to begin to free those to whom we offer the Gospel. Perhaps like St. Paul himself, we first need the scales to fall from our own eyes. [Acts 9:18]

[See also among my main article:

Evangelism – the Spiritual Key.]