

Cross Current



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3-DEVOTION



Even if you're the most casual observer of movie culture, it's pretty easy for the hottest new trend in cinema to jump out at you. 3-D films are back, but bigger, bolder and better than ever.

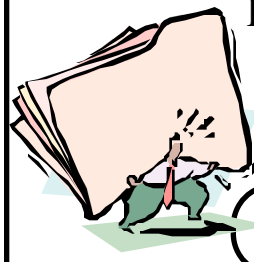
Just a novelty in the 1950s, 3-D was pretty rough and rudimentary when used in movies such as the Vincent Price horror flick *House of Wax* and Alfred Hitchcock's classic *Dial M For Murder*. Since then the format has undergone drastic improvements, thanks especially to digital technology.

According to TIME magazine, the first movies shot and shown with digital 3-D hardware were the 2008 hits *Fly Me to the Moon* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth* which featured "zooming yo-yos, flying fish and skittering bugs".

But ten more 3-D movies are already in production, even though they're almost 30 per cent more expensive to make. That's because they can't be duplicated and audiences pay more for the experience.

As explained by TIME, 3-D movies are made by shooting pictures from two vantage points: one representing the left eye, the other the right eye. When the images are synchronized and viewed through glasses that let each eye see only its own movie, "the two films create the illusion of depth." Though perfect synchronization was virtually impossible in the past, the digital format has fixed that problem and eliminated the headaches and nausea some moviegoers used to get while using their 3-D glasses.

But the new flicks are only effective when seen on super-size



Life weighing you down?
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to being on your knees!

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screens and only a thousand exist in the U.S., with even fewer in other countries. That will soon change, especially as companies like IMAX convert conventional movies into 3-D to give them a fuller, more dramatic effect.

At this point, the cumbersome glasses are still necessary, but they give viewers a whole new experience as the story leaps off the screen, immersing the audience in the action and creating a closer bond. Still, as 3-D pioneers point out, bells and whistles are no substitute for a strong, compelling story that engages the heart, mind and soul.

The same holds true in life. Genuine satisfaction and significance come of living in a way that fully engages our emotions, intellect and spirituality. And for that we need a unique perspective, something akin to 3-D for the soul.

That's achieved by looking at life from two vantage points: first and foremost through the lens of God's commands about love, service and redemption found in Jesus Christ and — secondarily — through the filter of our own unique giftedness, our ability to think, feel and decide. When those two perspectives are brought into complete synchronization — when the essence of who we are is in harmony with God's will, seen through his Word, life takes on a richness and fullness like never before. Only it's real, not just an illusion of depth.

As long as we remain out of sync with God, we'll stay upset and unsettled because we're designed to be spiritual beings. That's why we must choose Divinity over distraction, Discovery over disbelief, and Discipline over disillusion. Once we do, we begin to live life on the big screen where everything is seen against the sweep of eternity. We get a bold new perspective and become more than passive viewers of our own story. Instead, we're fully engaged and involved in what's going on all around us.

That 3-D trio of Divinity, Discovery and Discipline costs us more than the price paid by those content to settle for the safe and conventional. But it's worth it, especially since the purpose and peace of mind we find in Christ can't be duplicated. So actively look for God through prayer and by developing a sense of his presence; be open to what He has in store for you; and get in sync by bringing your attitudes and actions into line with his will. When it comes to joy and contentment, that's just the ticket.

Rick Gamble