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**Life Changing Works – Selected by BCS Faculty, Staff and Board Members**

This past October, I was made aware of a project entitled, “Life Changing Works,” through Seattle Pacific University. This project asked faculty and staff to submit works of literature, film, music and visual arts that have played a significant role in their individual lives. The results were then compiled, and in turn, shared with faculty and staff, as well as those within the larger SPU family.

In early January, I asked BCS faculty and staff to submit their “Life Changing Works.” We did not include the obvious – the Bible. Only works of literature, music or film mentioned more than once are included in this compilation. All works of Visual Arts are listed. Works are listed according to the number of times they were nominated (those mentioned an equal number of times are ordered alphabetically by author).

As a new year begins, I hope you will use this list to guide your reading, viewing of films, paintings, and sculpture, and choice of music. Take time to consider how these works have been, and are being used, to speak of the human condition and God’s activity in and through humanity. Let these works move you. Be shaped by them. Take in the messages reflected in these works. And be changed by them.

Some of these works are painful – reminding us that we live in a fallen world. Some of these works are majestic – reminding us of God’s creative wonder. And some of these works are healing – reminding us of God’s redemptive nature in and through humanity. All of these works are of enormous importance, and worthy of your attention and time.

May you see God in new, life-changing ways, through these works,

*Ron Taylor*

**Most Frequently Mentioned Works**

*Mere Christianity* – C.S. Lewis – 10  
*The Messiah* – George Friedrich Handel – 9  
*It is Well With My Soul* – Horatio Gates Spafford – 4  
*It’s a Wonderful Life* – directed by Frank Capra - 4  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee – 4  
*My Utmost for His Highest* – Oswald Chambers – 5  
*The Purpose Driven Life* – Rick Warren – 5  
*What’s So Amazing About Grace?* – Philip Yancey – 5

**Most Frequently Mentioned  
Authors and Artists**

C.S. Lewis – 28  
George Friedrich Handel – 9  
Philip Yancey – 8  
Oswald Chambers – 6  
Rembrandt – 5  
Rick Warren – 5  
Frank Capra – 4  
Harper Lee – 4  
Frances Schaefer – 4  
J.R. Tolkien – 4  
Horatio Gates Spafford – 4  
Ludwig van Beethoven – 3  
Johannes Brahms – 3  
Parker Palmer – 3  
Jerry Sittser – 3

**Life Changing Literature  
(Including: Poetry, Theology, Philosophy,  
Drama and Oratory)**

*Mere Christianity* – C.S. Lewis  
*My Utmost for His Highest* – Oswald Chambers  
*The Purpose Driven Life* – Rick Warren  
*What’s So Amazing About Grace?* – Philip Yancey  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee  
*The Chronicles of Narnia* – C.S. Lewis  
*The Lord of the Rings* – J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Great Divorce* – C.S. Lewis  
*The Screwtape Letters* – C.S. Lewis  
*Blue Like Jazz* – Donald Miller  
*A Grace Disguised* – Jerry Sittser  
*Velvet Elvis* – Rob Bell  
*Orthodoxy* – G.K. Chesterton  
*I Have a Dream* – speech by Martin Luther King, Jr.  
*John Adams* – David McCullough  
*The Seven Storey Mountain* – Thomas Merton  
*Knowing God* – J.I. Packer  
*The Courage to Teach* – Parker Palmer  
*The God Who is There* – Frances Schaefer  
*The Pursuit of God* – A.W. Tozer  
*Transforming Vision* – Walsh & Middleton

**Life Changing Films**

*It’s a Wonderful Life* – directed by Frank Capra  
*Shawshank Redemption* – directed by Frank Darabont  
*The Passion of the Christ* – directed by Mel Gibson  
*Fiddler on the Roof* – directed by Norman Jewison  
*The Sound of Music* – directed by Robert Wise  
*Hotel Rwanda* – directed by Terry George  
*Schindler’s List* – directed by Steven Spielberg

## Life Changing Visual Arts

(Including Painting, Sculpture, & Architecture)

Sistine Chapel Ceiling- *The Last Judgment* – painted by Michelangelo  
*Adoration of the Shepherds* – painting by Rembrandt  
Arizona War Memorial at Pearl Harbor  
*Buddhist Monks Burning Themselves in Saigon – 1963* – photo by Tim Page  
*Deposition from the Cross* – painting by Rembrandt  
Eiffel Tower – architecture by Stephen Sauvestre  
*Forgiven* – painting by Thomas Blackshear  
God’s Creation – the Creator!  
*Return of the Prodigal Son* – painting by Rembrandt  
Roman Coliseum – architecture  
Statue of Liberty – Frederic Auguste Bartholdi  
*The Ascension of Christ* – painting by Rembrandt  
*The Elevation of the Cross* – painting by Rembrandt  
*The Pilgrim of the Cross at the End of His Journey* – painting by Thomas Cole  
*The Pilgrim of the World at the End of His Journey* – painting by Thomas Cole  
*Vietnam Napalm Attack of Nine Year Old Girl Fleeing Her Village* - photo by Nick Ut

## Life Changing Music

*Messiah* – George Friedrich Handel  
*It is Well With My Soul* – Horatio G. Spafford and Phillip P. Bliss  
*Amazing Grace* – John Newton  
*Be Thou My Vision* – Ancient Irish hymn  
*The Book of Psalms for Singing* – Crown & Covenant Publications  
*Ninth Symphony* – Ludwig van Beethoven  
*Great is Thy Faithfulness* – Thomas Chisholm and William Runyan  
*There is a Redeemer* – Melody Green  
*In Christ Alone* – Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

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