



# Useless Beauty: Ecclesiastes through the Lens of Contemporary Film

*Robert K. Johnston*

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How should Christians relate to the difficult and contradictory messages of modern movies? In *Useless Beauty*, Robert K. Johnston presents the bold position that films can be our "eyeglasses and hearing aids" in understanding the Book of Ecclesiastes. Taking up movies such as *American Beauty*, *Magnolia*, and *About Schmidt*, he addresses such biblical issues as life and death, chance and choice, loneliness and connection, and God's presence and absence to deepen our understanding of life's beauty amid its confusion and pain. Christian filmgoers, pastors, and youth leaders will find Johnston's book a valuable source of insight into the relationship between Christianity and popular culture.

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