



A PASSION FOR THE PASSION FILM!

March 2004

You no doubt have heard about the Hollywood film, *The Passion*, by Mel Gibson. It has been acclaimed by just about everyone who is someone that goes by the name of Christian. The film covers Jesus' trials, crucifixion and resurrection. However, extra-biblical scenes are obvious such as Jesus being knocked down and thrown off a bridge while being escorted to the high priest's home. After He is beaten, Mary wipes up His blood on her hands and knees and then she helps Him walk on the way to the cross. Gibson says his inspiration for what Jesus looked like came from the Shroud of Turin. Gibson said some inspiration and information for the film came from Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824) a German nun who supposedly had the stigmata wounds and Mary of Agreda (1602-1665), a Catholic nun who was given to trances and claimed her spirit left her body on occasions. Gibson is an old line Catholic who says anyone not in the Roman Catholic Church will go to hell. He has his own Catholic chapel near his home in California. Jim Caviezei, who portrays Christ, is the same and he claims to have a piece of the cross. He carried it and other relics each day of filming and prayed the rosary daily. He stated: "This film is something that I believe was made by Mary for her Son." His goal is "to bring mankind back together."

The film should do extremely well considering those who have endorsed it. Of course, the Pope thought it was excellent. After a private showing, Billy Graham praised it. Rick Warren's Saddleback Church purchased 18,000 tickets. After showing part of it to a Full Gospel Businessmen's convention, Gibson received a standing ovation. Robert Schuller said, "It's not your dream, this is God's dream. He gave it to you..." It is recommended by James Dobson and Don Hodel of Focus on the Family and by Ted Haggard, President of the National Association of Evangelicals. Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee said, "I don't know of anything since the Billy Graham crusades that has the potential of touching so many lives. It's like the Lord laid in our lap something that could be a catalyst for spiritual awakening in our nation." The American Tract Society's website said: "One of the Greatest Opportunities for Evangelism in 2000 years." Paul Harvey stated: "The Passion' evoked more deep reflection, sorrow and emotional reaction within me than anything since my wedding, my ordination or the birth of my children. Frankly, I will never be the same."

This is ecumenism with a vengeance. Frankly, I am no longer surprised at what the New Evangelicals endorse or cooperate with. God's Word says, "**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.**" ~*I Timothy 4:1*. People who think that practicing Roman Catholics, those who believe in the mass, Mary worship, etc., are saved and can be worked with, are deluded. Yet, that is what the majority of Evangelicals believe. Speaking of the harlot church of Revelation 17, yes, the Roman Catholic Church, God unequivocally says, "**...Come out of her my people...**" ~*Revelation 18:4*. Yet these people rush headlong into the arms of Satan's counterfeit! "**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**"

CORNERSTONE NEWS

SUNRISE SERVICE

APRIL 11 ~ 6:30 AM.

"He is risen"
Special Music
Full Breakfast



A great way to remember the resurrection of our Lord! Bring the family! Invite a friend! Full course breakfast afterward, so you can stay for Sunday School (9:30) and the Morning Service (10:45).

PLEASE NOTE

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE!

JULY 11-16

RESERVE THE DATES! MORE INFO LATER!

HE HONORED GOD! One Saturday evening, Her Majesty Queen Victoria arrived unexpectedly at Osborne House where she occasionally stayed. The next day was of course, the Lord's Day but the local tradesmen, with one exception, came to Osborne House and presented their cards requesting some business. On Monday, the Queen looked over the cards and asked, "Are all the tradesmen's cards here?" "No, your Majesty, there is one man, a grocer, who refused to send his card because it was Sunday." Immediately the Queen replied, "I am very thankful there is one man who honors God above his business. I will give him my order." The Bible says God honors those that honor Him. You may not always get an immediate response, but you can be sure God keeps His Word. He said, **"...if any man serve me, him will my Father honor."**

PROMOTE THE KORAN BUT NOT THE BIBLE.

WorldNetDaily, 11/14/03 reported that since October 27th, the Koran has been on public display in the lobby of the New York City Police Dep't headquarters building. It said, "The display is featured near the Hall of Heroes and is placed in front of the official police seal." This is appalling when one considers how the Ten Commandments and every other public display having anything to do with the God of the Bible and Jesus Christ is being ruled out of public life. Until 9/11/01, it is doubtful if one in 100 could identify the Koran.

YOUTH CORNER

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DEVOTION TO GOD.

C. H. Spurgeon said: "I have, during the past year, received forty or fifty children into Church membership. Among those I have had at any time to exclude from church fellowship, out of a church of 2,700 members, I have never had to exclude a single one who was received as a child. Teachers and superintendents should not merely believe in the possibility of early conversion but in the frequency of it." Christian parents, S.S. teachers, etc., should not just wait for "nature to take its course," but should constantly seek to lead children to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. We dare not assume that because they are present every week and have heard the Gospel many times that they are saved. Of course, children should be taught about baptism and Church membership. Jesus said, **"Suffer the little children to come unto me..."**

WHERE MOST CHRISTIANS WALK TODAY! The plain truth is most Christians today are walking in the middle of the road - not hot, not cold, just lukewarm. I read a poem that says it rather well:

*To every man there openeth a way.
And the high soul climbs the high way;
And the low soul gropes the low.
And in between, on the misty flats,
the rest drift to and fro.*

Young person, are you going to follow the low, worldly majority, or the live in the "misty flats," or will you take the high road with the Lord. It's a narrow road, but it's the right road and the only road where you can walk with God. I know the odds are against you for the majority of Christians and Bible believing churches are not going that way. They are walking in the "misty flats" of compromise with the world. But you could be like Daniel who **"purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..."** or like Joshua who said, **"As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."** I promise you, a worldly Christian life is neither happy nor fruitful!

BOOZE - THE POISONED SCOURGE! Drink has drained more blood, hung more crepe, sold more homes, plunged more people into bankruptcy, armed more villains, slain more children, snapped more wedding rings, defiled more innocence, blinded more eyes, twisted more limbs, dethroned more reason, wrecked more manhood, dishonored more womanhood, broken more hearts, blasted more lives, driven more to suicide, and dug more graves than any other poisoned scourge that ever swept its death-dealing waves across the world. ~Evangeline Booth. *You better believe it!*

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

ANOTHER CRAZY JUDICIAL RULING! A former lesbian, who converted to Christianity, has appealed a judge's order prohibiting her from teaching her 6-year-old daughter that homosexuality is wrong. Denver physician Cheryl Clark left a homosexual relationship in 2000. Judge John Coughlin wanted to make sure "there is nothing in the religious upbringing (of her child) that can be considered homophobic." Her former companion, Elsey McLeod, was awarded joint custody of the child, who is Clark's daughter by adoption. Clark's lawyer said, "The mother is a Christian and that's a major part of her lifestyle." If the ruling goes against Clark, it could have nationwide consequences.

GLOBALISM ON THE FRONT BURNER! The world needs a "new international order" to solve its conflicts and ensure peace, Pope John Paul said in his New Year's Day address. "More than ever we need a new international order which draws on the experiences and results of the United Nations," the 83-year-old pontiff said at a mass in St. Peter's Basilica. "An order which is capable of finding solutions to today's problems, based on the dignity of human beings, on integrating all society, on solidarity between rich and poor countries, on the sharing of resources and the extraordinary results of scientific and technological progress," he said. -*TBC This Week* (1/16/04). Ed. What experiences of the U.N. would lead anyone to think that it is able to solve the world's problems or bring peace. I doubt there ever has been a more flawed organization. Did you notice the goal is socialism? One is reminded of the Harlot (Roman Church) and the Beast of Revelation 17.

FUNDAMENTALISM - GREATEST ENEMY! The *Calvary Contender* (10/03) stated: "Catholicos Aram I was moderator of the recent World Council of Churches' Central Committee meeting in Geneva. It is the WCC's main governing body. Aram is concerned that inter-religious dialogue is not given high enough priority in the WCC's ecumenical witness. He said co-existence of religions is becoming shaky, and said fundamentalism is 'the greatest enemy of religion and the most dangerous force of our times...' [8/26 *PCUSA News*]. He added: 'Overcoming fundamentalism is an urgent and top priority for all religions.'" Ed. This should not surprise us, since they accept whatever one believes, it is all right as long as you don't try to convert anybody; as long as you keep it to yourself. We've said it before, you can believe what you want as long as you don't say anybody else is wrong! We're fast approaching the day when the men will be divided from the boys.

SOMETHING WE ALREADY KNEW! Fossils *all over the world* show evidence of a rapid burial. (italics mine). Many fossils, such as fossilized jellyfish, show by the detail of their soft, fleshy portions that they were buried rapidly, before they could decay. Normally, dead animals and plants quickly decompose. Many other animals, buried in mass graves and in twisted and contorted positions, suggest rapid burials over large areas. These observations, together with the occurrence of compressed fossils and fossils that cut across two or more layers of rock, are strong evidence that the sediments encasing the fossils were deposited rapidly - not over hundreds of millions of years. Almost all sediments were sorted by water. The worldwide fossil record is evidence of rapid death and burial of animal and plant life by a worldwide, catastrophic flood. ~*In the Beginning*, Brown, 7th ed. 2001. Via *TBC*.

STANLEY'S STANCE ON FEMALE PASTORS. Popular Bible teacher and former Southern Baptist president, Dr. Charles Stanley ridicules the SBC's mandate that wives should submit to their husbands and he doesn't support its ban on female pastors (10/30 *Ala. Bapt.*). He said he was led to Christ by a quiet female evangelist, not by a fiery female pastor (see 7/15/00 *CC*) and added, "You just can't draw the line and say, 'You can't do so-and-so.'" [Note: After a Texas paper reported that Stanley "disagrees" with the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message, he told Baptist Press (11/6 *Ala. Bapt.*) that he is "absolutely" supportive of the B F&M and its stance on the role of women, but thinks a clarifying amendment was needed. He makes a distinction between "pastor" and "preacher," saying the latter can be a woman]. *Calvary Contender*, 12/03. Ed. God draws lots of lines saying you can or cannot do something! Like most of the popular preachers today, Stanley is a law unto himself. He believes what he wants to believe in the Bible, but feels free to contradict God's Word when it suits his purpose.

FAITH HEALERS ARE QUACKS! The *Dateline* program on NBC asked Benny Hinn's ministry to provide confirmation of the 56 cases of healing that were claimed at one of his crusades. Hinn's people came up with only 5 cases of what they called "irrefutable and medically proven miracles." When *Dateline* researched these five cases, it found that only one of the people involved could provide medical records, and her doctor suspected that the woman never had the Lou Gehrig's disease she claimed to have been healed of. -*TBC This Week #51*. Still, many follow their pernicious ways.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR HEAVEN

In John 3:3, Jesus said, **“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.”** He reiterated it in v.7: **“Ye must be born again.”** The Bible is clear that **“There is none righteous, no not one.”** **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done...”** **“Not of works lest any man should boast.”** I am amazed at how many I speak with who think they are good enough to get to Heaven. One evening several of us were going back to our cars after going door-to-door witnessing. A young lady on the other side of the street said, “What are you guys doing?” I went over and engaged her in conversation. I showed her a tract which we use on Visitation. The title is: *“Why Should God Let You Into Heaven?”* I said, “What is your answer to that question.” She said, “Because I am a good person.” I shared the above Scriptures with her. I once read of an Evangelist who preached on these lines and afterwards a young doctor came and said, “I believe I am good enough for Heaven. I have always lived a good moral life. I am better than some of your born again Christians.” The Evangelist said, “It is not a matter of how good you are but a matter of regeneration. Salvation is a state or condition. Suppose we were in the state of Colorado. One man may be on Pike’s Peak at 14,000 feet; another may be at 2000 ft. above sea level, the lowest point, and another in a mine 3000 ft. below the surface. All are at different altitudes, yet all are in the state of Colorado. Salvation is matter of being in the state of regeneration. It doesn’t matter how good you think you are, if you are not born again, regenerated, you cannot **‘see the Kingdom of God!’**” Jesus said **“Ye must be born again,”** and that’s all there is to it! Have you been born again, regenerated? If not, you’ll not see Heaven. Repent of your sins and ask Christ to save you. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”**

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TRUST AND TRY

That man has done, man can do; and what has never been may be. Plowmen have become gentlemen and tailors have sprouted into members of Parliament. Tuck up your shirtsleeves, young hopeful, and go at it. Believe in God, stick to hard work, and see if the mountains are not moved. Don't wait for helpers. Try those two old friends, your strong arms... Every man must carry his own sack to the mill. You must put your own shoulder to the wheel and keep it there, for there are plenty of ruts in the road... Don't look to others but trust in God and keep your powder dry...As for the place you are cast in, don't find fault with that. You need not be a horse because you were born in a stable. As to a little trouble, who expects to find cherries without stones, or roses without thorns? He who would win must learn to bear. The dog in the kennel barks at the fleas; the hunting dog does not know they are there... “Times are bad,” they say; yes, and if you go gaping about times always will be bad. Many do not get on because they do not have the pluck to get right on in earnest. They who set stout heart against a stiff hill will climb it yet...If young men would deny themselves, work hard, and save in their early days, they need not keep their noses to the grindstone all their lives, as many have to do. If you would do good in the world, the little word “Try” comes in again. There are plenty ways of serving God, and some that will fit you exactly as a key fits a lock. Don’t hold back because you can't preach in St. Paul's; be content to talk to one or two in a cottage. Very good wheat grows in little fields. Little pigeons can carry great messages. Even a little dog can bark at a thief, wake up the master, and save the house. A spark is fire. A sentence of truth has heaven in it. Do what you do right thoroughly, pray over it heartily, and leave the results with God. ~C. H. Spurgeon in *The Baptist Vision*.