

His passion was YOU!

By now the movie "The Passion of the Christ" is so well known in America and around the world and even many of Arab countries.

The movie also was known as a controversial and anti-semitic movie by the liberal media who always have been painting the Israeli as the ones who love to attack the poor homeless Philistine people in Gaza and Lebanon, even though the Philistines are the ones who cause so many death with their homicidal bombings in the Middle East. The truth of the matter is that Jesus was a Jew and it is not the Israelis who killed Jesus. Yes, to be exact they accused Him with many false charges, but it was the Roman soldiers who crucified Him. So, if I must be against somebody who killed my Savior, I should be against Italians and should stop eating pasta. That is a hogwash.

What is the real reason for so much attack against this movie? Certainly, Hollywood have made many lame religious movies before. Nobody cared. Some of the Hollywood producers claimed that this movie has so much violence that it is not fit to watch. Aren't they the same people who produced the movies such as 'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,' 'Freddy vs. Jason,' 'Friday the 13th' and all those bloody and gory horror movies? Yes, they are and they are hypocrites.

Mel Gibson is a much-sought-after-movie star. Whenever he made movies, the movie distributors would lined up to take his movies, because they knew that his movies bring some serious money into their pockets. What was the reason everyone in the media and Hollywood was against this film? It was not that they all concerned about how much violence coming to American movie viewers. It was not that all of sudden they care about Israeli people. Because they could care less if the nation of Israel banished from the face of the earth.

It was all about Jesus becoming known to the general public as the Savior and the real reason why He had to die for the humankind.

If you believe that there is God, then you must also believe that there is satan who will do anything to distract and hinder you from believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God Himself and the Savior of this dying world.

Many people would ask these following questions regarding the identification and authenticity of Jesus Christ:

Question 1) WHO IS THIS JESUS? IS HE REALLY THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD?

As we look over the pages of history, it's interesting to read the statements that have been made about Christ. Pontius Pilate said, "I find no fault in Him." Napoleon said, "I know men, and Jesus was no mere man." Strauss, the German rationalist, said, "Jesus was the highest model of religion." The French atheist, Renan, said, "He was the greatest among the sons of men." Theodore Parker said, "Jesus Christ was a youth with God in His heart." Robert Owen said, "He is the irreproachable one." Yet all of these titles and descriptions fall short of identifying Jesus for who He really was: the Son of God, God in human form, the Messiah.

Many today would describe Jesus as a great moral teacher. But in his book, 'Mere Christianity', C. S. Lewis responds to such a statement by saying that if this were the case, then Jesus was either a lunatic or a devil. He goes on to say, "Let us not come

with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

We don't have the option of saying that Jesus was a great moral teacher. How could He merely be a teacher and say the things He said with His exclusive claims of divinity? And what about saying He was the only way to God the Father? Certainly that would be deception if it were not true.

So, Jesus really leaves us only two choices: to either accept Him, believing that He is indeed God the Son, or to reject Him all together. But to say He was a great man or a religious man is simply not an option.

Question 2) WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT TORTURE AND DEATH ON THE CROSS?

I read an article about this movie "The Passion of the Christ" from a movie critic. He stated that he could not understand the purpose of this man Jesus endured all that tortures just to die on the cross. The reason why he couldn't figure it out is that his choice not to know the truth of the Gospel of Jesus blinded his heart to see and understand.

1 Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Since the fall of the first man Adam, the mankind is cursed with sin by our own choice and we are born with sinful nature. You may disagree. That is what we are and that is the way is whether you agree or not. The truth doesn't need agreements from anyone.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Question 3) IS THERE A LIFE AFTER DEATH?

The real person of yourself is not your body, but your spirit. According to the Bible which is the Word of God, when a person dies, his spirit will go to one of the two places: heaven or hell. Yes, there is a life after death. Your eternal destination is up to your choice.

Question 4) I AM A GOOD PERSON, SO SHOULDN'T I BE IN HEAVEN WHEN I DIE?

Again, according to the Bible, none of our good behaviors are good enough for God's holy and righteous standard.

Isa 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

So if you are planning to get to heaven with your own righteousness and good works, you will have a very, very big surprise and disappointment. Because you will not be able to get in.

This is what Jesus said to one of the most well respected Israel teacher Nicodemus.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Even though Nicodemus was a great man, his righteousness couldn't be stacked up against God's.

Question 5) WHY DOES CHRISTIANITY INSIST THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

Heaven is the place where no sinner can enter. Yes, God loves us so much, however He cannot let us in with our sinful nature. Something had to be done. As a matter of fact, God did something about it. He sent His best. His Son Jesus Christ to take away our sins onto Himself and He became a sacrifice for us.

To remove our sins from us, it requires the blood of someone. But that person must be without sin. That means none of human was qualified to take that place. So the holy God took a human form to give His life for the entire human race.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jesus came to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owe a debt we could not pay.

Jesus declares the exclusiveness of the way to heaven. His way is not one of the many ways to get to heaven, He is not a potential way to have eternal life, but He is the ONLY WAY to the truth.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Question 6) WHAT IS SO BIG DEAL ABOUT THIS RESURRECTION OF CHRIST?

This is a very important question that must be answered to everyone to show the superiority of Jesus Christ over all the other religious leaders.

Mohammed, Buddha, any other religious leaders tombs are still occupied by their DNAs. Their remains are still existing in there. That means they are still dead and they are under the power of death. However, the tomb of Jesus Christ is empty.

What does this mean? It means that Jesus Christ is God and He conquered the death which is the last enemy of the mankind.

Frank Morison wasn't a man you'd find in church on Sunday morning. Yet he received a lot of respect from everyone due to his high education and intelligence. He was a skeptic philosophically, especially toward Christianity. Being a lawyer himself, Morison chose to prove that the Bible, especially Resurrection of Jesus Christ is nothing more than a myth and old story. To disprove the historic Christian belief, he started to research for his upcoming book, "Who Moved the Stone?" By the time he finished the book, it turned out to be one of the best defenses of the bodily Resurrection of Christ. In the preface, Morrison recounts his intellectual struggle.

The book as it was originally planned was left high and dry, like those Thames barges where the great river goes out to meet the incoming sea. The writer discovered one day that not only could he no longer write the book as he had once conceived it, but that he would not if he could.

1 Cor 15:14-19 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

I barely went over the answers of these common questions. You might say, "Hey preacher, you only use the Bible to back up your opinion." First of all, the Bible is the Word of God. Second, it is not my opinion, but it is the fact. If you have any doubt, you can research about the resurrection of Jesus like Frank Morison yourself. If God is real, He will reveal Himself to you. Can you take that challenge?

Is God calling you today to take a step of faith and commit your life to Jesus Christ?

I am not talking about religion or coming to this church. I am talking about you having a relationship with a God - a friendship with your Creator - where Jesus Christ Himself comes and lives inside of you as Savior, Lord, God and Friend.

Some of you might say today, 'Show me a miracle, and I'll believe.' I say, believe and God will show you. You want to see a miracle? I'll show you a miracle right now. There is a miracle sitting next to you. How many of you have had your lives radically changed by Jesus Christ? Please stand on your feet.

There is your sign and your evidence - this is your miracle. Their lives have been changed from life with fear, anxiety and no hope to life that filled with freedom, joy and hope. You can have the same thing like them.

The nails on the cross didn't hold Jesus on it. The garrison of the Roman soldiers didn't keep them in His tomb. Death couldn't bind Him, nor Satan couldn't hold Him back. His love for you kept Him on the cross. Jesus loves you so much that He took our sins and died for you, so that you may have eternal life in heaven. If that is not love, I don't know what you can call it.

Through His sacrifice Jesus built a bridge for us to know God. That is why Jesus, and Jesus alone, can save you from your sins today.

Jesus wants to be your Lord and your God. You need to do it now. Let Him fill the hole in your heart. Now is the time, today is the day. You need to repent of your sins and come to Jesus Christ. You need to do it now.

You might be saying, "I admire Jesus. He was a great historical figure - a tremendous hero, a role model, a messenger of God." But He has to be more than that. There has to come a moment in your life when you say, 'He is my Lord and my God.' Jesus does not say, 'Admire Me.' But He says, 'Follow Me.'

If you want to accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord and follow Him to have eternal life in Christ Jesus, repeat this prayer after me:

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sin. I repent of it and I turn to You by faith right now. I thank You for dying on the cross for me and paying the price for all of my sins. I ask You to come into my life right now and be my Savior, my Lord, and my Friend. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to be Your disciple from this moment forward. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.