

From Where I Sit . . .

"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Now why should we be surprised that the media and many in the world are trying to turn the crucifixion of Christ into a political issue of Anti-Semitism? We've become a society so worried about "political correctness" that we can't call homosexuality a sin or perversion without being called homophobic, and we can't speak of the crucifixion now without being accused of hating Jews. I'm amazed that the movie industry was able to produce "Schindler's List," a 1993 movie that graphically portrays the horrible truth that Hitler's Germany massacred six million Jews. There appears to be a need to rewrite history so that no one did anything to anyone, and if we claim they did we're racist.

I don't hate Germans, nor do we have a right to blame Germans of our generation for something that a mad-man led a past generation to do -- nor Japanese for that matter, nor Southerners, nor whites. I also don't hate Americans who pushed Indians right out of their homeland, and I hope that Indians don't hate us for it. I don't hate Catholics, and yet history is very clear that some of their leaders in centuries gone by did horrible things to those who opposed them. I don't hate Jews, nor do I believe the Bible (whether read or visualized on the big screen) will cause people to hate them. It should cause us to hate the sin that nailed Him to that tree, and the sin that caused all of the atrocities that man heaps upon one another.

Oh, well, there are more pressing issues at stake here than the right of a film maker to make a movie. The Bible makes it very clear that God laid on Jesus' shoulders the sins of the whole world (Isaiah 53: 4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21). I crucified Christ. We all crucified Christ, for our sins were the cause of His death. Of course, Mr. Gibson has also made that very clear. We cannot deny the real history that "He came to his own and his own received him not" (John 1:11). Nor can we deny that the unbelieving Jews both historically and Biblically, crucified Him. Not all Jews did this for many received Him. Nonetheless, He was crucified. Would the world have us pretend it never happened? The truth is that the world does not want this story told because it will generate believers in the Christ of the Scriptures. Nor do they want the Bible record read and believed and thus they do all that they can to discredit it's accuracy.

What is at stake here is that the forces of liberalism want to discredit the Biblical record . To them it's something a later generation made up about the Christ in order to create a "myth" of a super-personality to rally around. Nothing we write or say will make some doubters into believers because they've closed their eyes and ears and hearts so they cannot be converted. We cannot allow their skepticism or their sneers to weaken the boldness of our confession. The words of Matthew 10:32, 33 may take on a whole new meaning and importance to us in the face of such radical rejection by so many of the inspired Biblical record: *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."*

I pray that God will use this opportunity to cause many to see the passion of the suffering Savior and come to obey Him. Will you receive Him today?

..... Terry Broome

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