

‘The Passion of the Christ’ billed as life-changing

With the recent media frenzy over Mel Gibson's new movie, "The Passion of the Christ" is on people's minds.

There have been reports about people being profoundly affected by seeing the movie. I heard a news report on television that a young man who murdered his girlfriend a few years ago was so moved by "Passion" that he went to the police and confessed. He said he felt that he had to repent and come clean.

Reading the Bible's account of what Jesus endured and why he did it should move all of us to make wise use of our lives and to try to live by the Bible's standards to the best of our ability.

What does the Bible say about the night Christ was put to death?

Matthew chapter 26 tells us that Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray and that his apostles were with him. He knew that he was soon to die and how it would happen and was deeply grieved. His apostles, who were yet to understand what was about to happen and its significance, fell asleep. As Jesus was chastising them for sleeping at such a time, verses 47-49 tell us that Judas arrived with a crowd and betrayed Jesus.

The following verses tell us that



sharon corcoran

• use it or lose it

Jesus took time even that night to teach his apostles a lesson about violence, "all those who take the sword will perish by the sword," and that he was put on trial and accused of blasphemy.

False witnesses testified, and the chief priests and scribes, religious leaders of the day, sought any excuse to put Jesus to death.

Verses 65-68 tell us: "Then the high priest ripped his outer garments, saying: 'He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? See! Now you have heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?' They returned answer: 'He is liable to death.' Then they spit into his face and hit him with their fists. Others slapped him in the face, saying: 'Prophecy to us, you Christ. Who is it that struck you?'"

Chapter 27 tells us that the following morning, Jesus was bound and taken to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who questioned him

about the charges against him. Though the Sanhedrin said he was guilty of blasphemy, they told Pilate he was claiming to be a king in opposition to Caesar.

Even though Pilate found no reason to believe Jesus was guilty of the charges or deserving of death, the crowd urged, as recorded in Matthew 27:22, 23: "Let him be impaled!"

Matthew 27:26-32 says, "Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be impaled. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and gathered the whole body of troops together to him. And disrobing him, they draped him with a scarlet cloak, and they braided a crown out of thorns and put it on his head and a reed in his right hand. And, kneeling before him, they made fun of him, saying: 'Good day, you King of the Jews!' And they spit upon him and took the reed and began hitting him upon his head. Finally, when they had made fun of him, they took the cloak off

and put his outer garments upon him and led him off for impaling. As they were going out they found a native of Cyrene named Simon. This man they impressed into service to lift up his torture stake."

Verses 50 and 51 tell us what happened after Jesus had hung, attached to the stake with nails, for hours: "Again Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit. And, look! the curtain of the sanctuary was rent in two, from top to bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rock-masses were split."

Jesus no doubt suffered tremendous physical pain the night of his trial and while hanging on the stake. He was spit upon, insulted and made fun of. He was accused of blasphemy against his Father. And, finally, he died as a criminal. Why would he endure all of this?

Hebrews 12:2 says, "as we look intently at the Chief Agent and Perfecter of our faith, Jesus. For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

While Jesus suffered the indignities and pain of that long day and

then slowly died, he knew it was temporary. He knew he would soon be in heaven with his Father. He knew he would be a king in heaven and that he was paying the price to set mankind free from sin and give all of us an everlasting future.

Hebrews 10:12, 13 says, "But this man offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat down at the right hand of God, from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet."

Revelation 12:10 tells us of Jesus' gaining kingdom power: "And I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God!'"

Jesus knew these events would happen in the future, but only if he paid the price to provide salvation for mankind.

And he knew the words in Revelation 21:3, 4 would be fulfilled: "With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: 'Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will

reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

Even though these words are yet to be fulfilled, Christ knew nearly 2,000 years ago, while he was suffering, that he would have a major role in bringing these conditions to the earth. That was the joy that was set before him — being the king that would bring these conditions.

Realizing that Christ suffered such violence during the final day of his life, we should expect "Passion" to contain violence that is painful to watch.

Whether or not to go to the movie, which is showing at the Sherman Theatre starting tonight, is a decision each person has to make for himself, but it is not likely a good idea for children to see it.

Whether or not we see the movie, we should deeply appreciate the pain Christ suffered for our sakes and live our lives in a way that shows we do.

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The Goodland Star-News

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Worship warms the heart

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Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

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Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Sonrise Christian Church

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Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
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Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Word of Life Foursquare Church

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Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

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Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
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Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. 1601 Texas • 899-5275
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Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:

Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
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Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
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Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Informal Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: John Meckling
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages: 9:15 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969
Sr. Warden for emergencies Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
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Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
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Worship Service: 10:45 am
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