

April — June 2004 Word

The True Sufferings of Christ

Considering that the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus is “within” us (Luke 17:21) and heaven is not a place we go to when we die, but is “joy, peace and righteousness” in the Holy Ghost, why, may I ask, all the emotional hullaballoo about the movie, “The Passions of Christ”???

I am appalled at the ignorance of the Christian world. The reactions to the movie “The Passions of Christ” is, indeed, shouting from the housetops the immaturity and stupidity of the Christian leaders and the Christian world in general. Remember, oh carnal Christian, “The carnal mind is an enemy of God.” (Romans 8:7) If, indeed, the movie portrays the brutality of the human race, what else is new?? Has not the human race displayed brutality to one another beyond comprehension since its inception????

Seeing as how most of the comments about this movie are coming from Christians, let me remind you of some of the scriptures you have evidently bypassed in your much reading and never coming to the reality of the truth.

Let us start with 1 Peter 4:13, “Inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.” Now let me see — the scripture mentions nothing about getting beaten up, carrying a big railroad tie, mocking or brutality. It says, “When these fiery trials come upon you to try you.” It also has the audacity to tell us in no uncertain terms that we are to be partakers of His sufferings. Have you had such spiritual pain that any physical pain seems like child’s play?? Has the fire of God been so intense in your belly that you have cried out as did Christ, “Oh, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” From the comments I have heard from our most prominent and respected leaders, the true cross where we lay down our life to attain His is an offense and a mystery. The Christian preachers would

rather play on the emotions of the so-called believers and make them twice the children of hell than give them the true gospel that would ultimately lead to their death and also their resurrection. The resurrection only comes with the crucifixion. It is the only heaven there is and our lusty, brutal old man has no part in it.

Before I go on to another scripture, let me remind you, you spoiled brat, stupid Americans, the families in Iraq are wishing their suffering was just carrying a wooden cross for three days. There are many people in the world in pain night and day for years that would consider death a favor, so please, spare me from the emotional mockery of poor Christ’s sufferings if it were indeed only physical.

The Bible makes it very clear that all our old nature has to be crucified as was Christ. He was crucified in His passions and in His lusts. Far be it from any Christian to want his lust crucified. It gives us too much pleasure. The lust of the flesh unites us in marriage, the lust of the eye brings to us what we covet and it all comes from the pride of life, which makes us feel very important and righteous in our own eyes. Only the cross can rid us of these monstrous powers.

Now I am just assuming you know that the flesh spoken of in the Epistles cannot be seen any more than lust can be seen. So in 1 Peter, when it says that those who have suffered in the flesh have ceased from sin, he is talking about spiritual suffering. If it is physical pain that makes us cease from sin then Christ has come in vain for the human race has been brutally treated since Cain slew Abel and it changes nothing. Our old man is unseen yet very real. 1 Peter 4:2 tells us to live no longer to the lusts of men but to the will of God. That, my dear, carnal Christian infers that if we have the will of God we no longer lust after the things of world.



Marie Kolasinski

April — June 2004 Letter

Dear Friends,

“Let not your heart be troubled.” Easy words — hard to do at times, as the troubled waters seem more than we can handle and problems come our way without solutions. To a “do it yourself, independent, car for every driver” nation, God takes some pretty radical measures to turn us back to Him, “our problem solver”. Like Job — with patience we will win our souls and the latter end will far surpass the shallow days when we saw the world through rose-colored glasses.

To all of you — we are bonded together —like it or not — by our Lord Jesus Christ as He works out His purpose for each of our lives. Our goal — that Christ may be formed in us.

The geese are flying over Costa Mesa. What an awesome sight as these brave creatures let nothing hinder them from fulfilling their destination. The ducks are back in our swimming pool. Sure signs of spring — with summer sure to follow.

Happy summer days — Mom, kids and you, too, Dad.

Marie

