



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Pastor commends 'Passion' film!!



Pastor Jack McKee

An indication of the content of the controversial film, "The Passion of the Christ", is seen in cinemas providing "sick bags" for the audience! The Belfast "News Letter" of March 25th, the day before its release, carried an article by Pastor Jack McKee of Belfast. Sadly, he commended the film and sneered at those who objected to it, though failed to answer their objections.

Pastor McKee claims that he saw the film while he was in the USA and was impressed by it and saw no "catholic interpretation" of the crucifixion of Christ. Such a lack of perception by Mr. McKee will disappoint the makers of the film for they went to great lengths to make it a Roman Catholic production! Here is what the actor who plays Christ said in an interview. "The catharsis for me to play this role was through Medjugorje (a Roman Catholic shrine in Bosnia- Hercegovina) . . . I used all that Medjugorje taught me. Mel Gibson and I were going every day for Mass together." "Ivan Dragicevic and his wife Lorraine gave me a piece of the true

cross. I kept this on me all the time. They made a special pocket in my clothes for it. I also had relics of St. Padre Pio , St. Anthony of Padua , St. Maria Goretti, and St. Denisius [sic for St. Genesius], the Patron saint of Actors. . . . Every day everyone could see me with the rosary in my hands." "I think it's very important that we have mass every day - at least I need that to play this guy." That last statement shows the blind ignorance of the actor concerning the person he is supposedly portraying.

How could any professing Christian commend a film which was born in such idolatry and ignorance?

Foolish

Pastor McKee advances the foolish notion that "if God can use Pharaoh, then surely he can use Mel Gibson"? I just wonder if Pastor McKee has considered just how God used Pharaoh? "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth," Romans 9:17. God used Pharaoh to glorify His name by destroying him and his army in the Red Sea! "And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen," Exodus 14:17-18. God may indeed use Mel Gibson in exactly the same way as he used Pharaoh. That being so, it is but another reason for every Christian to avoid the film. God may use a Pharaoh or Balaam's donkey, but His use of such instruments is no endorsement of the individuals or a licence for us to live as did Pharaoh or behave as a donkey!! Pastor McKee refers to Philippians 1:17-18 but he fails to notice that Paul rejoiced that the gospel was preached even though the motive for preaching was wrong. By no stretch of



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the imagination is this film a setting forth of the gospel. Pastor McKee must have a very defective notion of the gospel to use this passage to bolster his case.

Second commandment

Above all, the film is a breach of the Second Commandment. Of course, Pastor McKee makes no reference to this objection in his article. The Roman Catholic church removed this commandment from the Bible and made up the ten by dividing the tenth into two commandments. However, despite Roman's editing out this commandment and Pastor McKee's ignoring of it, it still stands. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a



The Hollywood actor, Jim Caviezel and the Pope

jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain," Exodus 20: 4-7.