

“The Passion of the Christ”

“WHAT HAVE I GIVEN TO MY LORD, FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN TO ME?”

From much of what is being said, we are hopeful that the event of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, will be for each of us a most spiritual event – that its message will be heard in the ears of us all. Indeed, this movie has a message, but this message will be completely overshadowed and distracted if we fail to separate ourselves COMPLETELY from all the useless, tiring, silly, and stupid updating, criticizing, interviewing, and all the rest that has been saturating us for the past several months. Is it not interesting that almost every presentation so far has centered its focus on who is responsible for the death of Jesus Christ? And, in order to satisfy the clamorous outcries of some, a very politically correct answer is being given: **“We all are.”** Is there also a politically correct answer concerning who paid the thirty pieces of silver? Holy Scripture plainly tells us who is guilty for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The answer is in Scripture, and the information in Scripture is totally reliable.

Of course there is violence in the movie. There has to be! The original Passion was violent – the redemption of man demanded the most violent violence ever known, both in heaven and on earth. The trouble is that we fail to understand the actual horror of sin, and just exactly what sin really is. We fail to recognize that sin is the most inconceivable disaster ever to befall man. The price of sin reaches proportions known only to God Himself. The redemption of man did not take place by the simple utterance of a few kind words, or by the performance of some simple, devotional ritual performed by the Redeemer God while on His sojourn here amongst men. The fires of hell are violent, and it is good for us to know just how violent they really are. The fires of hell are so violent, in fact, that they require the infinite merit earned by the most vicious death of the Son of Man to spare us from their scorching and eternal heat. God so loves us that He was willing to take the most violent measure thinkable in order to save us from hell. He sent His only Son to pay the price of ransom. For those who want to believe, the death of Jesus Christ gives a graphic picture of just how violent the fires of hell really are.

Of further interest is the fact that the general catholic population has received the presentation of this movie with such limited enthusiasm. Of still greater interest is the fact that the REDEMPTIVE IMPORTANCE of the Passion and Death of our Beloved Savior receives little or no mention (and even less emphasis). Once again, Christ comes unto His own, and His own receive Him not! The question to be answered here is not the one concerning the guilt of the crucifiers. The question to be focused on here is this: Are not the truly guilty ones the vast ocean of the