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**Hollywood's Best Try...**

**By Terry Dashner**

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Faith Fellowship Church...PO Box 1586...Broken Arrow, OK 74013...918-451-0270...Terry Dashner, Pastor

Jesus still walks among men and women. And He wants to walk with you.

The name of Jesus is still all powerful. Jesus—there is no other name greater.

Are you aware that you serve a living Savior and not a book, doctrine, rule, or a creed. Since the movie, The Passion of the Christ, I've become even more aware of the power behind the story of Jesus' suffering. Not long after the showing of the movie in America, I read a report of a murderer in Texas who lived with a guilty conscience. He murdered his pregnant girlfriend and had somehow evaded suspicion by the police; however, after watching the film he was so moved that he sought spiritual guidance immediately. The Passion film was so powerful that it brought conviction to his heart, and afterwards he turned himself over to the police. Jesus is still all powerful.

Now let me share something else with you. The New York Times reported (May 6, 2004, in a story by Sharon Waxman) that MGM was screening a film titled, "Saved!" Hollywood's "big shots" who told Mel Gibson he was crazy for making a movie about Jesus, were themselves wanting to capitalize on a religious film. But, then again, Hollywood is twisted and misguided. To think they could match or surpass the success of Gibson's film is preposterous. According to Cal Thomas, "'Saved!'—which opened May 28, 2004, in selected cities—staring Mandy Moore and Macaulay Culkin, whose character is confined to a wheelchair...are siblings and attend a Maryland Christian high school where 'Jesus loves you' is a mantra—and an order. A giant cutout of Jesus dominates the campus. Pastor Skip, played by Martin Donovan, is the school's spiritual leader, described as handsome and hip. Here's where it really gets good. Jena Malone plays a teenager who gets pregnant while attempting to cure her boyfriend of his homosexuality. Her mother is a widow played by Mary-Louise Parker. She is 'trying to be right with God but has an affair with Pastor Skip.'"

## Hollywood's Best Try...

I think you get the idea. Hollywood can never make a good story right. And why do they always portray the people of God as perverts and shallow who mock the very purity of Jesus Christ? When Christ comes to live in the heart of a man or woman, the man or woman is changed. A true believer wants what Christ wants for him—a clean and willing vessel, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb to love God and his neighbor. Christians have their faults. We are human and hammered constantly by the wicked one. We fall. But Christians don't want to stay fallen. Christians do not want to live in darkness. We want to live in the Light of God and bless others with the love of Jesus Christ.

Hollywood makes films about the lurid passions of men, knowing that many Americans have an appetite for such perversion. Mel Gibson made a film about the Passion of Christ. Christ was the center of his story, and men of all persuasions flocked to it. What made it work? This—it magnified the very person that changed the world. And that person, Jesus, is still drawing men and women from around the world to receive his sacrificial love. Hollywood gave us "Saved!" and it bombed. Mel Gibson

took a risk and displayed, graphically, the suffering of Jesus. The film is still showing around the world, and people are still coming to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The story of Jesus has always had an impact on the world whether in word, testimony, sermon, or film. And the story of Jesus will still be changing lives when Hollywood is nothing more than a fading memory.

That, my friend is the power of Jesus' name!

Keep the faith. Stay the course. Jesus is soon coming (imminent), and coming soon (at hand).

Pastor T.dash

Pastors Faith Fellowship Church in Broken Arrow, Ok.

### **Theology, Hollywood Style**

**By Terry Mitchell**

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After years of watching TV shows and movies, I think I have finally gotten a grasp on Hollywood's theology and it's not a pretty picture (pun intended). It should come as no surprise to anyone that Hollywood's theology is vastly different from that of the average American. After all, Hollywood's morals and values are not representative of Middle America, so why should its theology be any different? Hollywood's theology is comprised of three basic tenets.

First, it is quite obvious that Hollywood has adopted some elements of new age and eastern philosophies, i.e., it believes God could be just about whomever or whatever anyone wants Him/Her/It to be. Hollywood's God could be some kind of benevolent spirit, floating around throughout the universe. If someone thinks God is just a man or woman, that's also valid according to Hollywood's theology. If someone thinks God is a bird, a tree, or a cloud, that's fine with Hollywood. If someone

thinks a little bit of God is in everything living thing, that's great too.

However, I used the phrase "just about" because not every notion of God will pass Hollywood's politically correct litmus test. Not surprisingly, the Judeo-Christian notion of God – the one described in Holy Scriptures – doesn't qualify. God couldn't possibly be like that, according to Hollywood's theological standards. That concept of God is too narrow-minded for the Hollywood crowd.

Second, Hollywood holds that God couldn't care less whether or not we worship Him/Her/It. In fact, He/She/It doesn't care whether we recognize Him/Her/It or even acknowledge His/Her/Its existence, for that matter. Therefore, a person's belief system is rendered virtually irrelevant. Churches are only useful for weddings, memorial services, and funerals.

Instead, according to Hollywood, it is possible for an atheist to go to heaven. Hollywood argues that God is not jealous and has no sense of dominion or ownership over His/Her/Its creation. While Hollywood recognizes the fact that God does often intervene in the affairs human beings, it contends that He/She/It has no desire for any kind of permanent relationship with them.

Third, God does not demand that people obey Him/Her/It, nor is He/She/It concerned about certain types of moral values. Since obedience is not a requirement, repentance is never necessary. One's personal moral turpitude and how one relates to God are non-issues as well. For example, God doesn't really have a problem with any of the following: homosexual activity, sex between couples that aren't married to each other, profanity, or the use of God's name in vain.

Only the moral values governing a person's treatment of other people matter to God, according to the Hollywood gospel. For example, it's okay to be a complete hedonist as long as you give your fair share to charity and serve your community. The bottom line is that God's primary concern is that we do the best we can to be "good" people and model citizens. How we perform in that area will determine whether not we "make it" to heaven. Never mind the fact that this notion creates a theological imbroglio, i.e., how would you ever know how good is good enough?

What is this Hollywood-style theology based on? It is certainly not based on the teachings of the Holy Bible, although the Tinseltown brigade likes to selectively quote from it now and then. Obviously, this theology is based on the way Hollywood would like for things to be. Like many other entities and individuals, Hollywood molds the concept of God into something that fits in well with its own lifestyle and agenda.

True Christians know that, while Jesus (the only path to God) is always waiting for us with open arms, we must come to God on the terms that He has established, and not the other way around. I normally stay away from proselytizing, but that's just the plain old unvarnished truth.

Terry Mitchell is a software engineer, freelance writer, and trivia buff from Hopewell, VA. He also serves as a political columnist for American Daily and operates his own website – <http://www.commenterry.com> – on which he posts commentaries on various subjects such as politics, technology, religion, health and well-being, personal finance, and sports. His commentaries offer a unique point of view that is not often found in mainstream media.

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