

Fil-Am Community Church
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Message: The Passion of Christ

“suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead”

Today we are covering the next portion of the Apostle’s Creed - where it states “He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.”

And it is entitled the Passion of Christ; Let’s go back to the movie that portrayed this Passion in 2004;

This American [epic biblical drama film](#) (directed by [Mel Gibson](#)) and starring [Jim Caviezel](#) as [Jesus Christ](#). Depicted the [Passion](#) of Jesus largely according to the [New Testament Gospels](#) of [Matthew](#), [Mark](#), [Luke](#) and [John](#).

But before we get too far down the road with the message, I want to ensure that we are clear as to what the message is not about; The Apostle’s Creed is not a set of by-laws that we are instituting;

It is not a set of beliefs that you must believe or else; I can assure you no one is coming to your home this afternoon to get you if you do not fall in line with the thinking or instruction we are giving you from the pulpit.

The messages we are sharing are not IAW a qualified agenda: For instance, you do not have to believe these facts and pre-texts because I say so, Pastor Rolly says so, or Pastor Dave says so. In fact - you can believe as you wish and still remain a member of Fil-Am – We will just provide you with smaller portions of food when you go thru the food line. (Just kidding)

You are however going to be challenged today; Just as you should be challenged every day you hear a message on The Passion of Christ; What to

Believe; That God is the maker of heaven and earth; and that Jesus is his only begotten son – Our Lord. In other words, my point is this ----- Challenge those who come to you telling you this is true and that is true; You do Need to Know what you believe and Why. You do Need to know where it is in the Bible; And you should Know Why people accept these truths, because your life may – and most likely will – depend on it.

Some day, very soon I would submit to you, you will have to know what you believe so strongly that your eternal destiny will rest on it; People will come to you and perhaps tell you to renounce your faith, tell you to forget Jesus, and tell you to get in line to drink some really fine Kool-Aide that their serving about how there is no God, or there is no Jesus coming back for you, or there is no protection for you or your family. And I really want you to challenge everything you hear soooo much that you get used to delving into the scriptures to find the truth, and searching for the truth so you know that you know that you know that you know!!!

I love it! When you come to me in any class that I am teaching and ask “Why are you saying that? Where does that come from? Where is that found in the Bible? Why does the scripture say that?”

I used to teach Business, Economics, Math, and Statistics at 3 Different Universities; To REAL LIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS; Scary??????? I am ready for ISIS; IRS; and a host of other S___sss out there.

If a teacher cannot support his/her beliefs they need to get another day job.

Enough said; The Passion of Christ;

First; What is the Passion of Christ?

Some would tell you it is the period of intense suffering in the life of [Jesus](#) from the [Garden of Gethsemane](#) to the [crucifixion](#).

Other might tell you the Passion evokes images of gruesome punishment depicted in movies like Mel Gibson's “*The Passion of The Christ*.”

If one is Passionate - and Women you know this to be true in the context of your man - what does it mean? He is FIRED UP - He is ready TO GO - He DESIRES YOU!

Webster says it is an "**extreme, compelling emotion or intense emotional drive.**" **Not the type of drive where we are trying to get to Myrtle Beach in record time; or (Guys) we are trying to get to the green of a Par 5 in Two. No - we are compelled to accomplish something special.**

No - Passion has many things but we will discuss Christ's Passion here in stages;

First the bible states emphatically that He suffered under Pontius Pilate;

Chapter 15 of the book of Matthew Describes how Jesus was delivered up unto Pilate in the Bible by the High Priest and his underlings and rushed up and told Pilate "I didn't do any of this stuff of which I am accused."

No it doesn't - Jesus went as a Lamb unto the slaughter - The book of John describes how Jesus went in - Saying nothing to defend himself but purposely allowing the accusers to have their way with HIM. Why? His Passion - He was a Man on a Mission; And that Mission was to die for your sins. He did not want anything or anybody to interfere with that mission. That was his purpose and that was what he wanted to accomplish.

Pt 1; Passion has a Purpose; Christ's was to die for your sins! Verse xxx

Pt 2; Passion has a Source. What was Christ's source?

Verse 6-7 states that "For the sake of restoring humans to fellowship with God, he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant by being made in human likeness." ([Philippians](#) 2:6-7).

Why would He do this? For You? For Me? For the sinner? For those who ridiculed Him ? Beat Him ? Shamed Him?

It was his intense love for mankind. The great [love of Jesus](#) resulted in his extreme commitment to walk a very precise and narrow path **to redeem mankind.**

His passionate love caused him to leave the glory of heaven to take on human form and live an obedient life of self-sacrifice **required by the holiness of God.** The scriptures even talk about what Jesus did from the standpoint of His message to us - He entered into the plan to live here on earth a selfless life that produced the pure and innocent blood sacrifice required to cover the sins of those who put their faith in him (**John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7**).

That is why He came to earth; And that is why He elected to be crucified and killed - Because it was part of the Plan. Without a **Blood sacrifice on the cross**, we would have to undergo the payment for our sins - and that payment meant we would be at odds with a Holy God - who would not be able to even look upon us.

Christ died so that we might live - Ever since the Garden experience when Man sinned and became at odds with God, God put His plan into action. When the first sin occurred, God killed some animals (he shed their blood) to clothe Adam and Eve and cover their sin - Since that time we have had a series of sacrificial offerings set forth so Man could reconcile himself to God - A very belaboring set of sacrifices so each person could appease a Holy God - Until Jesus;

That is when Jesus put into effect the long awaited Promise - He came to earth because He wanted to redeem His Bride - His Church - His People forever!

And for that great, great love He died to redeem Mankind.

Pt 3; Passion has a Power!

So what was Christ's power? The passion of Christ was energized **by the power of God.**

Jesus healed the sick -- restored the paralyzed ----- calmed the sea ----- fed the multitudes ----- and raised the dead through the power of God.

Even when he was handed over to the mob led by [Judas](#), he spoke and they fell backwards onto the ground (John 18:6). He said that more than twelve legions, or in excess of thirty-six thousand angels, would respond to his commands (Matthew 26:53).

Jesus was always in control of His Life; He did not lose His life – He gave it away; Why? So we could do the same. Jesus was not just a good man who fell victim to evil circumstances.

He predicted the manner of his death and the time and place chosen by the Father (Matthew 26:2).

Jesus was not a powerless victim. **He embraced death to accomplish our [redemption](#) and rose from the dead in power and majesty!**

And He died – but, and here is the exceptionally good part – He rose from the dead (but I can't deal with that because that is the subject of next week's Sermon - so I won't steal Pastor Rolly's thunder.)

Now when He died He descended to the dead; Why you say would He do that? Well there are a few reasons but in John and Matthew it states that Jesus went there.

The Bible doesn't say why specifically but here are some plausible reasons:

I will tell you what I think – (1) He went to preach to those in Hell/Gehanna to allow them to recognize that He was the way, the truth, and the life and that no one comes to the Father except thru Him. That He had conquered the grave and was now going home to the Father – where they were going once they were given their new bodies.

(2) He went to give those who had died prior to the flood - when they did not have a Source for their beliefs for salvation (remember they did not have a chance to contend with repenting once God had decided to destroy mankind in the Great Flood) a chance to declare Him as Lord and their savior. Christ went down into the depths of death so that "the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."⁴⁸⁵ **Jesus, "the Author of life", by dying destroyed "him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and [delivered] all those who through fear of death**

were subject to lifelong bondage."⁴⁸⁶ Henceforth the risen Christ holds "the keys of Death and Hades", so that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."⁴⁸⁷

(3) And three - Jesus just did what you and I would have done after an away game - When you had taken it to the home boys on their own turf - He just SPIKED THE FOOTBALL!!!!!! And He told that sly old fox of a Devil - Give me those keys to Hell- You dog!

What I want you to do right now is to close your eyes and, if you want to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, You want to render your life to Christ again; Or you need a touch from the Lord - Healing in your body or just a word from Christ - I want to pray for you. I will be up here while the choir plays something in the background - and I will pray for you.