

and mocked before being nailed to the cross. But on the cross, He was carrying our sin, shame and guilt. Because of His great love for us, He died paying the penalty for all that would condemn us.

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,' are the words of Jesus who died for us, and three days later rose again from the dead, leaving His grave empty.

Passionate love

The most passionate love the world has ever seen was Jesus dying on a cross.

The greatest news the world has ever heard was announced in a graveyard: "He is not here, He is risen from the dead!"

Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." He invited all of us to trust and know Him, "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy

laden, and I will give you rest."

There is a passion for life when you know:

- that God made you and has given you life
- that despite everything, God loves you
- that you have been made right with God,
- that your sins have been forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection
- that God, by His Holy Spirit, lives within you
- that God is in control of everything in your life
- that when you die, instead of the hell you deserve, you are going to be with God forever

Would you be willing to find out more about Jesus and what it means to be a believing Christian today?

Would you like to study informally the Gospel of Luke with a local Christian?

If you answered 'YES' to the previous questions or would like a copy of one of the Gospels, please write to me:

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Or you might like to visit:

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"Passion for Life is an initiative arranged by many churches of different denominations throughout the U.K. who arrange a variety of events designed to explain the Christian message to today's generation."

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a **passion** for life

by Roger Carswell

A Passion for Life

Today's children in the UK are used to us winning in international sport. Football, athletics, tennis, golf, cycling, cricket, sailing, rowing and even women's boxing have all created a passion for sport and success we have not known for years. Even the Tour de France this year begins in Yorkshire!

Many of us are passionate about our families. We want the best, both for our children and for our ageing parents.

Next year the media and politicians, who have disappointed us for years, will try to stir up a passionate interest in the General Election. At least we are not like so many 'hot spots' in our world that demonstrate their passion for a political agenda with the gun and the bomb. We wish they weren't quite so passionate.

In Britain, we fear passion about religion because we have sometimes seen its leaders behave in ways that are no different

from the leaders of other areas of society.

Being passionate

But it is great to be passionate. Passion lets us know that we're alive. Without passion life would be overcast and drab. Passion demonstrates what really matters to us. Passion changes us from lifeless, grey shadows into vibrant, living beings.

But passion is not enough in itself. No matter how passionate we are about our sport, success one year can be snatched away the next. Passion for the family is no guarantee that the family will stay together. Too often we see and experience broken homes and hurting hearts.

Yet, there is a passion, which can satisfy our greatest longing.

Mel Gibson's 2004 film, 'The Passion of the Christ' shockingly

depicted the physical horror that Jesus endured at the hands of Roman soldiers. In the film's opening moments a verse from the Bible is shown on screen. Written 700 years before Jesus' crucifixion, the words prophesied what Jesus would accomplish by His death, 'But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him. And by His stripes we are healed.' (Isaiah 53:6)

Whether we are aware of it or not, each one of us carries around a huge burden of guilt, shame and regret, feeling at times that we're not the people we could or should be. But Jesus has provided the means for us not only to be forgiven, but to start again with the living God at the centre of our lives.

Yes, Jesus was flogged, spat upon

