DaPreacher on DaVinci

by Gene McCoy

The outrage of picketers, protestors, and publishers has not prevented the public from viewing the blasphemous movie based upon Dan Brown's fiction novel by the same name, "The DaVinci Code."

I have no compelling reason to read the book, see the movie, or to become an expert on this subject. Those who have thoroughly researched it from various disciplines of study have concluded that Dan Brown is accurate in at least one statement he made about his writing. It IS fiction. It contains blatant errors (i.e., lies) geographically, historically, artistically, theologically, and biographically. Why, then, has it been given any credence and enjoyed wide notoriety?

One reason is that it provides unbelievers with a convenient response to the question everyone must answer, which is, "What will you do with Jesus?" Everyone has to relate to Jesus either as the eternal God He claims to be or as a mere mortal. Like Pilate, each of us has to decide what we will do with Jesus. If he is God, then we are accountable to Him. If He is just a man fraught with sin and scandal, we can reject Him without consequence.

The message concerning the deity of Jesus is attacked so vociferously because it matters for all eternity what you do with it. The veracity of the Bible must be presented as doubtful, therefore. And the identity of Jesus as the only begotten Son of God must be debunked in order to escape any responsibility to Him. Everyone must either submit or somehow sidestep responsibility, no matter how futile that effort. Unbelievers must somehow minimize and marginalize Jesus. The DaVinci Code is the present popular means of avoiding eternal responsibility to the Creator Who revealed Himself to man in the written and Living Word.

Every attack of this nature is the fulfillment of the apostle's prediction that people, unwilling to endure sound doctrine, will accumulate to themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires (2 Tim. 4:3). Not wanting their hearts to be pierced with the truth (Acts 2:37), they embrace false teachers who will tickle their ears with a message that comforts them in their sin rather than convicts them of their sin.

How should we respond? We should not be alarmed. The Bible tells us this will occur throughout the last days. Shocked countenances and wringing hands reveal a lack of understanding and faith on our part. Hysteria should never be exhibited by the person of faith. This is neither the first nor the last attempt to avoid responsibility to the Creator. It is another reminder that we still have a lot of work to do to persuade men on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to Him. And we can't be effective in that role when we allow ourselves to be rattled by every feeble effort to disprove and destroy the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Look at this rationally. People who are predisposed to rejecting Christ will grab hold of any excuse, even if it means ignoring the fact that it has no basis in scientific or historic truth. They will accept fiction and reject Biblical truth despite the fact that every discipline of study and research has confirmed the Biblical account and record. People who are effectively influenced and impacted by fiction are not likely to be dissuaded by fact. Investing time and energy trying to convince them, therefore, is mostly futile.

The people we should be concerned about are Christians whose faith is threatened by the controversy. If we allow ourselves to be rattled about secret codes, we are revealing more about our immature faith and lack of knowledge of His Word than we are about Dan Brown or DaVinci's socalled code. Our focus should be upon the Bible, then, and not the Code.

Am I suggesting that we should be ambivalent about this? Do I condemn those who have written entire volumes about it? Should we say nothing? Do nothing? Are Christians wrong who have taken a physical stand at theaters to inform the public? Should we just ignore this attack and others that have and will come down the pike?

I can speak and act only for myself. It is not mine to decide what you should or should not do regarding this book and movie. But whatever you do, don't discredit the faith by acting illegally, irrationally, or hysterically.

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The best way to contend with challenges by unbelievers is to know truth. You will never convince the world of the truth of the gospel through emotional reactions to their attacks. If Christians spent as much time reading the Bible as they do reading fictional novels, and if they spent as much time in the Bible classroom as they do in the theater or in front of the television, and if they spent as much money on meaningful resources that strengthen faith as they do on meaningless movies and novels that compromise morality and marginalize spirituality, then these attacks would have less effect on us and on the world. Hysteria should never be exhibited by the person of faith.

It is not unusual or unexpected for a nonChristian to discredit or discount Jesus Christ. Our response, then, should not be a nuclear reaction. We should oppose blasphemy intelligently and systematically, all the while presenting truth in a rational manner, contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered (Jude 3).

DaVinci Dan and his code will fade away. But Darwinian evolution is eroding the foundations of faith among students in public schools and state universities every year. Where are the passionate protestors in this enduring battle? Why do we not hear their outcry? If we are willing to picket a theater in protest against a movie, should we not be willing to take a stand against evolutionary indoctrination in our schools?