



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## Dear Friends,



*Woe to them who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

*Isaiah 5:20*

I want to tell you two stories. They are both true. The first one is about a young man we will call James.

He along with his family attended a church that believed the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. His father, though a moral man, was distant and un-affirming. James' hunger for male attention and affection grew as he

grew. While on a Boy Scout camping trip, James was seduced and molested by a college-aged troop leader. The inner conflict between his faith and his feelings became tormenting. The molestation was pleasurable to him on one level and shaming on another. The pain was enough to drive him to seek help from his pastor who listened to this nervous and already traumatized fourteen-year-old as he reached out for help. James struggled to find the right words. The pastor simply cut short the conversation by reading Romans 1. He then declared James to be guilty of the sins described there, and dismissed him with the dire warning of coming judgment for his willful choice. When James protested that he had never chosen his confused feelings, he was again rebuffed and dismissed. James lived under the terror of this fear of judgment which only exacerbated his anxiety and need for male comfort. The two opposing forces in him of faith vs. love hunger finally collided, resulting in a total breakdown. His church family did not understand his struggles, and rather than love him through them, James became the brunt of gossip among the adults and the subject of cruel jokes among his peers at church. He recovered enough to leave for a college as far away as he could find. Free from the focus of his home

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and church, he found other young men on campus who were accepting, affirming, and non-judgmental, even affectionate. He eventually turned from all he had once called home and immersed himself in the university LGBT community. When former church members learned of his identification with homosexuality, their emails, letters, and periodic face-to-face confrontations helped push James into becoming an outspoken, angry, and finally anti-Christian crusader for gay rights.

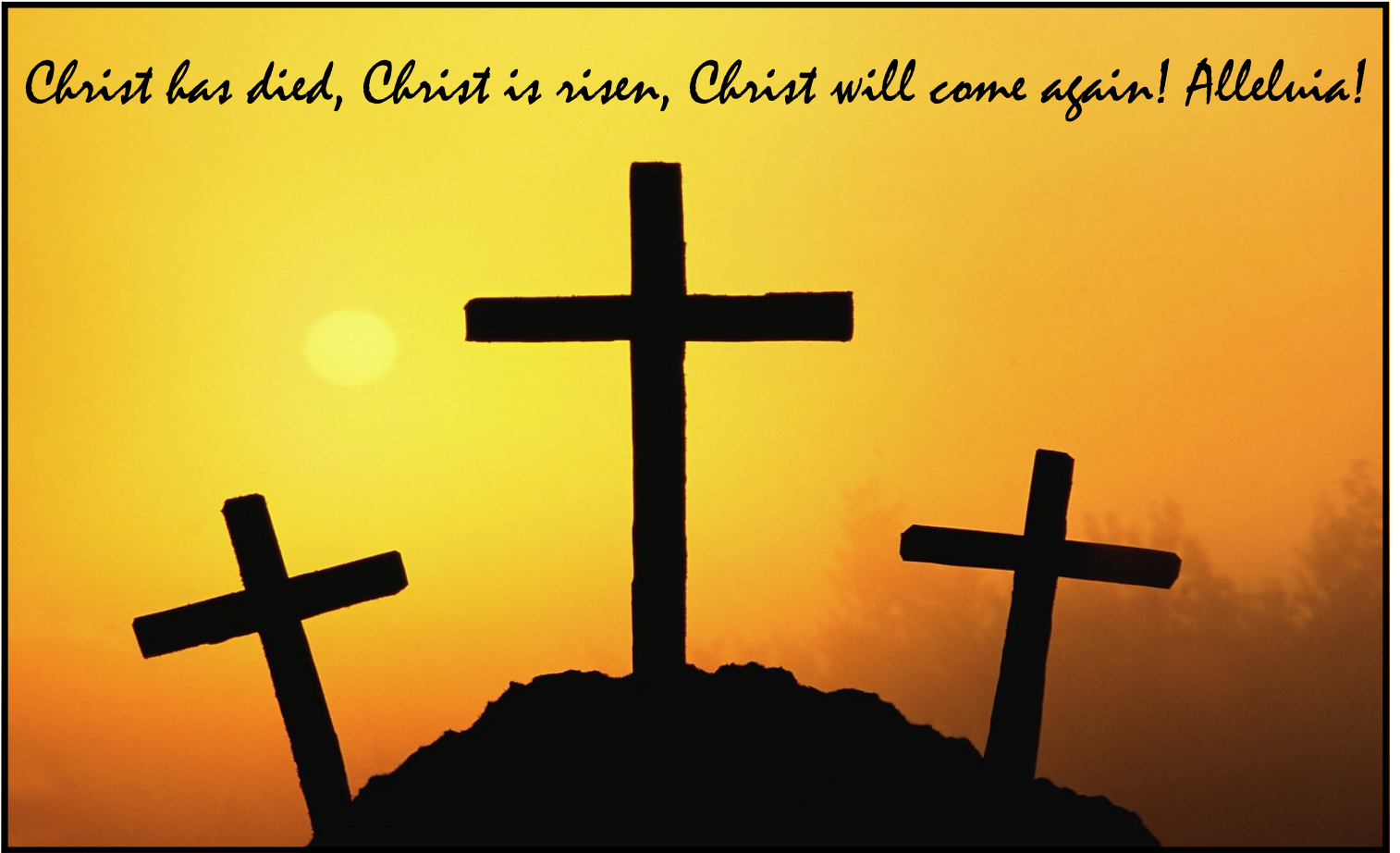
Second story. Two self-proclaimed homosexual men were regular customers of a flower shop run by an elderly woman. They approach her to do flowers for their so-called wedding, knowing she was a believing Christian. If the shop owner agrees, they have won a victory over her faithfulness to Christ. What if she refuses, though she has been a friendly person to whom they have previously related well? She first lovingly but firmly refuses to affirm their 'wedding.' She explains that selling them flowers would be no difficulty, but actually participating in the flower arranging for the ceremony is against her faith, and would not be possible. She gave them a list of references for others who could be helpful to them. The response to her kindness? The two men took her to court and sued her for refusing to serve them.

Both of these stories are full of injustice. The first story tells of Christians utterly failing the gospel. The second story is just the opposite: of a loving Christian cruelly attacked because of her faith. This same scenario could be examined with regard to racism. Though being black or white is not in any way to be equated with one's sexual expression, the heart of the matter is the same. Our natural sense of justice can be manipulated into fruitless action or even wrong action if all we do is get upset at the story itself.

As watchmen on the wall who are called to stand in the gap so the land will not be destroyed, what is our calling in the face of these and other such scenarios? We must be prepared in our own hearts to respond righteously in love to whatever issue may come where we live. All injustice everywhere touches us whether we feel it or not. We can live in the wisdom of God and know the peace of God so that when called upon we manifest the character of God and bring the presence of the kingdom of God. We must be willing to face injustice of all sorts, and be sure that we are not taking this or that side, but are on God's side. We are the light of the world. We are the salt of the earth. Let us be who and what we are.



*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Alleluia!*



## Book News



Rather than a single book focus, I want to introduce some of you (and remind others of you) to the treasury found in [Andrew Murray](#). His little books are one of the greatest gifts given to the church. He is the great bridge between the Reform and Charismatic parts of the church. He pioneered that much-needed reunion a hundred years before us. The anointing on his work is as powerful and needed as it was in its first printing. These easily accessible books should be on your shelves for regular study. One example is [THE HOLIEST OF ALL](#), his exposition of the book of Hebrews. Just get and read them, often.

## Closing Thoughts...



Chesterton said, "I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act, but I do believe in a fate that falls on them **UNLESS** they act." It is another way of saying, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." (Edmond Burke) We cannot do everything. But let that never keep us from doing what we can. It is not enough to claim to love God. We must hate evil. And we overcome evil with good. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. (Eccl. 9:10) Wherever you have been stationed by the Lord, love Him and love others, and let your holy anger against evil move you to righteous action. Nothing frees us from temptation to do wrong like a passion for doing good.



*With love & joy,  
Clay & Mary*



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