



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,



*Clouds and thick darkness are round about Him:
righteousness and justice are the foundation of
His Throne. Psalm 97:2*

Clouds and darkness speak of that which is mysterious and unknowable about God. To speak of God at all is to speak of that which is obviously so far beyond us that to say He is beyond us is a silly understatement. But if we leave it there, we have not said anything worth saying. If we think God is so far above us as to be beyond knowing, we are speaking like a Hindu rather than a Christian. How many times have you heard folks say, "God's ways are not our ways." It is usually meant to try to explain some tragedy. The idea is that God's ways are not our ways and He is mysterious. So sometimes for no good reason to us something bad happens. So we must bow to the mystery and accept the horrible event and recognize that He is so far above us that we must just submit to the tragedy. Hold on!

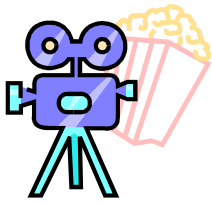
I believe it is right and wise to submit to the high and holy mystery of God in all aspects of His holiness and deity. Of course to be GOD He must obviously be beyond us. But thankfully the verse above does not leave it there. Yes, clouds and darkness surround Him, BUT **righteousness and justice are the foundation of His Throne**. What does that tell us? That no matter how mysterious certain aspects of God may be, there is no hidden mystery in God which will contradict His goodness and loving kindness. Appealing to mystery is not an adequate tool to explain nonsense. And it is nonsense to celebrate God's goodness and love while then seeking to make a place for God to be the opposite of good or loving. So why are there terrible things happening? Well, I guess you do know I won't answer that huge question fully here or anywhere else. Just because I can't answer adequately here and now does not mean there are no answers. And just because some answers are well beyond being given in this

present life, does not make it feasible or less incoherent to try to somehow make God a dual schizophrenic personality. Terrible things are tragedies of this ongoing war, but the Cross has settled the final outcome. All that is good and right will be what stands within the clouds and darkness. **He is the Rock and His work is perfect. All His ways are justice: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He. (Deuteronomy 32:4)**

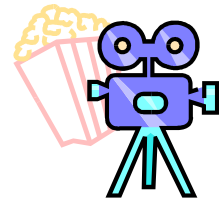
Why are we called to walk by faith? Do we think God just enjoys making a hide-and-seek mystery out of life by placing us in a five-sense controlled world, but then making Himself the invisible but all demanding contradiction to common sense? No. His setting up of visible vs invisible has a rich wisdom in it. There is something being formed in us which the process of walking by faith is perfecting. And whatever it is, it is good and will produce greater and greater good. We are at war. The decisive battle that has already settled the outcome was finished at the Cross. Every time we take our stand in the Cross and declare our faith in the One who died on it, we are strengthened to overcome evil with good. We are being partners with the Father in bringing glory to the Son. As we grow in love, we are advancing His kingdom in the earth. Our personal struggles are precious to Him, and He is with us in them all. Our personal struggles when submitted to Him in faith transcend our mere private world. They become a part of the progressive growth of His kingdom, and will help bring the consummation of the age, the return of the King, and the final destruction of all evil from the cosmos. Let us bow and tremble in awe and holy reverence at the clouds and darkness which are beyond our comprehension. And let us just as strongly know and rely on the mysterious God who is all we long for Him to be: our loving heavenly Father. He will put right all that is wrong and restore all things. Just and right is He.

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





Movie News



Same Kind of Different as Me

From a true life story written in a book by the same name, this recent film was hated by the critics, so I knew it would be a film worth seeing and recommending. Sure enough it has all the elements the critics love to hate. It is about the relationship between a homeless black man and a wealthy white couple in Fort Worth, Texas. The book is even better!

All Saints

Another true story about a church in Tennessee that was set to close by its overseers, but which opened its doors to local refugees and saw a resurrection even if the struggle to get there seemed to be a total defeat. A great example of clouds and darkness revealing righteousness and justice.

The Resurrection of Gavin Stone

This movie is thoughtful, well acted, and very, very funny. A well-known public icon must do community time in a church, where he comes to discover something more than just acting a part.

Closing Thoughts...

There is no division in God between justice and mercy. They are one. When justice is dehumanized into a mere legal system it becomes injustice. And once it is unjust it becomes evil. Let us be wary of cries for justice that have no mercy. Lord teach us to be a just and merciful people.

**The Lord is waiting to be
gracious to you.
Therefore He rises up to show
mercy to you:
for the Lord is a God of justice.
Isaiah 30:18**

Celebrating His Resurrection, Clay & Mary



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