



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,



*To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion,
to give unto them beauty for ashes,
the oil of joy for mourning,
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
that they might be called trees of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.*

Isaiah 61:3

How will we see the current shaking of things sorted out? What will be the outcome of once stable institutions so disrupted? How will we be able to live amidst a conflict in which the most basic principles of common sense are held in question... or worse, openly attacked? What will happen when the values held by most people are not only rejected, but treated as the aberration?

The rather fancy name given to this level of disintegration of stability is *deconstructionism*. We cannot unpack all that is relevant to this phenomena here. There is just one aspect I want to focus on for now. I recently listened to a conversation between a deconstructionist: a young man in his late twenties, and an older man in his late fifties. They sought to untangle and understand their differing views. The younger man expressed how there was a part of him which wanted to set a match to the whole thing and see it burn. Some of us older ones may bristle at this extreme statement. Yet, we need to consider how much our generation's lack of thoughtful self-examination may have contributed to the angry reaction in the younger generation, such as this young man was expressing. Our self-righteous conservatism may be the very stodgy self-satisfaction that justifies his *deconstructionism*. As the older man continued to help the younger one unpack



his anger, and voice his complaints, the younger man concluded as follows: "As I raged, I began to realize that I don't know where to go now. I don't know what to believe, what to value, what to gather my life around. I suddenly became aware of the huge void I would fall into if I successfully destroyed (deconstructed) what I hate, BEFORE I found what I love."

As he spoke, I saw the great canyon before him made deep and wide by the errors of how we do church. Where are we who Paul calls the pillar and ground of the truth? How have we so failed to manifest the Real that we cannot meet this man and his generation in their void and catch them as they fall? There is the Catholic child abuse horrors and the Protestant child abuse horrors. There is the emotionally arid desert of hyper pseudo-intellectual evangelical ivory towers. There is the sometimes ridiculous antics of the charismatic circuses. There is the upper mobility of the prosperity-minded middleclass American gospel. There is the pop music TV shake your booty 'worship' gatherings. There is the plain old meanness and cruelty of bible-thumping legalists. There is religion in spades, yet dead in the pews. There is a lot of God talk, without the God walk. The real question is this: who will answer when the cries for help reach their crescendo?

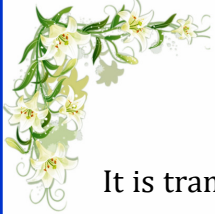
I will tell you who will answer: the poor, the ruined, the shipwrecked, the broken-hearted, the disenfranchised, the abused, the betrayed. It will be those who have faced the deepest of sorrow, suffering, and shame. It will be those who have known the depth of their sin and have encountered the height of Christ's grace. It is these who will emerge from the ash heap of what seemed like a hopeless hell, and will rise full of resurrection power, truth, and compassion. They will answer.

God is not passively watching from a distance. He is deep in the mean streets. Our God is a Redeemer. What is destroyed, He will make new. What is torn down, He will rebuild. Whether it is in our private life or in our corporate world. The respectable must be supplanted by the truly good. Stay humble before Him. Keep your eyes on Him, not on all that is turning to dust around you. Dr. Donald Bloesch said back in 1984 that the religious system of the church of the West would have to become ashes, so that from its smoldering ruins, the phoenix of the real true church would arise. May it be that time soon, Lord Jesus. Glorify your Name in our midst!



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





RESURRECTION

It is transformative if we think of the Resurrection correctly. It is deforming if we do not. What do I mean? If you were to plot out a timeline of history, noting the major events, what would it look like? Maybe something like this: Creation...The fall...The flood...The Tower of Babel...The Call of Abraham...Moses and The Giving of the Torah...(I am obviously skipping things, but you get the drift)...The Incarnation...The Ministry of Jesus...The Crucifixion...The Resurrection...The Ascension...Pentecost...Establishing the Church...Unfolding of the Church Age...The Return of Jesus...Eternity. So, what am I getting at? It is accurate if all you are looking at is the flow of earthly history. But if you factor in the spiritual view of reality, it suddenly changes. It may read correctly until you get to the Resurrection. But from that point, the line following Resurrection should simply be...The intrusion of the New Age; The close of the Adamic Age...The breaking into history of the Kingdom, or any other phrases to mark that ***the Resurrection of Jesus is the end of all previous ages and the irrefutable intrusion of the new age of His rule in the universe.*** Time, as it was unfolding under Adam, came to a total end at the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We have been living in the 'end of the ages' from that moment forward. All that is happening now in human history is an unfolding scenario of the death of this world system and the increasing manifestation of the King's reign. ***"The kingdoms of this world are become*** (a phrase we would not use, but that means, *has already been happening, is still happening, and will completely be evident as happening at some point in what we call the future, but is now fully realized in the Spirit*), ***the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. And He shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)*** Christ IS risen. Christ IS NOW King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ IS NOW seated at the Father's right hand. And in the economy of Heaven, all things are NOW under His feet. We do not see all things placed under Him from our limited view. ***But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor. (Hebrews 2:9)*** It will make a huge difference in how you view the world and your own life when you teach yourself to adjust this understanding on your inner time line of history, world history, and your own history.



Closing Thoughts...



I speak to many who are afraid. Some people hide away in their fear (flight). Others strike out in their fear (fight). Both are broken. Some of the fighters take false refuge in a sort of huffing frustration at what to them is a lack of action. They want to see ACTION. They demand God (and/or whoever acts for God) to do SOMETHING. I understand fear. Both kinds. I understand the demand for action. I am not above any of that. I am guilty of the worse elements of it. That is why I can say with some assurance: stop it! Keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep your ears open to Him. Stay at your post. Do not be afraid. Whatever you do, do not stop praying. For the energies generated in intercession are the energies God uses to generate His redemptive power in the earth. He chooses to make us His partners in that work. (See *Nightlight* archives on hours of teaching on the reason for prayer.) Fear not! He is the Faithful One.

Celebrating Resurrection, Clay & Mary



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