



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

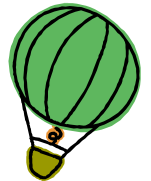
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Dear Friends,



I don't believe there is any subject the *Nightlight* family of listeners avoids. I am sure out of the many who listen we do not all agree on every detail. I HOPE WE DON'T! That would worry me. We need each other and our differences in order to grow, learn, and express mutual respect and love to each other. God deliver us from having a single point of view on issues that by their very nature awaken different points of view. It is on the unchangeable foundational truths we dare not have fluidity. That would be the Nicene Creed. All other issues beyond that foundational creed are open to discussion.

Yet, what about the Christians who lived the three hundred years BEFORE the Nicene Council? If you know anything about that era, there was a rather wide variation of thoughts and beliefs about issues as vitally important as the nature of Jesus and His deity. Some thought He was a secondary god to the

Father. Some believed He and the Holy Spirit were actually created by the Father. Many weren't sure, and most probably didn't think that deeply about it. They heard the good news that Jesus had died for them and was raised from death, and that through faith in Him they could be delivered from the haunting fear of death. They trusted that truth because they trusted Jesus.

When the church was set free of governmental persecution by Constantine, a new era of freedom brought a new problem. What will we teach and believe about these questions? The Nicene Council brought the needed clarity to the question of Jesus in relation to the Father and the Holy Spirit. Other following councils through the years addressed more needed issues. The Holy Spirit oversaw this developing understanding. This progressive revelation into greater truth was the ongoing work of grace. But for some, sadly, the attitude would be something like this: "You must believe XYZ exactly the

way WE have come to believe XYZ, or you are lost.” Question. Did the 3000 on the day of Pentecost know that Jesus was born of a virgin? Did they know that Jesus was the Creator of the Universe, the very God of Israel, YHWH, come to earth and living among them as Mary’s boy from Nazareth? Did they understand the various facets of the meaning of the Cross? Did they know the theories of atonement that would come to define evangelical faith? No, they did not. They were saved not by knowing and believing all the right doctrines. They were saved by faith in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Yes. Doctrine is certainly important. But it is not nearly as important as being in relationship with the Person. And it is not nearly as important as living loved with that Person. And that Person commanded us not to believe this or that doctrine about Him, but to obey Him and love each other. In the jungle of religious infighting that has cursed us for generations, there still remains far too many people who believe you can hate and be mean as long as you believe the right doctrine. They worship their doctrine, and miss the face of Love Himself. They live in fear of not getting it right. You can see it in their face - hard, cold, serious. One of the hallmarks of walking with God is joy. And it is totally missing from their life of do’s and don’ts.

Increasingly we will find that what ultimately matters is far simpler than theology can ever make it. Do we love God and do we love each other? I’m not trying to be profound here. I am just quoting the only One whose opinion matters. Jesus summed up the entire Law when He said, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.**” And then, in **John 13:34**: “**A new command I give you: love one another. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**” When it comes down to the heart of the matter, it is all about being loved and living lovingly. It is terrible indeed to believe all the right doctrine but still be missing the one thing needful. Who do you love?





The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Closing Thoughts...



When we understand what Jesus means when He says to believe in Him, much of our confusion vanishes. To believe in Jesus means to trust in HIM, not to believe facts about Him. James reminds us demons believe....and tremble. Jesus told the Pharisees in John 5 "Search the Scriptures, for they point to Me, but you will not come to Me in order to have life." I just wonder sometimes, how many of us search the Scriptures and find all kinds of subjects ABOUT Jesus we can argue over, but we do not come to Him and find LIFE? So all we end up bringing to a dying world is not Life, but arguments? May we keep this question before us until the LIFE of Jesus is so manifested through His true church that the world will believe He is the Son of God, because they see His Life in us and experience His love flowing through us to them.



We would appreciate your prayers for the August 12 - 16 Conference.

In Him, Clay & Mary

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