



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,



The night is far spent and the day is about to dawn. Let us put off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:12

...pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

II Peter 1:19



Why is this newsletter called *Nightlight*? I once worked closely with a godly pastor who took issue with this title. He also thought the lyrics of "**Against the Night**" were unbiblical. He said the words describe an ever increasing evil that will grow worse and worse, while Scripture decrees that all evil has been vanquished at the cross and that there is no need for ongoing warfare. He believed the following verse painted a wrong picture:

"Against the final darkness no human strength can stand; the evil shall be shattered but not by human hand; the Maker of the Morning will come in holy

light; that burns in righteous anger and wrath against the night... Then comes the final morning". He saw the end of the age from a school of thought that states that from the moment of Jesus' resurrection we were ushered into the close of this age with no more need for warfare.

Jesus DID disarm the principalities and powers by His Cross (*Colossians 2:15*). And the following centuries unfold the certain progress of the Kingdom of God. Age by age the growth of the gospel has penetrated every nation. Thousands became millions, and millions are becoming billions. The Kingdom of God through His people will eventually culminate with the *kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of our Lord and of Christ (Revelation 11:15)*. *The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14)*.

Perspective is vitally important. The devil is not taking over the world. Islam is not the fastest growing religion on earth. That is hell's propaganda. God's people on earth are crying out for Heaven to come. The pressure of those two holy forces - heaven from above and earth from below - causes the squeezing of the second heaven, where Satan's kingdom still dwells (*II Corinthians 12:2; Ephesians 6:12; Daniel 10*). This squeezing is an increasing force that will finally drive evil out of its position (*Isaiah 27*) and bring it to an end (*Revelation 12*). The spread of the gospel will penetrate every nation (*Matthew 24:14*), and the discipling of those nations will break the leftover ruins of demonic strongholds. Jesus must rule through His faithful people *until all His enemies are put under His feet (Hebrews 10:13; I Corinthians 15:25). Then the end shall come.* Not the end of the world, but the end of evil and the renewing of the world, which will culminate in a *new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21)*.

But in the meantime, just as D-day preceded VE-Day, so the Cross was D-day for evil. The present cleanup of unfolding history precedes the final complete victory. So Scripture speaks of both dynamics. We are NOW already the *children of the day (I Thessalonians 5:5,8)*. We are now already *seated with Him in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6)*. We are now already *ruling in life by Christ Jesus (Romans 5:17)*. But we are also still in the cleanup warfare between decisive victory of Calvary and final inauguration of the Kingdom in the Return of the King. So we *wrestle with principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:10-17)*. We are *vigilant, knowing that our adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, whom we resist steadfast in the faith (I Peter 5:8,9)*. We learn to use the *weapons of our warfare (II Corinthians 10:3-5)*. We are called to put on the *armor of light for the night is far spent and the dawn is almost here*. So we DO stand in the diminishing, ever weakening defeated dark.

Finally, we still must stand **"Against the Night"** as **Nightlights**, with our oil lamps trimmed and shining. We continue watching for the final ultimate conflict which will crescendo into the final climax of this present age: *the appearing of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-14)*. We humbly learn to hold these two truths in proper tension. It is neither total triumphalism that denies ongoing warfare, nor escapism that fears the antichrist and whatever the devil is doing. We are called to live with a sober, clear-minded vigilance that discerns the times and obeys the commands of the Spirit to live lovingly. As *we are waiting for Him to come (Hebrews 9:28)*, we also *occupy till He comes*. So this and each New Year should be a time of vision to shine the light of His presence into the dark. We continue planning, working, and loving even as we pray 'Come Lord Jesus.'



MOVIE NEWS

STAR WARS ROGUE ONE

This film was an event for me. After so many **Star Wars** duds, this one turned out to be the closest I have come for many years to feeling like I did in 1977, both in good and bad ways. The good ways was just the excitement, the visual power, and the reconnecting with the original story line, including the villains. They resurrected Peter Cushing (so to speak) who in real life died in 1994. They managed to use an actor, superimpose Cushing's face on him, and through a combination of audio and visual magic, bring back the evil Grand Moff Tarkin, the death star master. I wasn't sure if his new exceeding creepiness was done on purpose, or if it was the result of this technology not being able to make him more human. Either way, he is CREEPY!

I digress a bit, but here is a much more important fact about Peter Cushing. His wife died years before he did, and he had to battle to survive that loss. She died in faith and he turned to the church for help. But he reported that those priests he sought out seemed in his words, 'embarrassed by their own Christian message of Resurrection,' the one truth he most needed to embrace! I can't seem to separate **Star Wars** entertainment from Spirit Wars reality. And now Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) has died, followed one day later by her mother, Debbie Reynolds. Real life keeps breaking in to remind us that all worlds come to an end except Aslan's own country.

The bad of this film is an increased focus on the power of the Force. When that is coupled with the same sort of occult eastern spirituality found in another film, **Dr. Strange**, it sets alot of impressionable new audiences up for real danger. I stand by my constant message to parents about film. Get to know what your kids are watching, why they are watching, and what their conclusions are from watching. Be ready to give an answer to them for the reasons of the hope (the REAL HOPE) that is within us. Film is a great conversation starter and engine towards real meaningful sharing. It simply is our present culture's campfire storytelling, so we must learn to address it wisely. But sometimes, like in **Rogue One**, you can have fun again while doing it.

Closing Thoughts...



*In days to come Jacob will take root,
Israel will bud and blossom
and fill all the world with fruit.
(Isaiah 27:6)*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. (Psalm 122)
Especially now!

Blessed New Year, Clay & Mary



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