



# 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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## —IMPORTANT NOTICE—

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER,  
MAILED NIGHTLIGHT EDITIONS BY REQUEST ONLY.

We want you to have the next few months to decide what best works for you:  
Nightlight via our website, or Nightlight via traditional mail.

Please use the enclosed slip to let us know.

We are happy to serve you, whatever option you choose.



## THINGS ARE BECOMING WHAT THEY TRULY ARE

*"The path of the just is like a shining light, growing brighter and brighter until it reaches perfect noon day..." (Proverbs 4:18). "Evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived..." (2 Timothy 3:13). "Let both grow together until the time of harvest..." (Matthew 13:30).*

For my entire adult life I have taken great comfort in Scriptures like: "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it." (**Philippians 1:6**); "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith..." (**Hebrews 12:2**); and "The Lord will perfect that which pertains to me." (**Psalms 138:8**). Paul describes how as we behold the face of the Lord in worship that we are transformed from one level of glory to another until finally as John puts it (**I John 3:2**), "When we see Him we shall be like Him..." Jude closes his short letter with a doxology that embraces the grace and mercy of God for us that is able to "keep us from falling and present us faultless before His Throne with exceeding joy..." That is our destiny. When I am tempted with despair over how much I lack, in the words of the great hymn *Before the Throne of God*, "Upward I look and see HIM there who made an end of all my sin. Because the sinless

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Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free. For God the just is satisfied to look on HIM and pardon me." I rest in His perfect and completed work on the Cross for me. I rest in His saving and sanctifying power He exerts over me by His grace alone.

So what is happening in the world? Just as goodness is becoming more and more its true self, so evil too is becoming more and more what it actually is. The lines between good and evil are not drawn between parties or races, classes or genders, but runs straight through every human heart. Some people you might have despaired for are emerging as trophies of grace. Some who claimed Christ in public profession are turning out to be horrendous workers of evil. And whatever we truly are, the Day is fast approaching when whatever THAT truly is shall be made manifest. (1 Corinthians 3:13)

*Brothers and Sisters, be followers together of me, and mark those who walk so, as your examples. For many walk, of whom I have told you, and now tell you again with tears, that they are enemies of the Cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in the things for which they should be ashamed, who mind earthly things... Phillipians 3:17-19*

After knowing even a small bit of what Jesus suffered in order to save us, is there anything more horrible than to come to the end of this life and find that He considers you, not only an indifferent

fool towards His sacrifice, but an actual enemy against it? And who might be such an enemy? Not just the ungodly, but some inside the Church! They parade the cross as their symbol of faith and yet live and teach others to live as if the sin which Jesus died to redeem us from is no sin at all. To them, Jesus is not Lord or Savior for there is nothing from which to be saved; there is no wrath to come; grace means freedom to live in the very sin Jesus came to wash away by His shed blood. They don't speak of the blood, the cross, sin, or the wrath to come; it might upset 'seekers.' Humanistic false prophets promising thousands of nominal believers easy soft words make themselves the ENEMY of the cross more than the ACLU or the Communist party. How? By claiming to be of the Cross while being ashamed of its very essence! Ashamed? Yes, we seek to hide and distance ourselves from what we are ashamed of. So many are ashamed of the Cross. More and more the Atonement of Christ is under attack — not by atheists, but by pseudo-believers, who deny the very core of the gospel and teach in the name of 'love,' when all the while they are denying the Ultimate Act of Love.

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*"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savor...it is good for nothing but to be cast out and trampled under the foot of men." Matthew 5:13*

It is this impotent denial of the Cross and all it means that rendered the Church of the past 30 plus years too weak to prophetically declare truth with love in the face of evil power. As we denied the gospel we became more and more taken over by the rising flood of 'culture' until we drowned in attempts to be *relevant*. We bent over backwards not to offend people with no concern whether we might be offending Almighty God. We fell so deeply into the very sins of the culture we dared not rebuke that when we did speak out against evil our words fell weakly to the ground and we looked like self-interested hypocrites seeking our own welfare.

*"Buy from Me gold tried in the fire..."  
Revelation 3:18*

Jesus has a treasury of pure gold which He purchased in the fire of His Cross. He invites us to come and 'purchase' it. How? By renouncing the crossless false religion of this current culture and entering into 'the fellowship of His sufferings...' (**Phillipians 3:8-10**). Out of such self-renunciation, there is a place of self-sacrifice upon which God can pour the fire of cleansing. As Lynn DeShazo recently said to me, "The place of sacrifice is the place of power." God will not entrust world transforming power to those who want the world. But to those who are against the world

for the world's sake, who deny self and take up their cross, He will pour out fire-tried gold, a reality which the world may hate and reject, but they will first have to respect its validity, for it has been 'tried in the fire' and purchased with sacrifice.

*Why do the nations so furiously rage together and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and His Messiah...He that dwells in Heaven shall laugh.*

*Psalms 2: 1-4*

*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever.*

*Revelation 11:15*

*All power is given to me in heaven and earth. Go therefore into all the earth and teach all nations.... Matthew 28:18-19*

Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. He sits there NOW. He is Lord over all the nations NOW. The battle going on here is not to decide who will reign; that is settled. The only decision is who will be saved by His reign and who will be damned by it. The puny rulers of the earth will scream for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the anger of the Lamb. (**Revelation 5**) We must live as people who are children of that King and act as watchmen who understand the tentative and precarious position of the rulers of the earth.

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Time for choosing is passing swiftly. Let us stop acting as if this world is the ultimate value or the ultimate authority. If we are thinking clearly and accurately we will never compromise with evil or be intimidated by the governments of men. We will humbly tremble for them, contemplating the horrible destiny they are choosing, and because we "understand the terror of the Lord we will speak boldly to persuade men." (2 Corinthians 5:11)

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### Some Closing Thoughts...

Sometimes the closing words of another are better than our own. The following words (written by George Kitchin), may be familiar to you as the hymn, Lift High the Cross. May they become your own...

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.  
O Lord, once lifted on this glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw men unto Thee.  
For Thy blest cross which doth for all atone,  
Creation's praises raise before Thy throne.  
So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

With Love, Clay & Mary



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