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Closing Thoughts



Dear Friends,



I don't want any of your offerings, no matter how choice they are. Take away the noise of your songs! I refuse to even listen to your strings! But let justice roll down like rivers, and righteousness as a never ending stream!

Amos 5:22-23

It is common for us to seek personal distraction and entertainment when things are shaking. It is also very natural to allow our own personal experience to form our view of how things are. The propaganda news machine counts on the fact that one lie told often enough by enough sources, can easily twist reality whichever direction they choose. As a result, many of us (even those who know better) end up feeling alone in an increasingly hopeless milieu. Negativity stifles our view of the good to be accomplished.

We are in good company though. Elijah had the same problem. "I'm the only one left who serves you, Lord." It took divine intervention for Elijah to dis-

cover there were seven thousand who had not bowed their knee to Baal. Some commentators point out that seven is a number of completion and thousand refers to utter completion. So whether this was actually seven thousand or a symbolic figure referring to a complete company of the faithful, either way it rebukes the false idea of any of us being the only one. Psalm 110:3 says "My people shall make of themselves a free will offering in the day you gather your army." How will that happen?

There is a world-wide awakening taking place in Christian and non-Christian alike. The economic



shaking is the tool, and is the natural result of years of crooked practices. People put up with a lot and perpetrate a lot for a long time, but at some point a corporate shift begins. Once it does, it is beyond anyone's control. Political turmoil erupts as people finally become enraged, either over their own unfulfilled demands, or over long injustice. They begin to move out of complacency into action. For good or ill, they attack failing systems and crooked governments. Regardless of the terrible mixture in it, this was seen in the Arab Spring and is now visible in the Ukraine and Venezuela. More will erupt. At some point this will inevitably occur here in America. We are not Germany. We will not simply continue to bow into total submission to ever increasing fascism. Yet with no unifying vision or leadership, such resistance to tyranny in America will not result in restoring America. There will be possible civil war, or some other disintegration, but never a restored America as most define it. We are headed somewhere else, both nationally and internationally until the Return of the King.

Until then we are to occupy (Luke 19:13). This does not refer to holding the fort as a besieged minority or occupying as in a military or political rule. It simply means to do business. In other words, we are to carry on with the things of life that produce and manifest that which is good. One cannot do that very well sitting under a shade tree feeling alone, defeated, and bereft of hope, wishing for the rapture. Love not shared will shrivel and dry up. There are many victories occurring. But if our news comes from TV, we will never know of them, and will easily believe the opposite.

It was announced this week that China is about to become the largest Christian nation in the world. Months ago France took to the streets by the thousands to reject same-sex marriage. Why France? Because five Christians made it their business to go throughout France informing people of facts, so when the propaganda machine vomited its lies, their assault on sanity was met with informed resistance.

Here in the USA, abortion is being driven backwards at unprecedented rates. Young people of high school and college age are asking deep questions about what life is about and where it can be found. The sexual revolution has proven what it is: a reckless plunge over the moral cliff into a river of lost relationships, destroyed families, abandoned or murdered children, sex slavery, porn addiction, same-sex longings, horrors of disease, and suicides. Racism is not the force it is constantly touted to be by the propagandists. The evidence of racial unity and genuine love happen



far more often than the opposite. Film in the 1980's was almost completely without godly content, increasingly dishonoring the Christian faith. Now three top films of the year so far are blatantly pro-God. Many others, if not so overtly godly, offer honorable story lines, with other such films coming. (I am NOT referring to *NOAH*, which is a gnostic retelling of Genesis taken directly out of 3rd century occult writings!) Hollywood is being shaken to its core by increasingly outspoken insiders asking hard questions. The private prayer meetings going on for years in back lots and private homes of Christian professionals inside the industry, are beginning to see the first rolling rocks of a coming avalanche. I believe most important of all, Americans are showing by what they are supporting at the box office, not merely what kind of entertainment they want, but also what kind of LIFE they long for! Remember, everyone is human, and deep inside longs for life and love.

No, we will not ever return to America as it used to be. By that I mean the America where we could simply enjoy ourselves and ignore the evils of the world. Thank God, we will not return to hypocrisy, misogyny, racism, denominational idolatry, complacency in the face of wrong, or the mindless "good ole boy" party politics of both left and right. We are moving toward something far greater. The fuel moving us is turmoil. This friction, which drives us out of our former self-satisfied indolence, will only increase in intensity until all things (some evil and some good) are fully manifested. Everything will finally become what it truly is!

At some point, known only to God, the King will return. Let Him not find us sitting around kvetching the loss of our particular version of the happy "daze." May He find us awake, empowered, envisioned, and in action: beloved and loving others, manifesting life and giving life in His Name.

Movie Review: Heaven is for Real



I think we are finally learning to make good movies. It is a very difficult art to make a story entertaining and real while still communicating the gospel. Sadly, there are always those out there who will find any number of details they call unbiblical. Please ignore them. This film is one of the finest attempts yet to tell a true Christ-exalting story. It is filled with all the joy and pain, laughter and tears that is real life. Go and make your own determination!



Closing Thoughts...



While on a recent road trip, I bought a movie ticket for what turned out to be a moving experience. I returned to my car from the theater unable to drive for about thirty minutes. I was weeping so strongly I had to just stay put till the trauma inside me subsided. No, I was not merely responding to the film. I saw the entire nation. The tears were pouring, not FROM me, but THROUGH me. And 300 million voices cried out in those tears for REALITY to mercifully be granted to us again. I felt as if my heart would not be able to sustain the longing for the Real Presence to be poured out on us. Then, as quickly as it came, the intercession subsided, and I drove on, thankful that the Holy Spirit is still groaning in my groaning over the groaning of this nation. Don't lose heart. Don't become weary in loving. For in good time we shall reap what we are sowing.



Andy Comiskey, Mario Bergner, Clay McLean: old friends meeting on this side to honor friend and colleague Katherine Allen who went Home to the other side recently.



McLean Ministries

P.O. Box 2088 ● Hickory, North Carolina 28603 ● 828.322.5402 website: www.mcleanministries.org ● email: claymcleanministries@pobox.com