



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,



There are so many good words ruined by religious wrong ideas. I want to focus on just one in this writing: *judgement*.

We should be deeply grateful that God is a God of judgement. If we are not, it is only because we totally misunderstand the meaning of the word. Small-minded legalism perverts the meaning of words, therefore clouding our vision of reality. Many teachers also inadvertently develop shortened catch phrases of meaning for some words that fall short of the true picture. We often end up with only one narrow idea, and even that idea is not fully accurate. For example, when some hear the word *judgement*, what that means to them is something that goes like this: 'Judgement is God's punishment on us. Therefore, when we do something wrong, God is angry at us. He sends judgement as a retribution of vengeance.' Some in this category also believe that God is moved by sheer capricious pleasure in punishing wrongdoers. It seems to this group that God is gleefully rubbing His hands together in anticipation of what wrong we are going to do next, just waiting to zap us into shape. This is not anywhere close to the true character of God, much less to the

meaning of God's judgement! **He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgement: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He. (Deut 32:4)** Often the words for justice and judgement translated in our English Bibles are interchangeable. **God's judgement is His justice.** But instead of justice mitigating our wrong idea of judgement, we actually reverse it, and our thinking goes something like this: 'God's justice is His wrath. And His wrath is His judgement. And so justice is always wrathful. So therefore God's judgement means God is fed up with us and will strike us with His rage.' We may even understand on a thinking level the different nuances of those connected words. But in our hearts, based on our emotions, we may still conjure up images of a mean and distant God that believes punishment (judgement) is His idea of justice.

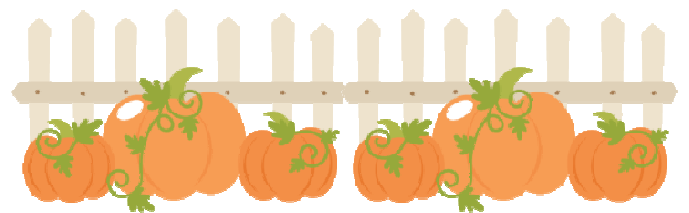


Sadly, some preachers are to blame for this misunderstanding. I have expressed my own rage in messages where I made God after my own image and likeness. I thank the Lord for His patience with me in that. Yes, God has passion. When the scriptures say that God is slow to anger, it means just that: He is slow to get angry. The word in Hebrew refers to flaring nostrils, as when we are holding back our rage. He is SLOW to anger, but not without anger. That does not mean that God in His anger hates us, and must punish us because we are evil. No! Absolutely wrong thinking! God in His righteous anger DOES NOT hate us. God in His anger hates what is hurting us – the evil of sin. God does not hate us, but strikes out to destroy the evil that He hates. Judgement is about putting things right, not about God throwing thunderbolts down at us from above. He never shames us or manipulates us or has false expectations of us. He knows us through and through, and loves us still.

Yet so often in our brokenness, we identify God's anger with our own, not just about how we see ourselves, but toward others. We end up sinning in our imagination and sin worse in our communication about God's heart. There's an old spiritual that says, "You may run on for a long time. But let me tell you: God Almighty's gonna cut you down!" And some of us, as we sing or hear that song, do so with a slight tinge of satisfaction at this thought: 'You are finally going to get what you really deserve: God's judgement. God is going to beat the hell out of you, or throw you away into hell.' We may even find numerous scriptures that fully support that glee. Like Psalm 9, where we can dash the children of our enemies against the rocks, as the Babylonians did to Israel's children in the invasion. But if you take the whole revelation of Scripture in, and discern all past Scripture starting with Jesus, rather than imaging Jesus based on earlier Scripture, you cannot and will not, let your anger go so far to become sinful. You cannot and will not rejoice in the death of even the wicked. **Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? (Ezekiel 18:23)**

It would be worth your time to soak up this entire chapter of Ezekiel about the how and why of judgement, and the heart of God about it. (Also see **Jeremiah 18**.) Wrongly interpreting judgement is only one of the common errors of Bible interpretation that malign the nature and character of our Father, and ends up deforming people instead of transforming them. **Judgement means to put things RIGHT.** THANK GOD FOR HIS JUDGEMENT! May we all come to KNOW the heart of our God. **Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgement, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:23,24)**

The religious demon who loves to comment on Scripture in order to deform our hearts towards God will tell you two favorite lies to contradict this invitation from your Father. The first lie: 'No one can know God. He is far above you and out of your reach.' You can know Him if you want to. Press in to Him and seek for Him with all your heart, and you will find Him more and more. The second lie: 'God loves you when you are good and hates you when you are bad. You must always balance God's love with His rage (judgement) against you.' **God's love is just and His justice is loving. Always!** And that is what He wants us to know about Him above all. His judgements (putting things right) come out of His perfect love.



Prophecy & Judgement

I got some mixed feedback concerning my description in last month's letter where I sought to describe a word that came to me I believe from the Lord concerning this nation and it's shedding of innocent blood. The shedding of innocent blood brings a divine retribution. Are we not all very thankful for that truth? Do we want a God who doesn't care that innocent blood has been and is being shed? And the word said that indifferent believers would be included in the coming judgement because to be indifferent is to be guilty of participation in the sin. So many would die prematurely, and only intercessory prayer and repentance would mitigate (not fully stop) this judgement. Is that not a good thing? Yes it is. For it means not only that God can be trusted to be holy, but he also calls His own to be holy also. Some die in such divine judgements who are not directly guilty of the sin, but who are victims of circumstances brought on by the sin. God knows how to righteously sort out all those details. We should never bend into some dark vision of a divine temper tantrum. Death for us is not the dreaded destruction the forces of hell would wield if they could.

Death has been destroyed by the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And death as a corrective in this present life is not the end of 'the world' for any of us. So if many of us may end up passing along from this present world earlier than was expected because of our indifference to truth, or because of our innocent victimization caused by the corporate sin of the nation (as has occurred with several friends and associates of ours just since last month's letter), it is a powerful corrective judgement. But it is NOT condemning of any individual person struck by this national and international mess we all helped to bring about. *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints... When God's judgements are in the earth, the people learn righteousness.* Yes, so be it.

One person said they were glad to see me countering what they considered too many positive words coming from prophets. I understood what was meant by that, but I am not seeking to counter balance positive with negative. I believe all the judgements of God are positive. All the corrective acts of God are for our ultimate good. I welcome prophetic words that point to the overthrow of evil and the restoration of justice on the human political earthly level, knowing that they can only occur if all injustice is brought before the sifting judgement seat of God. I thank you Lord, for your correcting, loving, and even severe judgements. May they begin and continue in me.



Closing Thoughts...



Mary and I are so very grateful for your prayers and financial support throughout the years. We continue to follow after Jesus, keeping our eyes on our Heavenly Father, and obeying the still small voice of the Holy Spirit to the best of our discernment and ability. Our traveling days have decreased greatly (there are still a few), yet our commitment to usher folks into His Healing Presence continues in many one-on-one encounters. I am sure you have seen the plaque that reads *"Bloom where you are planted."* More and more, that seems to be the directive for us: here in our neighborhood, here with our grown children and growing grandchildren and great-grandson and all the in-laws, here with our local contacts at the bank, the post office, the grocery store, the gym, the park, etc. We still love what we do: loving others to Jesus. Our ministry continues on many other fronts as well. Again, THANK YOU! You partner with us in every soul we touch.

For the glory of God, Clay & Mary



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