



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

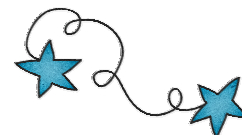
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## Dear Friends,



*My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge...*

*Hosea 4:6*

*Without a vision the people wander and perish...*

*Proverbs 29:18*

These verses are commonly used in church growth seminars to set the stage for messages calling people to find their destiny and fulfill their dream. I don't want to totally reject such messages. They may have a place to some degree in helping God's people move forward. But let's be clear. Personal development is NOT the aim of these verses. The core meaning of these prophetic warnings is that where the revealed Word of God is rejected, there is eventual disintegration leading to ultimate destruction. This is described in Romans 1. They suppressed the truth because they loved unrighteousness. It is not *lack* of information; it is *disregard for revealed truth* that is the danger. God does not judge to the same degree those who simply are in ignorance. But He warns over and over those who know and reject revealed truth.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said of the German people of the 1920s leading into the 30s and World War, *"The German people didn't want to hear the facts, and when they did, they chose not to believe them..."* He summed up the tragedy clearly by stating, *"Stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice. Evil always carries within itself the germ of its own subversion in that it leaves in human beings at least a sense of unease* [revealing at least a tiny remnant of conscience that might lead to hopefully right action]. *But against stupidity we are defenseless."*

Against stupidity we are defenseless. I have often been mildly rebuked for using the word stupid. I admit I have worn it out. After all, there are so many places to apply it! But we need to understand

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the meaning of the word rather than merely to rule against its use. If we were all in kindergarten it would be proper to be reminded not to call each other names. Stupid would be rightly off limits as a means of addressing another. But we are not in kindergarten. We are in the most perilous time in all history. So we need to either understand the word stupid as it is meant to be used, or find a word that suites the situation. It is not people who are inherently stupid. If they were it might be excusable. But it is the very fact that we are NOT stupid, that we ARE fully awake and fully responsible for what we see and know, that causes the cry against willful stupidity to be so appropriate.

From the myriad examples let me just grab one. Over the past few months we have all been aware of the sudden (seeming) exposure of several high profile news people who have been removed from or attempted to be removed from the air. The accusations were against people who have one thing in common. They are conservatives. The accusation, ironically enough, came from the left wing news sources. The charge in every case was sexual misconduct. This is not new, and we have seen it all before. What is seemingly on the increase, however, is the Pollyanna-like blindness of many Christians who do not even notice the obvious ploy in action here. Some good people simply don't want to exert the energy it takes to stand for the truth, and even co-operate with the falsehoods by refusing to even try to exercise godly discernment. Such willful stupidity moves the entire nation closer to the precipice. We are now at the place where Google, Facebook, and other communication systems have a growing control over what is circulated as news. Those who fail to exert themselves toward the truth will drown in this tainted stream of so-called reporting. If they drown, it will not be because there was no means of challenging the false news. It will simply be that they were never moved to even try to challenge it! It is far easier to remain in a stupor and sleep in the foggy murk of our culture rather than to shine the light where you are in truth and love.

The people destroyed for lack of knowledge are not those who fail to reach their potential because they needed more information they lacked. Not at all! They are destroyed because they had the truth and failed to act on it. Stupidity properly understood is not a pejorative commentary on mental ability. It is a description of those willfully napping in a self-imposed stupor who refuse to respond to the truth they have been given. May we be among the wise who show forth truth in love in all we are and do and say.

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.  
Live as children of light,  
for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.  
And find out what pleases the Lord.  
Ephesians 5: 8-10*

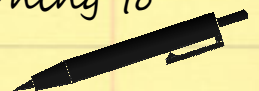


## The Quiet Argument of a Changed Life

(from a recent letter we received from a long-time Nightlighter)

...I always have thoughts and ideas as I listen to your monthly cd. I think it was the most recent one that you were sharing about response to those who would question or argue our faith. While I believe that we should study to show ourselves approved, and have a ready answer to those who might ask, I also know that sometimes there just isn't a clear answer or leading when we are called to respond. Sometimes over-preparation can confuse us when attempting intellectual response; the hurried effort to say "just the right thing." Then I remembered the blind/healed man in John 9. I love his honest and clear response: "I don't know. One thing I do know, I was blind and now I see." He clearly knew what Jesus had done for him...

I don't know a lot of things, and often I wish I had convincing arguments to win others. But this I do know: I was pessimistically negative and complaining, but now optimistically positive and uncomplaining; I was self-centered, selfish, and proud, but now (hopefully) other-centered, selfless, and humbled; I was discontent and ungrateful, but now I am content, grateful, full of thanksgiving, and at peace. *A life changed is a quiet argument that needs no words.* Like David, I am learning to encourage my own soul...





## *Closing Thoughts...*



*Never underestimate the power of a single encounter with a person you truly see and who truly sees and hears you. The ongoing ripple effect of evil encounters we all know painfully well. But is it not far more to the point that a godly encounter where truth is spoken in love may turn the tide for good for not only the one, who matters singularly, but for ongoing multiplied encounters which grow exponentially? It is the false feeling of not being able to do everything that keeps many of us from ever doing anything. Be a nightlight in the dark.*



*For His Glory, Clay & Mary*

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