



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

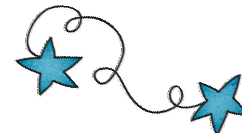
"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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## Dear Friends,



*You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Ghost, as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted?*

*Acts 7:51-52*



Wow! What strong and direct words these are that were spoken by Stephen to the Sanhedrin prior to his stoning. I wonder if there were conversations about Stephen that went something like this? "He should have stayed with the simple gospel. He should not have gotten involved in Jewish politics." Or "If he had been kinder and gentler, he wouldn't have gotten himself killed!"

I have gone back and forth with myself on the issue of my own demeanor when responding (or reacting?) to various evils. I have come to the conclusion that going back and forth is the wisest way to respond. There are times when it is wise to be kind, gentle, a good listener, and a servant to my opponent. Yet there are other times that call for more. Don't get me wrong. It is always right to be loving and never right to be hateful, to anyone. What we must discern is when it is right to focus on speaking the truth, even if it makes the hearer(s) uncomfortable. In God's mind, to be kind and loving and to speak truth for the sake of your opponent is the same thing. I don't ever need to stop and choose between being gentle and loving or boisterous and hateful. No, I may have to be controversial and loving though. Stephen was. Remember his final prayer before he died? "Lord, do not hold this sin against him." (Acts 7:60) It cost him his life. But he died with his soul intact!

It is sentimentality rather than love that compromises truth. It is a sort of religious sophistry (which political correctness slinks and slithers right into) which provides a cloak for cowardice. After all, we do not want to rock the boat! *Live, and let live* excuses us from standing for what is true and good. In the name of being what we think is kind and loving, it is possible we are affirming evil. And in affirming evil, are we not being the very opposite of kind and loving? For if we refuse to call evil what it is, we may be helping to condemn the

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one whom we claim to love. And if we speak hard clear truth, even strongly, because we care about truth, and even more to the point, love the people we are addressing, is that not truly loving?

Yes, I know we must be careful not to think of ourselves more highly than we should, and especially not to seek only to win the argument. I learned years ago that if I win the argument, I have probably lost the person. So what was won? But if my main objective is not to offend anyone and I water down the truth, what then is won? NOTHING. And I have lost a part of my own soul. I have compromised both truth and genuine love.

Can we all agree that we have entered a time now where it is vital that we speak the truth in love empowered by the Holy Spirit? The false message that 'good Christians don't get involved in political issues' was a damnable lie in 1930s Germany, and it is still a damnable lie. Sticking the label of politics on a topic in hopes of silencing Christians is just what the devil wants: the spreading of lies without any interference from them.

I am a Christian and a conservative. I am not a Republican. I support that party because it is obviously closer in platform to my core beliefs. But I have noticed over the years, those like myself, who affirm most of the Republican platform, make it loud and clear when some issue arises we do NOT support. When I disagree with them, I say so. When I believe they are very wrong, I strongly say so. But not so with those on the left. They seem to think that as Christians they can quietly slip past the truth test, and remain supportive of the Democrats, right or wrong. So they do not stand up against the many evils that party celebrates. And if you point out that obvious hypocrisy, they will prove that very hypocrisy by either angry rejection of truth, or silence smiles that affirm the evil. I believe this is a spirit. It is not about politics. It is about which Kingdom they are bowing to, and who is truly their Lord. If that sounds judgmental, so be it. Rather than point to my judgmentalism, answer the question. How can you as a disciple of Jesus affirm the platform of baby killers? Don't point to Republican hypocrisy, which is certainly there, but answer your own!

I'm preaching to the choir for the most part. I know that. But I believe we are entering the time we have all been wary of - where we must stand, and stand, and keep standing, no matter what it costs, for the truth of the gospel. And in order to be faithful to it, we will find we must also be faithful to the gospel in political arenas. For they are, and have always, been impossible to completely separate.

*Be very careful, then, how you live –  
not as unwise but as wise,  
making the most of every opportunity,  
because the days are evil..  
Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.  
Ephesians 5:15-16; 6:10*



## Facebook, Your 'Friend'?

Recently a man was sentenced to prison for threatening the *American Family Association* on his Facebook account. His threat was not subtle. He stated that he fully intended to come to the AFA headquarters, where I have spoken on several occasions, and shoot to kill every person there. Thankfully he was located, prosecuted, and put away (only for six months). When *AFA* contacted Facebook about the incident however, their response was that they would not remove this man from access to Facebook because his message was 'not in conflict with the views of Facebook.' Just keep that in mind. Facebook does not 'friend' you.



## Look Around

Mary and I never seek to be unrealistic when we choose to ignore the many negative aspects of life we could focus on. We keep the message of *Nightlight* looking up. We do that because our only hope is to look up. Our redemption is drawing nigh. Soon He who shall come, will come. So it is fully realistic to look up and point you to do the same. But at times, to look up while refusing to look around is not wise. It is not that what is above us is in any way diminished by what is around us, but what is around us we are to impact with the Kingdom of God. The man who wanted to kill everyone at AFA is a soul Jesus died for. We pray for him. We are to live with one foot in heaven and the other foot on earth. If we live, it is good for the earth. If we die, it is good for us. Either way, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. May His kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. May we move ahead into more and more Reality until we are finally, fully, and completely HOME, leaving those that were around us on earth imprinted with the fragrance of Jesus Christ.

# Closing Thoughts...



Speaking the truth in love. It can be hard. Tough love, we call it. C.S. Lewis called it a stern kindness. We first must be able to separate the sin from the person. The sin that someone is doing is NOT the person. We love the person and hate the sin. We forgive the person and hate the sin. We can then acknowledge the truth regarding the sin itself, and its nature to steal, kill, and destroy the one(s) we love. Only in the power of the Holy Spirit can we then speak the truth in love – after first examining our own motives, and then leaving the outcome in His Hands. *Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him...* (Ephesians 4:15)

For  
His  
Glory,



Clay  
&  
Mary

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