



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,



Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

The most terrifying force of death comes from the hands of men who wanted to be left alone. They try so very hard to mind their own business and provide for themselves and those they love. They resist every impulse to fight back, knowing the forced and permanent change of life that will come from it. They know that the moment they fight back, their lives as they have lived them, are over. The moment the men who wanted to be left alone are forced to fight back, it is a form of suicide. They are literally killing off who they used to be. Which is why when forced to take up violence, these men who wanted to be left alone fight with unholy vengeance against those who murdered their former lives. They fight with raw hate, and a drive that cannot be fathomed by those who are merely play-acting at politics and terror. True terror will arrive at these people's door, and they will cry, scream, and beg for mercy, but it will fall upon the deaf ears of the men who just wanted to be left alone.



The above quote is attributed to Alexander Solzhenitsyn. It is agonizingly true, whoever originally said it. From the merely human point of view it is understandable, and inevitable wherever evil is allowed to run rampant. Very few of us who have lived in the growing decadence of the West have experienced it, much less understood it. But we are now beginning to. The great sadness of this truth is that once a society reaches such a place, it is then too late. This level of fury is only reached by those who have finally been robbed of something precious that cannot be restored in this world. And unless such people have an inner power greater than their human rage, utter destruction is as certain as coming night. Think of Rwanda, the Balkans, or countless other such realities in our own lifetimes. It can happen again, and not just 'over there.'

The quote below is most certainly by Solzhenitsyn, and one that we must take even more deeply to heart. For we are facing a time when more and more terrible evil is being uncovered, which will make the average person want to explode with revenge against the perpetrators.

If only it was all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being...not through states, or classes, or [even] political parties, but through each and every human heart.

And we know, if we have lived with a heart open to God, that the worst person has some small element of good within, and the best have an element of smoldering evil within. And if you or I don't KNOW that, we are the most destructive ones of all.

Let's return to where we started, and look again at the dangerous person who just wanted to be left alone. Did he want to be left alone because he felt he could do nothing about the evil near him? Or was it because he truly thought the encroaching evil was neither his concern nor his partial fault? So once his hiding place became overrun by the evil he thought he could ignore, is he driven to let his own evil loose on the world? What if he had taken a stand before things got so dark? The stand he should have taken before evil grew so intrusive? Was being left alone the right place for him? Or was he supposed to be a redemptive part of the healing of the world?

There are some who are equipped to face these daunting questions. They are those who have faced their own inner evil first before the Lord. They have not taken refuge in claiming to want to be left alone. They are the people of salt and light who, knowing their own evil, have fled to the One Who alone can expose and cleanse their own evil, and Who then can help them stand in the evil day. **Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13** They do not fight evil with evil. They love their enemies. They take the words of our Lord Jesus Christ deeply to heart. And they have the power to transform nations - one neighbor, one conflict, one enemy at a time. Such truth saved South Africa from certain civil war at the end of Apartheid against all odds, because the truth of God was greater than the common sense of mere human revenge.

This is what Jesus was calling Jerusalem and all Israel to do when He told them to repent and embrace the good news. It was GOOD NEWS! Love had come with the power to transform! But Israel refused. They decided to hate the Romans and all who sided with them. They had been driven far beyond the place where they could be left alone from an understandable human view, but they chose to fight evil with evil and reached their explosion point. And the result of that refusal of the words of their King of Peace was a **tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 24:21**

Have we truly considered this fact? God Almighty in His human form once sat overlooking Jerusalem which He loved, and weeping over her said, **How often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. Matthew 23:37,38** From the human perspective, they had every right to fight against the horror of Roman injustice. But from God's perspective, which sees the whole picture, and not only the immediate injustice at hand, their futile rage would lead only to horror beyond any they could imagine. Let us beware in our current rage against human evil that we do not make the same terrible miscalculation. That is, of thinking 'they' are the evil ones, and we

have never in our long history done anything to contribute to our current darkness. Love God and hate evil. Yes! But let us be sure we are truly hating evil. Not by manifesting more evil, but by overcoming evil with good. Otherwise we not only contribute to evil even more, but we think we are righteous as we do it! Blessed are the peacemakers. Find out what that means, and then go invest that into the rot around us. We are the salt of the earth. We are the light of the world.



Stand Firm

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

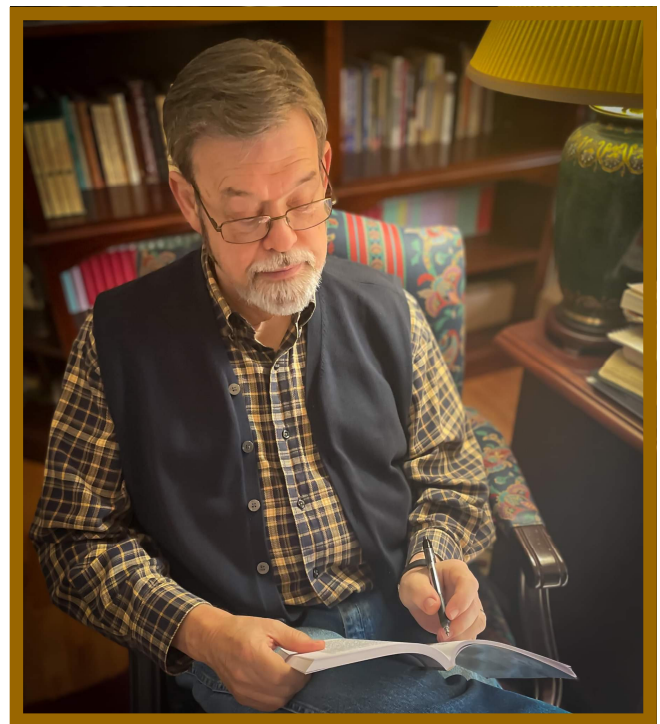
Ephesians 6:10-18

Closing Thoughts...



My anger does not work the righteousness of God. I have to remind myself that much of the evil I rage against, I once was guilty of perpetrating. (See **Titus 3:1-9**) Yes, I know I am not only forgiven and cleansed, but I am also fully free to be my true self now. But part of being my true self is to obey the commands of my Lord. This includes to not give in to the temptation to want to call fire down from heaven. All shall be put right. To not rest in that truth is to dishonor the Holy One, who is far more set on justice than we could ever be on our own. Rest in that truth. Let it grow in you until the worshipful movement of gratitude towards Him exceeds any angry mood of vengeance.

In His Joy, Clay & Mary



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