



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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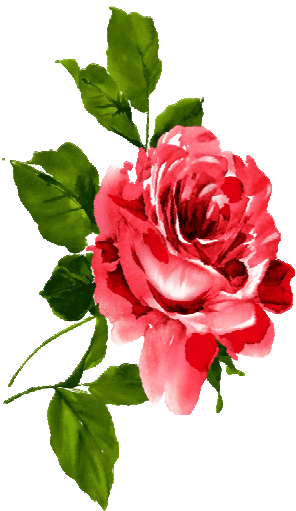
Dear Friends,

For the mystery of iniquity is already at work...

2 Thessalonians 2:7

*When men have lost all reason, and evil seems to win,
then compromise is treason and silence is a sin.*

*Let all who hate the darkness prepare to stand and fight.
The children of the Morning must stand against the night.*



When I wrote those words over thirty years ago, my hand and heart trembled. I wrote the words through tears. A deep sense of God's holiness came over me. In that moment, nothing else seemed to matter to me except to uphold God's honor. Dark clouds had appeared on the cultural horizon, growing since the early 60's. By the early 90's, when ***Against the Night*** was written, the fell winds began to blow stronger and more widespread. Now we are feeling the cultural trade winds portend a societal maelstrom.

I was fully awake back then with holy fear to the coming dangers, and shouted it to the house tops to all who might listen. Yet I underestimated how easily duped people would be. And even worse, I grieved over how many would fully compromise and not only tolerate evil, but embrace and seek to propagate it, even in the name of the Lord. The killing of babies gave way to the desecration of marriage, which made a place for accepting same-sex fornication. The decay of human dignity didn't stop there, but now has given place to the very annihilation of the genders. And this downward spiral continues toward the final goal of the destruction of humanity as God's image in the earth as trans-human demonic chimeras wait in the wings.

Scripture does not use words lightly (though unfortunately translators sometimes do). We tend to read familiar phrases rather flippantly. We assume some 'church' words pretty much mean all the same thing, just termed differently. A great example are the three words **sin**, **rebellion**, and **iniquity**. Many think these are just three different words for the same concept. But that is not so. They are three different words describing three different aspects of evil. And we need to understand the difference.

Sin: *Hamartia* in Greek is commonly defined as *missing the mark*. Sin is falling short of the target. That is accurate, just as a cartoon may be an accurate rendering of a portrait. But accuracy of an image is not the same as accuracy of detail. *Hamartia* is certainly missing the mark. But a clearer understanding in classical Greek is that *hamartia* is not merely *falling short*. It is falling short of a divinely designed goal. It means to fall short due to a deep flaw brought on by a prideful rejection of that design. So yes, all of us have sinned and fallen short of what we were meant to be. All of us. Certainly this is more than merely *missing the target*.

Rebellion: This is when (though we may know better) we still plunge into the actions of sin. Sin may be flawed, even willful wrong choice. Rebellion is all that, but with the added dimension of maintaining that wrong choice as an ongoing personal lifestyle. Bad as that is (and it is!) there is one step further into the dark: the mystery of iniquity. (see **2 Thessalonians 2**)

Iniquity: This is much darker than general human sin or even rebellion. Iniquity is not just sin, but a *willful focused sustained aim of making sin a replacement for God's design*. (See **Romans 1:32**) Jesus did not use the words *sinner* or even *rebel* in **Matthew 7:23**, but *workers of iniquity*: **And then will I profess to them, I never knew you. Depart from me, you workers of iniquity.** *Workers of iniquity* are those who willfully bend, twist, and distort God's defined order, and mar the holy. **Earth is polluted by its very own people, who have broken its laws, disrupted its order, violated the sacred and eternal covenant. Therefore a curse, like a cancer, ravages the earth. Its people pay the price of their sacrilege. They dwindle away, dying out one by one. Isaiah 24:5,6 (The Message).** See also **Leviticus 18:22-30**.

With this understanding in mind, how do we respond to those among us (even some in the name of Jesus), who seek to embrace the many twistings of God's design in our present culture? This includes everything from the killing of babies (even after birth) to the rejection of man and woman and family, to the surgical alteration of the male and female bodies, even of kids. How are we as Jesus followers to respond to these people that not only seek to hallow the unholy, but now have every intention to force this upon the rest of society? **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God... Our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 10:31, 12:29)** What does it look like to love our enemies? How do we love the person and hate the evil they do?

Where is compassion's rightful place in this corroding culture? After years of watching Christians take unloving, even cruel stances against people suffering from sexual and psychological conditions of the soul that have brought

them great sorrow, I again warn us all not to become self-righteously judgmental against anyone, but to *seek with all humility to serve suffering people*. But it is not serving anyone to seek to bless iniquitous evil and to try to baptize it as some new reality. It is not loving to call evil good and good evil in hopes of alleviating their sorrows. Don't be fooled by the claims of pseudo compassion that so many are parroting now. You don't need to wait for Judgment Day to see the folly of such false compassion. Just look around you at the debris of this battlefield: the shattered lives of those who have rejected God's revelation of reality replacing it with their own.

What is coming? When we have exhausted our foolish attempts to redesign humanity in our own image and have drunk the dregs of our iniquity, I do believe that where sin has abounded grace will super-abound. When the enemy comes in like a flood, God raises the standard. Many redeemed people will emerge out of the dark dregs of the current evil who have seen and experienced hell's worst. These redeemed men and women who have been rescued, redeemed, restored, and released into the harvest field, will be both free of the seduction of their own sin and free of being seduced by a harlot church's siren songs. And they will follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They will wash their robes in His blood and release the millions of captives who, like they once were, are crying out for truth and genuine love.

But for now, make sure you do not compromise with evil in the name of compassion. And make sure you speak up in the face of foolish sophistry. And let us be sure that we address all we encounter with real love and truth. As we abide in Him, who is LORD of all, living waters of truth in love will flow out from us to the darkening world around us. For ***compromise is treason, and silence is a sin.***



Closing Thoughts...



I feel the prophetic tension between warning God's people on the one hand to strongly resist self righteous pharisaical mistreatment of hurting people versus soft-headed sentimentality that seeks to bless evil. These are both ditches we can fall into when we fall short of love. These are not two opposing postures; both are ditches! May we see what God sees in every person, refusing to be judgmental and refusing to affirm evil, as we serve each other in love and truth in Jesus' Name.

Standing against the night, Clay & Mary



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