



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

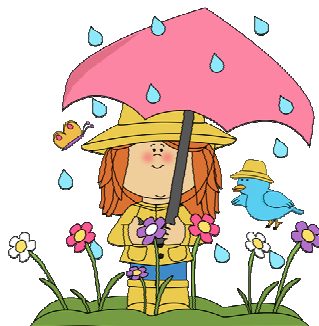
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## Dear Friends,



I mentioned in our last letter that there seems to be an upsurge of interest in the book of **Revelation**. That is no great surprise in this current national and world climate. After over fifty years of seeing the rise and fall and rise again of anxiety-generated interest in all things prophetic, I have come to be far less alarmist. I have not aligned myself with those who ask, **Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2 Peter 3:4)** I eagerly long for His coming every day! I do take to heart what the Scriptures say about what He is coming for: **That He might present to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27) ... prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2)** Therefore, I resist the notion of sudden relief from the current pressures on us. I'm not looking for an any-minute escape out of this mess. It is **IN** this mess that we have been called to become salt and light. It is our call to redemptive action *in* it, not escape *from* it.

Many of us in the Western world focus our attention on our own needs, and choose not to take to heart the needy world beyond us that Jesus died for. Ignorance of the true state of need and of the flow of history has helped contribute to our general lack of compassion or action for the 'mending of the world' (*tikkun olam* - Hebrew). Yes, I'm aware of the statistics of how America is first to take compassionate action to aid world crisis situations, as well as in evangelism. By using this 'measuring stick' it does appear that we are doing a good job. But when examined more closely, we discover that Westerners are generous givers of money from afar (especially if they get a tax break for their donations!), yet remain aloof and removed from the hands-on help needed by so many in this world. Of course, money is needed. Giving is certainly good. And some are gifted to be extravagant givers in the body of Christ. But are our eyes open and ears attuned to where the Lord would have us – with skin on – to be salt and light to people face-to-face, eye-to-eye, heart-to-heart? Do we realize that genuine love is PERSONAL?

There is a long memory of European resentment passed down from generation to generation resulting from the horrors of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). Would a thirty years long conflict between Catholics

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and Protestants that cost an estimated eight million lives via bloodshed, famine, and disease make the subject of religion noxious? God allowed this insanity to go on unabated. Why? It may seem simplistic to say it this way, but it can be boiled down to the fact that neither 'side' was obeying JESUS whom they claimed to follow. The church was deceived into being a politically-moved pseudo-religious hand puppet for the principalities and powers of darkness, who danced them across the devastated landscape of the West at their bloody will, transforming the political map that set the stage for eventually more horrendous horrors to come. In fact, the entire parade of Western world history is the domino effect of the church's failure to keep their eyes on Jesus.

God is not in any hurry, but seems fully able to patiently wait for His people to actually take His Lordship personally – to live in love, trusting and obeying Him. We can refuse to hate our enemies; we can rather pray for them. We can choose to forgive. We can manifest the character of Jesus in our daily transactions. Till we do, the world will continue to suffer under the weight of our tendency to culturally claim Him while we mostly seek to reach our own self-exalted desires.

The [Sermon on the Mount](#) are His commands (see [Matthew, chapters 5-7](#)). Yet I have actually read in many commentaries that Jesus did not ever mean for us to really obey Him. He was only demonstrating how impossible it is to obey Him! Some even claim that these words of Jesus were only meant for the Millennium! So once again, bad interpretations of end times prophecy keep some from obeying Jesus, while we wonder and speculate about the many 'prophetic events that are unfolding.' Maybe they are exposing the dark rot because we refuse to be salt and light?

There are rising all across the West, what we might call 'the little platoons,' to borrow a phrase from Edmund Burke during the Revolutionary War era. But these platoons are not political or military or naturally generated. First and foremost, they are seriously set on following and obeying our Lord Jesus Christ. They do not take refuge in legalistic doctrines of mere 'positional righteousness' that makes no place for personal daily intimacy with their Sovereign Bridegroom. They are the salt and light so long absent. For we have our own Thirty Years War going on, and the casualties are incalculable. Find a little platoon and join it. Or form one yourself and live it, even if at first it is just you and Jesus. It will grow. That is far more effective for contributing to the close of this age than an exaggerated preoccupation of speculative end time scenarios. Read [Revelation](#) worshipfully, not speculatively. It will open up to you a powerful vision of ultimate Reality that will equip you to live in His Presence every day up to the end (and new beginning!), whenever that may be.



## Movie Review: *Nefarious*

I rarely do film reviews any more. There is a vast proliferation of such on line, and a pitifully poor pool to fish from. But I feel this film needs your attention. And before I say more, I do not recommend it *carte blanche*. This film is NOT for young children.

It is the story of a demon possessed inmate set to be executed for murder at the Oklahoma State Prison. He is controlled by a demon. No, this is not your dreary overdone demon possession cheap flick. It is very well-written. The acting is powerfully engaging. The aim of this film is to awaken audiences to the real story behind the rise of the demonic in the West. It is not entertaining, but riveting. It is not gratuitously graphic (though the electrocution scene will be difficult to view). There is not one vulgar word in it that I can recall. It is the power of the message and the masterful acting that captures and maintains the viewer.

Will it reach its goal? I hope so, but I don't think so. The culture is so oversaturated with demonic themes that they may pass this item by as just another of the same. If they do see it, they will be confronted with the genuine reality they hoped to escape every time they go to a horror film. It is like riders on a roller coaster: they hope to experience near death adventure with a safe landing in the end. Horror films are thought to be 'exciting' safe landings. This story does not provide that self-deceiving assurance.

Is there a place for such powerful in-your-face realities? For some, maybe. Not for all. (for example, Mary has no desire whatsoever to see this film.) Just ask the Lord about seeing *Nefarious*, maybe along with an unbelieving friend. I'm praying for a strong and redemptive awakening for the church, where we become salt and light that confronts, exposes, and expels the demonic wherever we encounter it - in society, the arts, education, individual sufferers, and most of all, in our daily personal relationships, habits of mind, and private behaviors. Lord, may it be so.



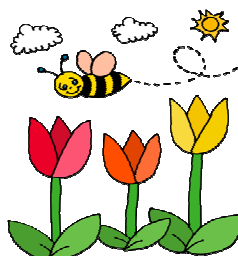
# Closing Thoughts...



Please go to our website and check out the articles listed in *Clay's Corner*. (catchy title, huh?) I am trying to respond to issues there beyond what we address in the *Nightlight* newsletters. This month's issue #360, marks our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Nightlight*! THANK YOU for your interest, interaction, and always encouraging support. May we follow only the One Man, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Blessings,  
Clay & Mary



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