



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,



*Pay careful attention how you hear.
To those who listen to my teaching,
more understanding will be given.
But for those who are not listening,
even what they understand will be taken away.*

Luke 8:18



Short convenient reads can often be helpful. A brief overview of an otherwise demanding subject cannot cover all points, but it can at least awaken needed responses to an often overlooked subject. I feel that is often what we are doing here. I know you are all busy. We write the best we can and take seriously the topics we only briefly introduce, in hopes that what little we do communicate will generate deepening interest, or maybe even strong conviction, that will move some of us to in-depth pursuits. It has been said that a long book was written because the writer did not take the time and care to write a shorter book. Well-written short, clear prose is a needed gift. But here is the problem.

Short well-written prose hits the mark it is aiming for, but no more. It cannot cover all points. It does take some degree of comprehensive work to address all that needs to be covered. We have just completed a *portion* of truth examining forgiveness in the last few months of our audio teaching here in **Nightlight**. We are grateful for the communications we have received thanking us for those messages. Yet they are by no means comprehensive on the subject of forgiveness. There is so much more we need to digest. In order for us to grow, there must be an ongoing ever-deepening understanding, not only with our intellect, but also with our hearts. It is the Holy Spirit who leads us to follow-up and engage with the truth we hear. There must be hunger to become our true self more than a simple interest to acquire head knowledge.

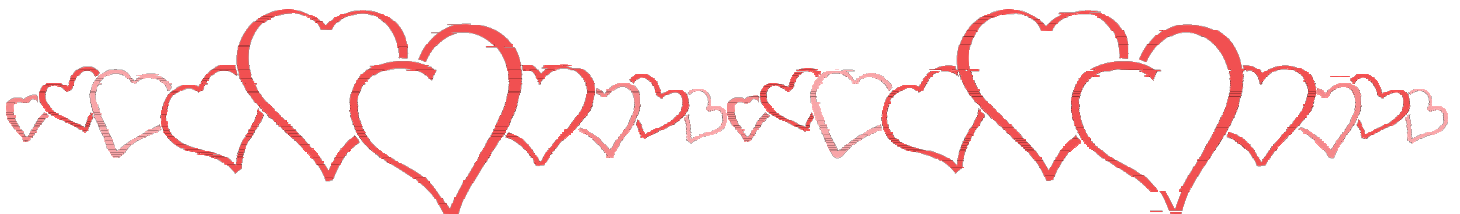
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There is one reality I have learned to hold in front of me that helps keep me properly focused on the one thing that really matters. It is always on my mind even if it is not central, when I am engaging short topics or even trivia. And when I state what that one thing is, sadly many will think it is a terrible negative. It is not. It is my greatest and increasing joy and strength. What is it? It is the clarion awareness that I will personally appear before the judgment seat of Christ, where what I have built will be tested by fire. (see **1 Corinthians 3:11-16**). The gold, silver, and precious stones are enhanced by the fire. The wood, hay, and stubble are destroyed by the same fire. We all know this. But do we take it to heart? Do we allow it to guide our relationships? For it is our relationships that are mainly what the treasure is about. It is not a fearful thing but an inviting thing, to draw near to the One Who loves me and to bear to Him all aspects of my life, trusting His holy fire to examine its real worth. I don't want anything to remain that has no place. I don't want anything to slip by. I want to bring everything into the Light. My first thirty years were a painful mixture. Even my forties and later have been mixtures of gold with stubble. I long to be fully and completely His. And one day be made whiter than snow.

I am even now in the middle of examining some aspects of difficult relationships in my life, and finding where I have failed to treat certain things with wisdom and love. So I am actively and prayerfully examining them, seeking for His grace to take the right action. It is not just a scripture to read about gold, silver, and precious stones, but a life-transforming action to take. I think we must all be more proactive in taking care what we do with what we hear and read. This kind of devotion leaves little room for mere shallow perusing and forgetful indifference. This embracing of Reality makes all of life an adventure in growth towards the Good.

Why is this not terrifying? How can I say it is my joy and strength? Because it means nothing is ultimately wasted or lost. The wood, hay, and stubble are not lost. Rather, they are simply shown up to be of no worth and gotten out of the way. The gold, silver, and precious stones are secure treasures that are never lost.

Love spends itself on that which it loves in order that it may love all the more. That is why our God is a Consuming Fire. The Fire is the Love. And it will burn away all that is not of love's kind. That is why I am not terrorized by the fire of judgment, because I am not terrorized by the fire of His Love. All judgment is an action of Love, to put things right. Sometimes even through a swiftly reviewed short read, a sudden bolt of lightning strikes, and we find we don't want to go past it. We want to linger, because we want the Light that just struck us to linger. It makes a permanent mark on us. We want to be still under its glow till that same mark impresses itself deep within us. May we all pay careful attention how we hear.



BURN HOLY FIRE *by Clay McLean*

Burn Holy Fire, cleanse my desires.
Search me inside, let nothing hide.

Burn Holy Flame,
until the same heart that's in You
is burning in me.

Burn all that's dark, selfish or cold.
Soften my heart, possess my soul.

Burn Holy Flame,
until the same heart that's in You
is burning in me.



Closing Thoughts...



We are so very grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support that you so graciously lavish on us. We are amazed by your continued stand alongside us in this ministry from the Lord. We appreciate every show of support, especially your prayers for us. We could not do this work without you. Donation statements were mailed at the end of January for 2023. Again, thank you! Your partnership is not only a blessing to us, but also a blessing to so many others.

With Our Love,
Clay & Mary



McLean Ministries

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