



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

Volume 370 • March 2024

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Dear Friends,



One of the earliest recordings of **Nightlight** we ever produced was a single message simply called *Self Acceptance*. It was one of those first attempts by us to sum up the subject we knew was often misunderstood by folks. In those days, Mary and I were teaching somewhere at least every other week. We were encountering questions about self acceptance everywhere we went. But instead of the **Nightlight** on self acceptance clarifying the subject like we thought, it only served to raise even more questions! So, for the next decade we turned a single message into several messages, and then into a basic teaching that we almost always included in every conference and teaching format that we did. It seemed to be the place that so many hit a roadblock in their healing journey. And the more we spoke of it publicly, the more we realized how important it was. Many folks showed a deep interest and expressed an ongoing need to hear the message, not just initially, but repeatedly.

Then I made an error of judgment. I assumed the more we spoke about it, the worse the struggle became. So I thought that self must be the problem! I concluded that what we needed was to get our minds completely off of self. Even though we taught self acceptance in a healthy scripturally sound setting, I didn't see it getting us beyond an over focus on the self. So why don't we just stop focusing on self at all – even the good points - and focus on knowing and loving Jesus? But that didn't appear to help us much either... Why? Because rankling beneath the outer layer of Christian behaviors was still the same basic elements of self insecurity. And, depending on which brand of religious education people came from, the more they tried to love God, the more shame, guilt, and self rejection manifested. We kept encountering it over and over. So many folks continued to suffer with self hatred, jealousy and envy, and especially with misunderstanding dying to self.

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So here we are now, over thirty years later, re-introducing some of those early teachings on self acceptance after prayerfully examining what should be offered. We have many young people (and not so young!) who were not around in those early teachings. We have been both gratified as well as somewhat puzzled at your response. Folks of all ages express their interest (and thanks) in what we thought might be an older and somewhat overdone topic.

Some might still say (like I did), that we are just too focused on self. But after thirty years of dealing with myself as well as many of all ages, I don't think we need to make the same mistake I made back then. It seems an easy fix to label us all as too self focused, and then turn to other subjects, without addressing the problem of being too self focused! I want to offer some thoughts here as to why we all still need to continue the journey into healthy self acceptance. Here are some thoughts for us to ponder:

1. Our culture is now broken in ways that cause individuals to suffer a nearly total lack of understanding of personhood. We can't even settle on what it means to be male or female, much less to embrace self acceptance. So in the name of self acceptance, we now self annihilate.
2. Psychologizing descends into politicizing, which further morphs into propagandizing. As a result, so few find clear answers for either themselves or for their general struggles.
3. Separating our spiritual identities from our inner psychology does not free psychology, but leaves it free floating and unmoored from reality. We then become subject to whatever propaganda machine we are listening to.
4. Jesus has come to SAVE US FULLY, not only our 'souls.' And (this to me is saddest of all), the modern western church has not had a clear message of what the saving of a person means. This is why the church has contributed to the desperate search for a healthy self.
5. In some (many?) cases, the church has been a disintegrator of persons rather than an integrator in union with Christ.
6. God may be allowing this confusion to reach a place of utter disintegration before He pours out His Presence upon a desperate people. Starving folks become so hungry for Him that they don't care anymore about self acceptance or any aspect of it. They just need GOD!
7. If this is true, the real hunger for the real God will result in a revelation of Him in us that ultimately settles all the questions we are exhausted by. All of our groping after answers, which wears us out, results in the collapse of our ego and becomes the one and only answer: a childlike dependence on our loving Father.

We will see. In the meantime, we will continue to teach on self acceptance. But way beyond just listening to this teaching, may we learn to live together, talk, share, love, and engage our questions in relationship with Him and each other. And THERE is where we will begin to learn to accept self and others, because there is where we will encounter our Source of personhood. And we will find it was never a psychological struggle in the first place. It was always a child's cry for a Father. That is what Jesus came to bring us to: our true home with Father God. I so look forward to it!



Bad News... or Good News?

I will soon be 70 - younger than many of you, but much older than a lot of you. I have watched the trends come and go. How many times have I observed the dire warnings of the end times bad news heralds of woe? I won't cite them here, for there are SO MANY and they harken back over and over through more than five decades. What they all have in common: it is bad, it is getting worse, and it will soon bring utter destruction. But that's ok because the Lord is coming to rescue us out of it all and the world will just go to hell... Then things go on another few decades.

This is not a denial of Peter's reference to those who say *Where is the promise of His coming?* (see **2 Peter 3**) Peter warns those who mock that their mockery will be turned into shame when the time which IS CERTAINLY COMING, finally does come. For it WILL come. But Peter wrote that two thousand years ago, and we are still here. So what does that mean for us?

It means that we are to do exactly what Jesus told us to do. Occupy: carry on fruitful business, helpful activity, till He does come. We are not to be occupied with endless speculations about who the antichrist is or where the next world-destroying event will erupt. Are you ever aware that your energies are being wasted conjecturing on endless questions we were commanded NOT to focus on? We are not approaching towards NIGHT. We are passing through the night towards MORNING! *The night is far spent, the day is at hand... Romans 13:12* Nations are awakening. Evil is self destructing. But good news doesn't sell. We are to be HERE. NOW. AWAKE. And EXPECTANT. Lord, let your Kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That means light and life are spreading.



Closing Thoughts...

And He [Jesus] has taught you to let go
of the lifestyle of the ancient man, the old self-life,
which was corrupted by sinful and deceitful desires
that spring from delusions.

Now it's time to be made new
by every revelation that's been given to you.

And to be transformed
as you embrace the glorious Christ-within
as your new life
and live in union with Him!

For God has re-created you all over again
in His perfect righteousness,
And you now belong to Him
in the realm of true holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24 The Passion

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