



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,



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*Therefore we do not lose heart.
 Though outwardly we are wasting away,
 yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us
 an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.
 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,
 but on what is unseen.
 For what is seen is temporary,
 but what is unseen is eternal.
 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*



Sometimes things are very clear, and putting them into words is not a struggle. Other times, there are just too many thoughts generating too many words, and I cannot bring them down to clarity. Then I have to just shrink them the best I can. Here are a few of them. I pray they will communicate at least SOME of the essence of what is on the Lord's heart for each of us, and what is on my own heart before Him.

TIME

We are cheating ourselves of so much blessing by disregarding the wisdom of God's calendar. Sabbath-keeping, the sanctifying of regular rest times throughout the year, is primary. A godless way of time-keeping causes us to allow our sense of times and seasons to become driven by the spirit of this age instead of finding godly meaning in the flow of events. Observing the spirit of the Sabbath is not about a legalistic rule-keeping. It can be as varied as there are people! It can be a New Covenant embracing of the holy days. Or it can be an embracing of the early church calendar. It can even be a far more modified keeping of Lent or other church calendar holy days. Or it may be setting apart a special time each week that works best for you. If we ignore these truths and allow ourselves to be seduced by the spirit of the world, before we know it, we

find that our agendas rule over us, rather than we rule over them. We become enslaved by the busyness of life, and begin to think time is our enemy. Keeping the spirit of the Sabbath is the **sanctifying of time**, meaning **we come to hold the gift of time as precious** in our journey with the Lord. The keeping of Shabbat keeps us.

DISCERNMENT

Living in an orderly Spirit-ruled way enables us to see and hear more clearly from the Lord, and enriches our ability to discern rightly the events and times in our lives. I just received a phone call from an old friend who walked with me through the difficult events of the early prolife conflicts of the 1970's. He is still involved in pro-life activities, and is in contact with prominent leaders in that area. He told me what one such lady shared with him. It was of an event that helped her when she was beginning on the journey to find her path in life. She said she was becoming greatly criticized by leaders in her church for not participating in activities that were attracting persecution against them. She felt at that time her place was not to take a stand that would draw open conflict. Rather, she worked behind the scenes, so to speak, to help folks one by one. She felt she could be more helpful this way, and not become a target outwardly. It turned out that was exactly where she was to be, and exactly where she was called to. The Lord publicly confirmed her less conspicuous calling, and settled the question of where she should present herself in the conflict. Her well-meaning critics were silenced. Those who interceded for her and for the entire prolife movement, were helped to settle a path forward as to how to maintain their position in that ongoing war. In other words, it was by not criticizing her work in the shadows, but by supporting her and others who were not attracting enemies. As a result, the movement grew in numbers and influence, as each one took their God-ordained place, both on the battlefield and behind the front lines. It was good for me to be reminded of those days, and to be encouraged by the discernment that brought about a correcting word into that conflict.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE

How we need to witness more of this kind of discernment in the whirlwind of today's politics worldwide! We need many more godly listening ears, who listen to the One Voice, and are not confused by a cacophony of voices. We need Spirit led folks who consistently maintain a life of following Jesus Christ, who are not easily distracted in the political arena. We must guard our hearts to keep them from boiling over into an emotional frenzy of human energies disguised as passionate zeal. Likewise, we need to stay alert and not retreat into the dark of resignation, or become so overwhelmed that we give up completely. We need to remain awake, listening and rightly discerning what the Lord is saying to us. The result will be a firm position that is loving and moving toward the One who is the Light of the World. This is the measure of political influence we pray for, as it is positioned towards what is right.

PROPHETIC CLARITY

There are so many conflicting prophetic issues out there that are causing confusion in the body of Christ. It seems some prophetic camps have developed a system of almost constant prophetic commentary on every subject imaginable. Much of it is bogus, and when it doesn't come to pass, it is not addressed properly. What results is that it is simply ignored and supplanted by the next prediction, which often is an even more bold display of dramatic prophetic elements. The true prophetic gift is lost in the sheer numbers of these prophetic statements.

God seems to be allowing it. Why? I believe it is to grow us up in godly discernment by exposing the errors in order to bring correction to the prophetic abuses. We are seeing the entire church caught up in this struggle. The anti-charismatic element of the church contributes to the error by pointing out this constant misuse of the gift of prophecy as proof that true prophetic gifting has ceased. It has not ceased, but is being purged. The flow of the prophetic is not just a mere telling the future, but is a forth-telling more than a foretelling. It is a flow of meaningful elements which needs to be monitored and correctly interpreted through godly discernment. And this needs to occur over a long period of time in order to give perspective to the unfolding of history, as well as sometimes to a short term perspective of certain events as they may fit into the longer larger perspective. The ultimate purpose is to awaken the church and to keep it awake, to edify and encourage it. We are being stirred awake by these conflicting points of view as we watch the events unfold.

IN SUMMARY...

So, what am I saying? How do these above musings of mine fit together? One of the results when we keep the Spirit of the Sabbath in our lives year in and year out, is that we grow in discernment as we grow in our relationship with the Lord. We come to honor time as a gift from the Lord, enabling us to order our lives in the light of His loving wisdom and daily guidance. We discover that everything matters as we are loved and loving. We are awake and alert to what God wants in our own walk with Him, as well as what God wants in our view and influence in the larger world, both politically and prophetically. We find there is joy in the journey, even through our mistakes and sufferings along the way, as we follow Him. One of the greatest rewards we have as we grow in godly discernment is developing divine objectivity - seeing how God sees, seeing from heaven's perspective. May we remain in Him. Renewal is in the air!



And this is my prayer:
that YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND MORE AND MORE
IN KNOWLEDGE AND DEPTH OF INSIGHT,
so that you may be able to DISCERN WHAT IS BEST
and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,
filled with the fruit of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ -
to the glory and praise of God.
Philippians 1:9-11

Closing Thoughts...

*When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.*

Jeremiah 15:16



Happy St. Patrick's Day

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