NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

Volume 402 ● November 2026

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Dear Friends,

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied. The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned, then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' " Matthew 13:24-30

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. Matthew 13:36-43



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Why does Jesus say that the weeds should grow together with the wheat? He tells us the reason: that if the weeds were rooted up before harvest time, it could damage or destroy the developing roots of the wheat. But why allow weeds to grow along with the wheat? Why not be extra careful and just pull up the weeds? These are not just 'normal' weeds that Jesus is referring to. They are noxious weeds that look like wheat from a distance, but have poisonous black seeds. Not an easy fix! Wouldn't it be so much easier if everything was clearly black and white? Good or bad? Right or wrong? Yes, it would! But that is not the nature of reality as it has emerged in our fallen world. The enemy has infiltrated the church, the family, and even the individual who follows Jesus. The bad seed is sin. It is evil. It is poisonous. Yet it is allowed to grow alongside the good seed. What a mess! How do we tell the difference among ourselves? We are dependent on Jesus, the Lord of the harvest. Until harvest then, we keep our eyes on Jesus. We love people, and hate the evil of sin that so easily entangles all of us.

This parable would have been easily understood by its hearers. Everyone knew the facts. They knew wheat and weeds look so much alike at the beginning, that it was impossible to tell them apart. They also knew that is was impossible to separate them without tearing up the entire root system. Yet by the time of the harvest, even a child could tell the difference between the wheat and weeds. But it is ONLY at the time of harvest that things become so clear.

Meanwhile, we struggle as followers of Jesus to walk in both love and truth. We want to deal in truth only; that is, our version of the truth. And our version must make us feel good about our position. Can we always be so sure how the Holy Spirit is going to manifest His work in the earth? It will never contradict Scripture. But it may certainly contradict our view of Scripture. To the Pharisees, who knew the Scriptures thoroughly, Jesus pleads, **"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39,40)** It is painfully possible to eat our fill at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and miss the tree of life. Much of Christianity is full of knowledge which puffs up. Yet there is so little life full of love and truth enduring through the storms.

In every revival movement throughout history, there have been both good and bad manifestations. The wave of the Spirit stirs up everything in the ocean it moves through, both the good and the bad. (See **Matthew 13:47,48**) It is not the wave that is mixed. It is what the wave reveals that is hard to clearly discern. So it will be until the end. Only the harvest will ultimately tell the tale accurately. Only One has the power and right to judge. Are we to be undiscerning and gullible? No! But it would be better to err on the side of mercy and humility, rather than to err on the side of divisiveness and doctrinaire arrogance. **Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)** Please, let us walk carefully. May we come to **know and rely on the love God has for us. (1 John 4:12b)**

My heart aches for disciples of Jesus to walk in both love and truth. The fear of the Lord requires not dogmatism, but patient watchfulness. The harvest will be the time of separating the good from the bad. Until then, our place is to keep our focus on the Lord of the harvest, living lovingly, and speaking the truth in love.



Nightlight change coming

As many of you are aware, the audio portions of your monthly Nightlights have been reissued teachings for over two years now, due to Clay's declining health situation. We now believe it is time to discontinue these audio messages. This does NOT include the Nightlight newsletter. Only the audio portion will end with the December 2026 issue #403. This means that beginning with the new year, you will no longer receive a teaching cd (for those of you who receive Nightlight by traditional mail), or that there will no longer be an mp3 posting (for those of you who go to our website for Nightlight). We will continue to send/post the newsletter each month. This decision comes after much prayer on our part. What we do want to make you aware of is the Nightlight archives available on our website, going back to February 2009 (that's over 200 teachings!). Please take advantage of checking out these past audio teachings at your leisure. They are available anytime, along with the past printed letters as well. And of course there is no charge to listen.



Closing Thoughts...

Clay has now been in home hospice for over one year. It has been an up and down journey for Clay, with multiple issues arising due to his slow decline and weight loss. But, thankfully, for the most part, pain free and peaceful. His mind has remained clear and sharp, except when he was battling recurring UTIs or recovering from several mini-strokes. On the one hand, it has been such a blessing to have all this time together to prepare for his Homegoing. But on the other hand, it has been a long extended surreal time of living in the in-between tension of life and impending death. Our eyes remain on Jesus. He is our hope and comfort. God's will be done. Please continue to pray for continuing strength and His abiding presence for us.

Thank You, Clay & Mary



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