

NO PART DARK!

Read Luke 11:33-36

Gabriel L. Mancino



this: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20). This happens throughout society; including among the religious! **By the way, the cure for the condition described above from Isa. 5 is to have the experience of Isa. 6!**

That would save the entire nation!

God makes it completely clear that if we desire to have union and communion with Him, we must be "like Him!" Note, I did not say we become God or gods. However, I **DO** say that though God does not share His *natural* characteristics with us (like all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere-present), yet He *does* share His *moral* characteristics—the top of which is holiness. This is why early in Moses' life, God commands: "*Be holy because I am holy*" (stated often in Leviticus, and quoted in 1 Pet. 1:15,16).

In Luke 11: 33-36 Jesus said "*The light [lamp] of the body is the eye. Therefore, if your eye is single [sound, good, unclouded], your whole body will be full of light, but when your eye is evil [diseased, defective, bad] your body is full of darkness...If then your whole body is full of light, **having no part dark**, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.*" Jesus here used the "single eye" as a metaphor to indicate the simplicity, intensity and purity of purpose required to seek and find the supreme good. Someone has well said: "**We cannot draw more than one straight line between two indivisible points.**" True happiness is found only in the indivisible and eternal GOD. If we make a straight line for God, and stay whole-heartedly on that path, God will illuminate our entire being with His glory and light, and pour into us His moral nature. Now, **THAT'S** what I call "**NO PART DARK!**"

The above title states "God's Standard" for us all. 1 John 1 says "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (v.5). It then says, in no uncertain terms, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth!" **But, John follows the "harsh truth" with this positive alternative:** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (v.7).

Yes, certain Bible verses can appear to say or be twisted to say that it's ok if we continue in sin, and that God will overlook it, accept us and allow us into heaven. The devil is the one who started that teaching, when he contradicted God's warning, telling Eve that if she went ahead and ate the forbidden fruit... "**You will not die!**" During Israel's captivity in Babylon, God declared "*With lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way, **by promising him life.***" (Ezek. 13:22). God said similarly through the prophet Jeremiah: "*Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that **no one turns back from his wickedness.*** All of them are like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah" (Jer. 23:14).

There are too many **present-day** examples to list here of those who call good evil, and evil good. God condemns

DARKNESS THAT CAN BE FELT: So was "the plague of darkness" described in Moses' day, just before the Exodus from centuries of Egyptian slavery. Many likely explained the darkness by "science"... like today. Others may have just shrugged, asking: "What darkness?!" "The world is in the grip of the evil one" (1 Jn. 5:19), but God is still in control. Live in God's light, and spread that light to others while there is yet time. (Jn. 9:4).

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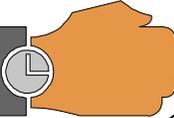
"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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The RESTLESSNESS of GOD

Gabriel Mancino

It's Time!



The Bible says that on the seventh day of Creation, God rested from His work. It is not a contradiction to say God "rests," and yet is "restless." God doesn't "rest" by putting feet up! His seventh-day "resting" simply began the matchless activity of "fellowship" with His human creation, which He made in His own image and likeness—His crowning creation! **THAT** is our God! **What a rest!**

Man didn't keep on track. When man broke fellowship with God, **God became restless**, yet not a restlessness for revenge or hatred for man. It was a restlessness—an impatience, so to speak—to get the broken bridge rebuilt and the broken man healed. God alone has Sovereign authority and ability to do this, and He does it perfectly.

There are repeated examples of this in the Bible. One such example is found in the Bible Book called "Judges." That book is well-known for the saying: "*every man did*

that which was right in his own eyes." Adam "got the ball rolling," but Judges shows that mankind "ran with the ball!"

It is true that a consequence of Adam's sin is that he lost his home in Eden, but **this was not "revenge" from God.** Very often, though not always, our losses can only *rightly* be blamed on ourselves. But, whether on an *individual* level or in the broader picture of *national* and *global*

losses, all the while this is happening, God is restless. He is restless...impatient... because of the misery of the human race.

Referring to God, Judges 10:16 says "*His soul grieved for the misery of Israel.*" Israel had abandoned the true God and adopted almost every form of idolatry that presented itself. Judges 10:6 gives an embarrassingly long list! In perfect justice, God allowed other peoples to put Israel into captivity...**and then Israel cried out to God.**

God directed them to seek deliverance from their captivity by means of the false gods they had turned to. God's *seemingly* harsh judgment grew out of loving purposes...and it worked. Tragically, the history of Israel and of mankind, in general, shows that **people have short memories.**

At the closing period of the Judges, Israel

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"Medals of Honour" given by world governments cannot compare to receiving the commendation Jesus Christ told us about. Some soldiers have been "decorated" by more than one country, but even this cannot compare. I refer to that awesome occasion when, as Jesus said, God will say, "Well done, you good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matt. 25:21,23). God patiently awaits that glorious day. BUT, GOD IS RESTLESS, even now, for people today to join the ranks of His faithful workers, who will faithfully represent Him, as they seek the "lost sheep" in this sin-soaked, and sin-deluded world. This is a privilege AND a responsibility. Rise to the call!

RESTLESSNESS OF GOD

(continued from front page)

began crying out for a king, so they could be like everyone else! Then, centuries later, a tremendous lesson came through the prophet, Ezekiel—a young prophet at the beginning of Israel's 70 year captivity under Babylon. Jerusalem had been utterly destroyed, yet through Ezekiel, **God extended hope in the darkest times.** Ezekiel's words of hope and restoration are not a one-off declaration. **God repeatedly expressed His intense love for the entire human race.**

Sin is a tricky "thing!" For example, you could think that God was not fair, since the sin of Adam and Eve seems very small compared to Israel's bouquet of idolatry in Judges 6... after all, it was only a piece of fruit! **Wait a minute! There are some lessons here.**

First of all, Adam's sin made him and his wife more naked than they were! Sin brought to this formerly-holy couple a nakedness they never knew before. When Adam, in fear and shame, told God that he was naked, God asked him who had told him! People are totally "exposed" though they be fully dressed. Hebrews 4: 13 says, *"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."* Sin strips people, will make fools of them and will finally damn them.

The Bible condemns those who give alcoholic drink to others and help them to get drunk *"so that they may look on their nakedness!"* (Hab. 2:15). This doesn't mean so they could see them with no clothes on! ALL sin, just like drunkenness, strips a person of right sense, and makes a fool of them. **Adam was stripped before God**—his foolish sin was exposed. God says, *"Be sure, your sin will find you out!"* (Num. 32:23).

When Moses' brother, Aaron, made the

idoltrous golden calf, the Bible says: *"Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)"* (Exodus 32:25). That word "naked" doesn't mean they were all nude, but that they had been thoroughly stripped of God's distinctive presence and glory...just like Adam...and just like the rest of us, unless we get to God!

So, Eden teaches that *spiritual* nakedness is the worst nakedness of all. By the way, God judged man's self-made covering (fig leaves) insufficient. The original Hebrew word shows that God made a covering for this couple that was completely modest.

God put man out of the Garden of Eden to limit his sinfulness. God did similarly at The Tower of Babel, when He said in essence: *"Look! this is what they are starting to do, and now they will stop at nothing they plan, or that enters their minds to do!"* (Gen.11:6). God created a language explosion which confused and stopped them! God erects fences for our good, but knows that **the best "fence" is a new heart!** For those who love God, NO grass is greener than God's green pastures. (see Psalm 23).

Sin multiplies "like rabbits," AND the whole "extended family" of sin resides in the human heart, even if it does not show itself in this way or that way. **A scene in the life of the prophet Elisha perfectly illustrates what I mean.** God used Elisha to actually heal the incurable leprosy of the military leader of one of Israel's enemies, Syria. In thankfulness, "top brass" Naaman wanted to give great and costly gifts to this man of God, but Elisha kindly refused his repeated offer. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was not so content. **I guess he thought his boss was stupid.** He ran after Naaman and gave him the lying message supposedly from Elisha, that some visitors had

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BACKSLIDDEN BRITAIN'S BACKLASH: Speaking of backslidden Israel through His prophet, Hosea, God said *"They have been sowing (planting) the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind."* Some translations have "hurricane" or "storm" for "whirlwind." The evidence & effects of national & individual sin in this country are staggering. Britain & America—to name only two—are headed for enormous catastrophe... very possibly soon. While faithfully sounding the alarm, we remain faithful also to our primary focus: helping people to find God and keep true to God...plus encouraging YOU to reach others before our time runs out. One song says: "Judgement is coming, all will be there!" Live with ETERNITY'S VALUES in view!

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just arrived and that Elisha was asking for some finances and some clothes, too. Upon returning and when Elisha asked where he had gone, Gehazi said he hadn't gone anywhere! **Note Elisha's reply:** *"Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?"* (2 Kings 5:26). **Notice the list.** Gehazi could have "humbly" protested that he was only guilty of requesting the first two. Elisha, however, saw the true nature of sin—particularly covetousness; wanting more! God asked Adam "Who told you?" and Gehazi could have asked Elisha the same question!

OK, maybe you don't *have* or *desire* great possessions, but remember, sin is tricky. Sin will make you think you're ok when you aren't, or that you are not so bad—certainly not as bad as many others, or that your "brand" of sin is acceptable to God.

In Judges 6 we saw that the general public led the way into idolatry. 2 Chronicles 28:19 says *"For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD."* We had seen the time when Aaron, the High Priest, somewhat led the way into this same kind of **humiliating nakedness.** Whether it is the general public, the king or the priest (or "all the above!"), **spiritual nakedness** plagued the nation...just like it does today. **What shall we do about it?**

Lots of people get sick of their sin, but not sick enough to turn away from it and get to God where we all need to be. In Judges 6, we read that the people *finally* got so sick of the misery of sin, that they abandoned their sins and false gods just as seriously as they had abandoned God. This is what Britain needs to do...everyone included! **Humility is not humiliating, though it may seem like it!** Humility makes it possible for God to lift us out of our **misery.** The Bible points us to the path of humility, but says that God's path of holiness and humility makes us "*kings and priests*" to Him...thankfully *better* than Ahaz and Aaron!

In Judges 6, **God's rescuing action to man's misery** came about in direct response to them *"putting away strange gods from among them."*

Similar national recoveries took place, as recorded in the Bible, but only when the people and its leaders got thoroughly right with God. God's promise still applies for us all today: *"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* (2 Chron. 7:14).

"Misery loves company," so some people say. **Israel's misery was met by a rescuing God...but many do not want this.** They prefer society to be **miserable**, so long as it *LOOKS* giddy, glittery and glamorous! **The most miserable man on earth** was that demon-possessed lunatic, that ran around the cemetery, **naked** and cutting himself. No one could successfully control him...until Jesus came! The next time the townspeople saw him, he was *"sitting, clothed and in his right mind!"* Yet the citizens asked Jesus to leave! Were they crazy?! Jesus had shown them what He could do for them, but like too many today, they didn't want it. What about YOU!?

Religious people are not free from this insanity that perverts priorities. To one group that *may* represent the church of today, Jesus said *"YOU say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked"* (Rev. 3:17). The Voice in Eden asked Adam, *"Who told you that you were naked?"* The same One who told Adam that he was naked will tell us...if we will listen! The world **AND** the church are **"miserable"** and **"naked"**...while God is restless to help us!

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...and you shall find rest unto your souls!"

Matthew 11:28,29



"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."
Isaiah 45:22

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.