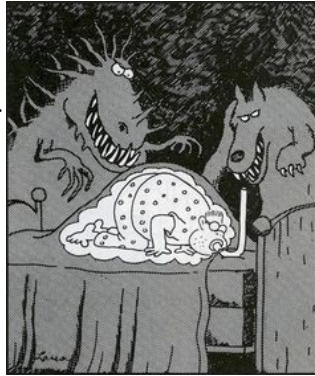


The Bulwark

AUGUST 4, 2024

“WE’LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU”

For the years, Motel 6 at the conclusion of their ads that ran on radio and television, one heard Tom Bodett, with his voice dripping with an ever so slight twang saying, “We’ll leave the light on for you.”; a sign of welcome, an open invitation. Yet there is another “we’ll leave the light on for you”, to consider. That being parents reassuring their children who are somewhat fearful of what might be lurking in the darkness. Amazing how much comfort is afforded by a single night light.



“Dad, leave the light on!”

Adults don’t struggle with fear of the dark; or do they? Hasn’t there been a time or maybe two when you were home alone, got settled in bed, the darkness soon enveloped. Suddenly a small sound was heard, oh how the fear sit in. Quickly turning on the lights to check things out, it turned out to be nothing. But, oh, much better you felt when the lights were on.

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4) One would hardly think that the valiant warrior David would be fearful, but consider what he wrote in Psalms 27:1 and drink it in. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I

fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?” Thanks be to God who has amply provided light that pushes back against the darkness.

In the eighth chapter of John, Jesus made the following statement as found in verse twelve. *“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* Jesus is the

Light of the world, and what’s more He understands our fear! He knows what it is like to be in the flesh; relatability. Just like we can understand the fear a child may feel in the dark, “please leave a light on”. The author of Hebrews notes, *“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He had suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”* (2:17-18)

Such was foretold of Jesus, as seen in Isaiah 53:3, *“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.”* He is well acquainted with our problems and fears; He can relate to our distress. Again, take note of what is seen in Hebrews, *“For we do not have a high priest who can-*

not sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.” (4:15) We aren’t shuffled off to the side, nor are our fears and issues disregarded. Even in our darkest times, He is the light.

Conversely we as children of God, as Peter notes, *“are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”* (1Peter 2:9) *“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.”* (Luke 11:33) Our lives need to be seen as a light in the world. (wbe)

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