

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage: II Peter 1:1-9** “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord*, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, *through the knowledge of Him* who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

**Quote:** Learn the Word in your head. Love the Word in your heart. Live the Word in your habits. Leave the Word in your history.

**P**eter is a good example of someone who at one time thought that he knew better than God! He was an outspoken, rough fisherman who was called by Christ to be a disciple. At times, his passion resulted in him acting or speaking rashly. Perhaps the most grievous instance of this was when Christ said to His disciples, “*All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee. Peter answered and said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.'* Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, *you will deny Me three times.*’ Peter said to Him, ‘Even if I have to die with You, *I will not deny You!*’ *And so said all the disciples.*”<sup>1</sup> We fast forward to Christ’s agony in the Garden of Gethsemane where Peter, with a sword in hand, courageously attempted to defend Christ against a mob that included Roman soldiers. Christ told Peter to put away his sword. The “sheep” scattered, yet Peter followed from afar as they led Christ to the high priest’s courtyard where Peter would do exactly as Christ foretold. Luke paints a troubling picture of Peter’s third denial. “Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord*, how He had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So Peter went out and wept bitterly.” What a penetrating, convicting time

for him! What an instructive lesson for us to guard our own hearts lest we also betray the Lord by thinking that His words of warning apply to everyone except us.

Fast forward yet again past the brutality of Gabbatha and Golgotha, past the empty tomb to the Sea of Tiberias where the risen Christ examined Peter’s love, foretold Peter’s death and admonished Peter to remain focused upon his own devotion to following Him.<sup>2</sup> Many year’s of service end at the occasion of 2 Peter 1 where we read the last words of this man who knows that martyrdom is near. The text reveals the heart of a champion who has grown in grace. Calling himself a *bondservant of Christ*, Peter desires that his readers “make their calling and election sure,” and that they have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of Christ. He reminds them that God has given to them all that they need to grow in grace—His inspired, inerrant, all-sufficient Word illuminated by the Holy Spirit. Like them, we are to study it diligently that we might glorify Him Who called us “out of darkness and into His marvelous light!”<sup>3</sup> Does God’s Word get your left-over time or your prime time? Failure to *exercise yourself*

**Are you confident or complacent?**

*unto godliness* is a sign of complacency, carelessness and perhaps even carnality. The accompanying harvest of doubt, discouragement and disillusionment may even result in desertion—an indication that *you never were abiding in Christ!*<sup>4</sup> As you reflect upon your past, can you see mile-markers of growth and gratitude and giving of yourself to share the gospel with others as Peter did? There is no such thing as “cruise control” when it comes to living the Christian life with a desire for God’s “well done, good and faithful servant.”<sup>5</sup> Be diligent in your pursuit of godliness and reap the promised harvest of multiplied grace and peace that can point others to the Prince of Peace, The Father of mercy and the God of all comfort! Be confident in Christ!

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 26:31-35   <sup>2</sup> John 21:15-23   <sup>3</sup> I Peter 2/9   <sup>4</sup> John 6:36-37, 44-71; I John 2:19   <sup>5</sup> Matthew 25:14-30