

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: I Peter 3:15-16 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.”

Quote: Charlie Peace, a condemned criminal, told a clergyman who was “routinely” reading Scripture as they walked to the gallows. “Sir, if I believed what you and the church of God say that you believe, even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be, on hands and knees and think it worthwhile living, just to save one soul from an eternal hell like that!”

Biblical Christianity demands that those who place saving trust in Christ demonstrate a desire for the spiritual well-being of all people, even those who position themselves as antagonists against what the Bible teaches.¹ Comedian Penn Gillette, an avowed atheist, once said, “I don’t respect people who don’t proselytize. If you believe that there’s a heaven and hell, and that people could be going to hell, or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think, ‘Well, it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward...’ *How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize?* How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?” Gillette went on to reaffirm his atheism while complimenting the sincerity, politeness and sanity of the man whose gift of a New Testament and Psalms prompted the above statement.

There is no neutral ground when it comes to Christ.² Profession without confession is evidence of counterfeit faith, callused hearts or cowardly pride!³ A profession (or public declaration) can be either true or false. To confess is not a “simple acknowledgment that (Jesus) is God and the Lord of the universe, since even the demons acknowledge that to be true.⁴ This is the deep personal conviction, without reservation, that Jesus is that person’s own master or sovereign.

(Confession) includes repenting from sin, trusting in Jesus for salvation, and submitting to Him as Lord.”⁵ As “ambassadors for Christ,” we must know how to share the hope that lies within us. The following is just one way of doing so using the acrostic **G-O-S-P-E-L**.

God created a perfect world with plants and animals after their kind and a perfect man and woman fashioned in His image.⁶ [Be able to address faith in divine design, not *countless, random mutations* of ‘simple life’ from an unknown source that ‘magically’ produced marvels like intelligence, conscience, human language animal instincts, flight, metamorphosis, hibernation...]

Obedience to one command was what God required of Adam and Eve for them to live in His presence.⁷

Sin is disobedience to God’s commands. Adam and Eve reaped guilt, shame and the penalty of spiritual and physical death for disobeying God.⁸

Ready, Willing, Able!

Payment was made by God killing an animal substitute in their place. From then on, God required people to show their faith by sacrificing an animal. This pointed to the day that He would send Jesus to be the only perfect sacrifice for all who put their trust in Him. Jesus is “the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.”⁹

Entrusting your eternal soul to Jesus means to acknowledge, embrace and confess that He is God the Son Who died for His people. It means receiving Him by faith to be your Savior and repenting of your sin.¹⁰

Life Everlasting is promised by God to all who are trusting exclusively and entirely in Who Jesus is and what He accomplished by fulfilling the Law perfectly, by dying as the only acceptable sacrifice for sin, and by rising victoriously from the grave to intercede before the Father on behalf of those whose faith is in Him.¹¹

Being ready, willing and able to proclaim the *good news* as God gives you opportunities takes preparation, commitment and courage.

1 II Cor.5:18-21; II Tim.2:25 2 I John 2:22; 4:3 3 Luke 9:26 4 James 2:19 5 J. MacArthur 6 Gen.2:16-17; Rom.10:9-10 7 Gen.2:16-17; Rom.10:9-10 8 Gen.3:6-7; Rom.3:23 9 Gen.3:21; John 1:29; Rom.5:17; 6:23 10 Gen.3:15; Isa.7:14; Matt.1:23; John 1:1-14; Acts 20:21; Rom.2:4 11 John 3:16-18; I John 5:11-13