

# 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 under-  
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** “If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?” Jeremiah 12:5

**A**uthor Ernest Hemingway, who fought in World War I, wrote, “When you go to war as a boy you have a great illusion of immortality. Other people get killed; not you... Then, when you are badly wounded the first time, you lose that illusion and you know it can happen to you.” When it comes to the spiritual war being waged, many genuine Christians don’t see the reality of “the big picture,” and have become complacent. While acknowledging that there is a conflict, it seems to pose no immediate threat to them or to their loved ones so they do not have a sense of urgency. As long as the threats stay in someone else’s “back yard,” no problem!

Complacency among many who call themselves a Christian is further compounded by compromise and error preached from many high-profile pulpits that pedal “another gospel.” Just believe some facts, punch your ticket to Heaven and “live your best life now.” No heralding forth belief in Christ and repentance towards God that results in the self-denial of a cross-bearing, truth-proclaiming soldier in the army of the King of kings.

The attacks on Christianity take many forms ranging from the “soft persecution” of ridicule to death. Instances of martyrdom and persecution of Christians across the world are happening with alarming increase! In a January, 2014 article entitled, The New Age of Christian Martyrdom, Kirsten Powers states, “Lions have been replaced by firing squads and concentration camps as record numbers of Jesus’ worshipers are persecuted from Syria to North Korea. The concept of Christian martyrdom may seem like something from a bygone, uncivilized era when believers were mercilessly thrown to the lions. Not so. This week, Open Doors, a non-denominational group supporting persecuted

Christians worldwide, reported that Christian martyrdom has grown into a pervasive and horrifying human rights crisis.” The article describes brutal persecution!

America is not immune to growing persecution. Richard Dawkins is a vocal critic of religion and a leading proponent of secularism and evolution. The following information from his Foundation for Reason and Science shows the tenor and the tenacity of the assault on religion in our country. “The mission of the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science is to support scientific education, critical thinking and evidence-based understanding of the natural world in the quest to overcome religious fundamentalism, superstition, intolerance and suffering. In the U.S., we have expanded our staff in order to alert more and

more people to the war being waged against reason, science and secularism. Our expert web team has created a website that can grow to meet the needs of what we hope will be a rising tide of atheism and secularism in the future. We need to take back school boards, city councils, state legislatures, and

finally relegate those politicians who want to take the U.S. into a theocracy back to the pews whence they came.”

Will physical persecution of Christians escalate in our country as it has abroad? Addressing *radical* Islam, the Chairman of The Islamic Supreme Council of America, states the following on their website: “I have a fear that, eventually, we will see Islamist violence spread not only to the cities of Europe, but also here at home. Make no mistake: The aim of the jihadists is to extend their power not only through Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan, but also through ‘Francistan,’ ‘Londistan,’ ‘Italistan,’ ‘Switzerstan,’ ‘Hollandistan’ and even ‘Americastan.’ That is the globalization of jihad.”

A violent spiritual war is raging abroad. We need to pray for those on the front lines. In these perilous times, we need to be grounded, growing and giving the gospel before this war invades *our* “back yard!”

**“In the last days  
perilous times  
will come.”**

2 Timothy 3:1