

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: Colossians 2:6-8 “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Quote: Biblical Christianity is far more than a religion; it is a state of being brought about by God’s grace alone through His gift of faith alone in the Person of Christ alone for the glory of God alone.

You are now becoming what you will one day be.

While that statement that I shared with my students for years remains true, somewhere along the journey of my own growth in grace, the emphasis changed to *You are now becoming who you will one day be*. Although it is only a one-word change, the difference is significant. The process of “becoming” is shaped by the choices that we make, by the people with whom we interact, and by the trials and temptations that can develop or destroy opportunities, relationships and reputations. *Who* we are impacts *what* we are as a spouse, parent, employer, employee, neighbor, church member.... In one sense, we are who we have always been as a person. In a far more important sense, we have changed in the areas that are most essential—who we are in our character, our beliefs and our ambitions. The critical issue is whether the change has been for the better or for the worse!

Most of us presume that we will see each new year through to its end, and then look back with a mixture of regret for what might have been, as well as gratitude for what was accomplished by the grace of God. James 4:13-17 warns us that we do not know what tomorrow holds, let alone next week, next month, next year. The reality is that *today* may be the last opportunity that you have to make an IMPACT by acknowledging and acclaiming the Lordship of Christ through who you have become (Prov.3:5-7). For others, this may be the last

day that you have to be impacted by the Word of God! It may be the last day that you have to place your trust entirely and exclusively in the Lord Jesus Christ for *Who He is* and for *what He accomplished* in His death and resurrection. My heart is grieved over young adults who once sat in my Bible class, and who played the part of being a Christian, only to end up walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the path of sinners, and sitting in the seat of the scornful (Psa.1). Some of them have long since rejected the Christian *religion* altogether, while others continue to “profess to know God, but their works deny Him” (Titus 1:16). May God, in His mercy and grace, take dormant seeds of His Word that were planted in years past and bring forth His chosen harvest in their lives (Isaiah 55:11).

Who are you becoming?

In God’s eternal plan there lies that time when time shall cease— when that which is shall always be, and justice is released. No time for that which might have been— no other hiding place for those who spurn the gospel call and shun God’s means of grace.

Boast not that you may come someday to kneel before the cross; that you may yield your rebel will, escaping endless loss. The breath that you presume will voice repentant faith in Him may never come, and you will reap the harvest of your sin.

This is the day to flee by faith to Christ Who once atoned for scarlet crimes of all who trust in His shed blood alone. Tis at the cross, there justified with death’s dread wages paid, that you, redeemed and reconciled, will find your plea is made.

No more a bond slave to your flesh, you, too, can know release, and soul-deep consolation through the mighty Prince of Peace. You may invest with gratitude the time that God may give, and know the joy of sonship—if you *look to Christ and live!*

BLT