

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 Corinthians 13:11-12 “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but *then I shall know just as I also am known.*”

Quote: I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, *He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

Have you ever heard someone make the statement, “Oh that’s just the way he or she is?” That reply is usually triggered by a specific thing said or done by the person in question; however, it is based upon the overall impression that is formed in the speaker’s mind through their interactions with each other. We are all subject to those kinds of evaluations and sometimes we can be guilty of making them ourselves. It has been said that every individual is three people in one:

- the person that he thinks he is;
- the person that others think that he is;
- the person that God knows him to be.

The first two categories are never completely accurate; however, God’s assessment is always “spot on” right down to the “thoughts and intents of our hearts.” What does God know to be “the norm” when it comes to your thoughts, motives, words and actions? Whenever I ponder a question like that, I am so thankful for the long-suffering of God Who knows the struggles of my own heart. I detest the times that I fail Him and I fear the offenses that I might be capable of committing against Him. I have to wonder, “*What does God think of me?*” *And then I quickly praise Him for His grace and petition Him for His protection and His pardon.*

Scriptures reveal the “feet of clay” that characterized commendable lovers of God like Abraham,¹ Moses,² Job³ and David.⁴ The list could include New Testament believers like Paul who described his own battle. “For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”⁵

How thankful we should be that God the Son took upon Himself the form of a servant and came in the likeness of men to “sympathize with our weaknesses” and to be “in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”⁶ How thankful we should be that He atoned for all of the sins past, present and future of those who place their trust exclusively and entirely in Him.

Take a look in God’s mirror!

How thankful we should be that God has faithfully promised to forgive us of all unrighteousness if we confess our sins to Him.⁷ How thankful we should be that we have the complete canon of

Scripture as both the mirror of self-disclosure and the means of spiritual development. It shows us the reality of who we are and who we should become!

Love and gratitude demand that Christians see ourselves as debtors to God’s grace whose lives edify other believers and evangelize those who remain “servants of sin.”⁸ May God give us the courage to recall what we were prior to trusting in Christ and to reflect upon *what we might now be apart from His grace.* May He give us the commitment to be what He desires us to be—reflectors of Christ’s image. This can only be done as we honestly view ourselves in the “mirror of His Word” and line up with His expectations. When was the last time you took a soul-searching look in “the mirror?”⁹

¹ Isaiah 41:8 ² Numbers 12:3 Exodus 33:11 ³ Job 1:8 ⁴ I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22 ⁵ Romans 7:19-25 ⁶ Hebrews 4:15 ⁷ I John 1:6-10 ⁸ I Corinthians 10:31-33; Romans 6; II Corinthians 5:14, 15 ⁹ James 1:22-25