

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 1:2-6 "...But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness...."

Quote: "Godly character is not the result of good intentions, wishful thinking, some mystical 'zap,' or even sheer Bible knowledge. It's developed through the self-disciplined application of God's Word at a very basic level, enabled and empowered by God's Spirit." John MacArthur

Godliness "embraces the confession of the one living and true God, and life corresponding to this knowledge."¹ "In the original Greek, this word meant 'to worship well.' It described the man who was right with God and with his fellowman. Perhaps the words reverence and piety come closer to defining this term. It is that quality of character that makes a person distinctive. He lives above the petty things of life, the passions and pressures that control the lives of others. He seeks to do the will of God and, as he does, he seeks the welfare of others. The godly person makes the kinds of decisions that are right and noble. He does not take an easy path simply to avoid either pain or trial. He does what is right because it is right and because it is the will of God."² In many ways, William Borden personified this. He gave up wealth to be a missionary. In his Bible, he wrote, "No reserves. No retreat. No regrets." A friend said that "No one would have known from Borden's life and talk that he was a millionaire, *but no one could have helped knowing that he was a Christian....*" Another commented, "He put backbone into the rest of us at (Yale). There was real iron in him, and I always felt he was of the stuff martyrs were made of, and heroic missionaries of more modern times." "Borden wrote in his journal what his classmates saw in his life. "Say 'no' to self and 'yes' to Jesus every time."³ He died at age twenty-five in Egypt of spinal meningitis while studying Arabic to work among Muslims in China! William Borden was a missionary wherever he was!

**Add godliness
to your faith**

Godliness is living like the holy nobility that God's grace has made us! Peter wrote, "But you are a chosen generation, a *royal priesthood*, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may *proclaim* the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.... Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, *abstain* from fleshly lusts which *war against the soul*, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, *by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*"⁴ Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, *known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ*, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."⁵ What do people "read" when they observe your life?

God has purchased us, His people, with the blood of our dear Lord, and made us a *royal priesthood* through the merit He affords. Privileged people, holy nation, come exalt our great High Priest. E'er proclaim His wondrous glory in all things, greatest to least. Once vile slaves to sinful passions, helpless debtors to God's Law, blind to wrath and to salvation, we knew neither guilt nor awe. But the Father, rich in mercy, gave us life and faith to see. Grace abounding, love unending, Christ's atonement set us free. Called into God's marv'lous brightness, we are "children of the day." He has led us out of darkness, to the Life, the Truth, the Way. Prince of Peace left heaven's splendor to invade death's dark domain! God the Son came down to rescue all who will confess His name. *Royal priesthood, e'er extol Him through lives set apart for praise.*⁶ Consecrated, blameless, holy, let us joyful tribute raise! May His beauty be reflected in hearts filled with holy love. May Christ find us pure and blameless when He comes from heav'n above.⁷

1 Wuest's Word Studies 2 Bible Exposition Commentary 3 Borden of Yale, by Mrs. Howard Taylor 4 I Peter 2:9-12 Many understand "the day of visitation" to be a reference to the day of salvation for those who observe the lives of Christians who were a godly witness. 5 2 Corinthians 3:2, 3 6 Revelation 1:6; 5:10 "...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen 7 II Peter 2:11-14