

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 1:12-16 “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” .”

Quote: “Christianity is either relevant all the time or useless anytime. It is not just a phase of life; it is life itself.” R.C. Halverson

With Martyrdom staring him in the face, Peter wanted to make certain that he did all that he could to ground fellow believers in the faith. He admonished them to add to their faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love like a conductor weaves together the integral parts of a beautiful symphony. He warned them that a lack of these qualities is evidence of spiritual shortsightedness that borders on spiritual blindness. He challenged them to make certain that they truly were trusting in the finished work of Christ alone. Friend, Christianity is not a religion where you claim to believe certain Bible truths and then live as though you do not! Christianity is a state of being, a spiritual rebirth that impacts your thinking, speech, actions and ambitions for the glory of God and the eternal good of those with whom you interact.

At the conclusion of a parable in Luke 18 about persevering prayer and the faithfulness of God to avenge His own, Christ asked a most sobering question. “When the Son of Man comes, *will He really find faith on the earth?*” In the 1700’s, William Law’s “writings aimed at uncovering shallow devotion and stirring up readers to renewed moral vigor and holiness.” His “most widely known book, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, addressed the ‘average’ Christian. It challenged Christians to wake up from their spiritual stupor and

apply all their energy to living a holy life.” Law wrote, “He therefore is a devout man who lives no longer to his own will, or the way and spirit of the world, but to the sole will of God, who considers God in everything, who serves God in everything, who makes all the parts of his common life parts of piety by doing everything in the name of God.... The reason why you see no real mortification or self-denial, no eminent charity, no profound humility, no heavenly affection, no true contempt of the world, no Christian meekness, no sincere zeal, no eminent piety in the common lives of Christians, is this, because *they do not so much as intend to be exact and exemplary in these virtues.*”¹

The Apostle Paul emphasized the irreplaceable grace of God in salvation and in sanctification. Yet, his use of the metaphors of a soldier, a farmer, a boxer and a runner reveal him to be to a sober-minded believer whose serious intention was upon glorifying God and proclaiming Christ at all times and in all places. His works confirmed his consecration to showing forth Christ. Looking back over the past several months, what has been the *spiritual norm* in your life? Has anything changed for the better? Are your prayers characterized by praise and petition to God for His will in your life? Is your study of God’s Word characterized by a sincere desire to show

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yourself approved unto God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed? Do your speech and actions reveal an eagerness to receive God’s “well done” at Christ’s personal and permanent judgment of you? Do your interactions with others evidence a burden to evangelize the lost and edify the saints? Is your thought-life characterized by a disciplined desire to fear God and to be holy? Do your ambitions reflect a consistent commitment to acknowledge Him in all your ways as you invest all that you are and have in Christ’s kingdom? The ultimate question: If you are alive when the Son of Man comes, *will He really find faith in YOUR life?*

¹ William Law (1686-1761) ChristianHistory.net; Although I found statements by Law to be insightful and challenging, I do not know enough about him to give a “blanket endorsement” of his writing.