

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: Hebrews 2:9-10 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

Quote: “When James Calvert went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the ship captain tried to turn him back, saying, ‘You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages.’ To that, Calvert replied, ‘We died before we came here.’” [Galatians 1:1-5; 2:20; 5:24; 6:14]

Many a soldier has been inspired by the courage of his leader to stand strong in the face of daunting odds and to be willing to die rather than to retreat. When I grow weary in well-doing in my own battle against “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life,”¹ it does me much good to pause and reflect upon what Christ, the “captain of my salvation,” endured to make me a soldier. Glory beyond imagination was the abode that the Son of God shared with the Father from before time began.² Galilee, a place held in contempt by many, was the setting for the eternal and invincible KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS to condescend into space and time as the humble Son of Man. Gethsemane was the arena of intense emotional and spiritual agony that Christ endured in anticipation of the cup of wrath that lay before Him.⁴ Gabbatha was the scene where the depravity of the human heart was on display, and the sobering prophecy in Isaiah fifty-three that Jesus was “wounded for our transgressions, and was bruised for our iniquities” began to unfold.⁵ Golgotha was the shameful altar upon which Christ became a curse for me, atoned for my sin, exhausted God’s wrath that I deserved and uttered those heart-wrenching words, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”⁶ The empty grave became the symbol of confident hope for any and all who will by grace alone through faith alone entrust their eternal soul to Christ alone for the glory of God alone.⁷ No accidents. No

“Plan B” for the Almighty. All that Christ endured was part of God’s eternal and perfect plan for me and for all whom He gave to Christ.⁸ Before Christ’s birth, an angel told Joseph, “And (Mary) will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for *He will save His people from their sins.*”⁹ Not merely a possibility, nor just a probability. God will send *His victorious Prince of Peace* for His redeemed bride just as He promised.¹⁰

What glory awaits all who were once children of darkness and have been made children of light! Until that day when Christ returns, we are to “Let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven!”¹¹ *May gratitude for grace, love for our Lord and compassion for the lost compel us to lift high the banner of the cross!*

The Master’s Plan

Dread thought is this that escapes words—I had no hope, no help, no plea. Enslaved, ‘entombed,’ estranged and doomed, God’s righteous wrath awaited me. Blind to that realm beyond the grave, I did not know my lost estate, nor did I crave the things of God, nor could I understand my fate.

**Look to Jesus
and live!**

But grace abounded more than sin, and love applied the Master’s plan. His Spirit brought to me new life predestined e’er the world began. Christ’s finished work, naught left undone, secured God’s pardon for His own. No more a debtor to the Law, God has declared my sin atoned!

Though spared from wrath, with soul set free, corrupt desires still war within. The new man must e’er fight his flesh—that humanness so drawn to sin. Renew my mind, transform my heart, and make me pleasing in Thy sight. Ne’er let the flame of gratitude forget the wrath that was my plight.

Glad slave of Sov’reign love, I give Myself a living sacrifice—not for my pardon, but His praise Who purchased me at awful price. I can but lift both heart and voice In praise to God Who doth sustain. Though foes assail and pain prevail, secure in Christ I will remain.¹²

1 | John 2:15–17 2 | John 17 3 | Micah 5:2; Matt.2:5 4 | Matt.26:36-47; Mark 14:32-43; Luke 22:39-47 5 | Matt.27:26-31; Mark 15:15-20; Luke 18:31-33; 23:11; John 19 6 | Matt.27:46; Luke 23:33-47; Galatians 3:13; Rom.3:25 7 | Matt.28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 8 | John 6:37-43; John 17; Eph.1 and 2 9 | Matt.1:21; Acts 20:28; Eph.5:25; I Peter 2:9 10 | I Peter 3 11 | Matt.5:16 12 | Eph.1:1- 2:10; 5:25-32; John 17; Acts 20:28;