

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: Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Quote: “What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.” Tozer

Although they would not admit it, the prayers of many professing Christians confirm that they see God as a spiritual “Santa Claus” Whose job is to meet their desires and needs. They experience little grace and peace because they do not honor Him for Who He really is. Grace is “God’s influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.”¹ Peace carries with it the idea of harmony and contentment; it is “a state of freedom from anxiety, inner turmoil or worry.” Both of these gifts are greatly increased through our knowledge of God and Christ.² Our sincerest efforts to know God are limited by the fact that Who He is lies infinitely beyond the limits of human language. This should evoke in us awe for God Who is “able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.”³ It should cause us to exclaim with Paul, “Oh, the *depth* of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How *unsearchable* are His judgments and His ways *past finding out!* For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”⁴

In Knowledge of the Holy, written in 1961, A.W. Tozer wrote, “The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic. The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new

philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking. With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, ‘Be still, and know that I am God’ mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshiper in this middle period of the twentieth century. It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitude right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate.”

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but *if the salt loses its flavor*, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”⁵ That is exactly what is happening in our hedonist culture. The Church has lost its ability to influence a society that is increasingly hostile in its caricatures of God, of Christians and of the Bible. “Saltless” pulpits have dispensed emotional “sugar pills” instead of declaring the glorious gospel of Christ.⁷ Many pastors, who are the product of the Church in Tozer’s day, have coaxed the curious to just “make a decision for Christ” and bank on it without challenging them “to make their calling and election sure.”⁸ Like seeds scattered on stony ground, superficial professions of faith have failed.⁸ The spiritual climate in America is the harvest of anemic invitations to “try Jesus.” That message is a far cry from what Christ told his disciples. “He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”⁹ This was a jarring call to serious-minded, unreserved commitment. May the Master of His Universe, grant cross-carrying Christians the backbone and compassion to proclaim with their lips and by their lives exclusive and entire trust in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Sovereign or Santa Claus?

1 Strong’s Concordance 2 II Peter 1:2 3 Ephesians 3:20 4 Romans 11:33-36 5 Matthew 5:13 6 Matthew 10:38 7 II Corinthians 4 8 II Peter 1 9 Matthew 13:18-23