

# 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

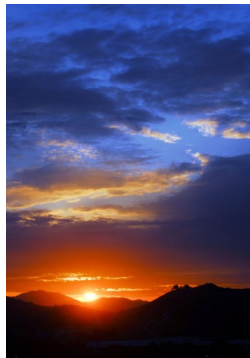
**Passage:** Titus 3:4-7 “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but *according to His mercy He saved us*, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

**Quote:** Psalm 130:6 “My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning-Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.”

**M**ercy is God’s “goodness manifested toward those who are in misery or distress.”<sup>1</sup> It is the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it.”<sup>2</sup> Paul begins Ephesians 2 with a declaration that draws forth sober reflection and rejoicing. “And you He made alive, who were *dead* in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also *we all* once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and *were by nature children of wrath*, just as the others. **But God, who is rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were *dead* in trespasses, *made us alive* together with Christ (by *grace* you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the *exceeding riches of His grace* in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

In Lamentations 3, Jeremiah pens words that strike a soothing chord on the heart-strings of many Christians. He calls us to view trials in the context of God’s *eternal mercy*. “This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. *Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.* They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my

portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’” While on an early morning walk during a time of testing in my own life, I was greatly encouraged by those words as the sun made a slow and splendid entrance. The thought occurred to me that, no matter what time of day, or season of life, God’s mercy and faithfulness anchor my soul in Who He is— *my Father!*



**M**y Father whispers gently in the dawn of morning skies with vibrant, pastel ‘anthems’ that fall softly on my eyes. *His mercy and compassion bring fresh hope with each new day*, reminding me that He ordains all things that come my way.

Though brilliance of the noonday Sun will not permit my gaze, my Father’s holy purity outshines these blinding rays that are a wanting emblem of the glory ‘round God’s throne—mere shadows of that excellence, unique to Him alone.

Then slowly a crescendo swells in praise to The Most High in flaming gold and violet tones that bring a soul-deep sigh. The Lord of all creation bids His Sun to take its flight, and herald forth in other lands His majesty and might.

## God is Merciful!

Soft twilight melts the splendor into deep’ning shades of blue, and ushers in night’s lullabies in subtle, calming hues. A serenade of peace they bring to saints at end of day who thank God for His faithfulness as Guardian, Hope and Stay.

With darkness comes a dazzling host across an ebon span. The wonder of their vast array inspires the mind of man, but night skies sing a special song to those who fear God’s name, and fan a passion deep within, His glory to proclaim.

The God Who is my Father sends hope’s message day and night that He will strengthen and provide for children of the light. He grants to us the grace to trust that He is always near, and rest in His wise providence midst sorrows, doubts and fears.

<sup>1</sup> A.W. Tozer <sup>2</sup> Vine’s