

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: Romans 1:28-32 “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Quote: Romans 1 ought to make us “take notice!”¹

Biblical Christianity is not like other “systems of belief” that you “try out” until something else tickles your fancy. A Christian’s convictions rest in a reasonable faith, the strength of which does not lie in our ability to “figure out” all that the Bible says. Indeed, the true and living God declares that man cannot understand Him or His ways fully.² People who “defect” from the Christian religion do just that—defect from a religion, and a self-deceived “form of godliness” that did not deliver what they wanted.³ The atheist, the agnostic and the deist do not embrace the God of the Bible Who eclipses human reason and Whose essence is incomprehensible. Fools and scorners mock the teaching of God’s transcendence as the explanation of “simple-minded” people for the unexplainable, or as a copout for weak people who need an emotional crutch. And, yet, our world is full of things that mankind cannot understand. Look up the word gravity on the internet and be amazed at the vague generalities that are used to describe it as the mysterious cosmic glue that holds all things together.⁴ The Bible reveals the real “glue” that holds the universe together. Speaking of Christ, the writer of Hebrews states, “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and *upholding all things by the word of his power*, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”⁵ Paul said of Christ, “...*By Him all things were created that are in heaven*

and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and *in Him all things consist.*”⁶

Biblical Christianity is an irrevocable *state of being* that involves being made a new creation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone.⁷ We must take seriously the Apostle John’s warning to believers in his day.⁸ Matthew Henry writes that “John plainly declares that those who fell away had never been members of Christ’s church. Doubtless the seal of God, under which He keeps His own, remains sure. But there is a difficulty here, for it happens that many people who seemed to have embraced Christ often fall away. To this I answer that there are three sorts of people who profess the Gospel. There are those who *feign piety*, while a bad conscience reproves them within; others, whose hypocrisy is more deceptive, not only try to disguise themselves before other people

God’s Self-Portrait— Now what?

but also *dazzle their own eyes*, so that they *seem to themselves* to worship God correctly; the third sort are those who have the living root of faith and carry a testimony of their own adoption firmly fixed in their hearts. The first two have no stability. It is the last group that Scripture speaks about when it says it is impossible for them to be separated from the church, for *the seal that God’s Spirit engraves on their hearts cannot be obliterated; the incorruptible seed that has taken root cannot be pulled up or destroyed....* Those who fall away have never been (saturated) with the knowledge of Christ but only had a brief and (passing) taste of it.”⁸ A Biblical philosophy of life begins and ends with Christ, the Alpha and Omega! Friend, into which group would you place yourself? Playing a part? Self-deceived? Firmly fixed? “I’m not sure,” you reply. Then flee to Christ by faith where will you find peace, provision, protection and lasting purpose in life!

1 See II Timothy 3:1-5. 2 Isaiah 55:6-11 3 II Tim.3; Titus 1:15-16; II Peter 2 4 Look up the origin of intelligence, instinct, conscience, language, flight, sexual reproduction, etc. The Bible gives an answer for all of them. 5 Hebrews 1:3 6 Col.1:15-17 7 II Cor.5:17; John 10:29; 17:1-26 8 I John 2:18-19 9 II Timothy 2:19; Crossway Classic Commentaries