

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: I Peter 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Quote: “My hope is in the Lord Who gave Himself for me, and paid the price for all my sin on Calvary. No merit of my own His anger to suppress. My only hope is found in Jesus’ righteousness. His grace has planned it all. ‘Tis mine but to believe, and recognize His work of love and Christ receive.” Norman J. Clayton

Believing unto righteousness includes repentant faith that demonstrates itself in loving obedience to God’s commands. It includes trust in, or confident reliance upon, the character, faithfulness and ability of God to keep His promises. Belief also includes hope, or joyful anticipation of Christ’s return to usher His own into the glories that await us. Paul wrote, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable.”¹ A look at the things that Paul endured for the gospel gives ample reason why he would write this.² It was Paul’s joyful confidence in the return of Christ that bolstered him during his often intense struggles. Concerning the trial of grief, he wrote to Christians, “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow *as others who have no hope*. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*”³

In the time between our salvation and glorification, Christians can rest confidently in the promise of Christ’s return and what that will mean for all who are entrusting their souls to His safekeeping through faith in His sacrifice on the cross. We are no longer a spiritual corpse who was dead in trespasses and sin. We possess eternal life; however, we do not yet possess the glorified body that will be ours at His return.⁴ In this interval between our salvation and our glorification, God is keeping us by faith and sanctifying us! By grace, He saved us from the ‘penalty of sin.’ By grace, He is saving us ‘from the power of sin.’ By grace, He will save us ‘from the very presence of sin.’ *Now that is reason for joyful confidence! Our hope is in the Lord!*

I have often used three acrostics to remind my students how grace can be applied to these three critical areas in a Christian’s life—salvation, sanctification and glorification. Grace is God’s unmerited, unearned favor; it is God’s free gift. At our salvation it is **God’s Righteousness At Christ’s Expense** (II Cor.5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become *the righteousness of God in Him.*”) During our sanctification, or growth towards Christ’s likeness, it is **God’s Resources And Christ’s Enabling** (II Peter 1:3 “...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.” Phil.4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”) When Christ returns to take His own to dwell with Him in glorified bodies, we will enjoy **God’s Riches At Christ’s Exaltation**⁵ (Eph.2:4-7 “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.*”) Take heart and be joyful, Christian! Embrace the *living hope we have in Christ!* The best is yet to come!

Joyful Confidence

1 I Cor.15:18 2 II Cor. 11:24-33 3 I Thessalonians.4:13-18 4 I John 3:2; John 5:24; Romans 8:23-26 5 Phil.2:9-11