

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: James 4:4 “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Quote: The term, “carnal Christian,” makes about as much sense as the term “adulterous soul mate!” As Christ’s bride, a true believer cannot *practice* the spiritual adultery of loving the world and living in sin.^a

Christians are referred to as “the bride of Christ” for whom He died “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”^b When Christians sin, we betray the oneness that we have with Christ who suffered to redeem our souls and to present us holy before the Father!^c Just as intimacy in a marriage must be guarded and grown, fellowship with the Savior as His bride must be our chief delight.

The Compelling
Incentive to Holiness

There is a sense in which it is easier to understand the apathy, or even the animosity, of unsaved people towards the gospel than it is to understand the apathy of some who profess to be entrusting the welfare of their eternal souls into the care of Christ. The Bible states that “the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”^d When it comes to hypocrisy and apathy on the part of professing Christians, we read Christ’s response in Revelation 3:14-16. “These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.’”

One antidote for becoming lukewarm and apathetic is the fear of the Lord, an attitude of awe and adoration for Who Christ is and what He suffered for His own. It compels us to strive to be holy out of gratitude.

Dread Gabbatha brought grievous pain—
As Christ drank sin’s dark cup of shame.¹
Betrayed by greed, entrapped by lies²
He stood rejected and despised.³
The envy of sin-hardened hearts
Pierced Him with words like fearsome darts.⁴

At dawn, amidst Rome’s pomp and pride,
The Son of God was bound and tried.⁵
God’s grace held back the hosts of Light⁶
Who watched their Sov’reign’s gruesome plight.
Alone, Christ faced cruel men of wrath—⁷
Mere tools of God on Calv’ry’s path.⁸

Stripped of his robe, our Lord stood there
As lash and thorn began to tear.⁹
Vile spit flowed down Christ’s battered face¹⁰
Through ravaged beard, torn to disgrace.¹¹
The Lamb of God, by brutal hands,
Was marred beyond the form of man.¹²

Blind fools misjudged their willing prey,
And thought they’d taunt mere man that day.¹³
They garbed Him in a royal hue,¹⁴
And kneeling, mocked, “King of the Jews!”¹⁵
Like beasts, they roared their great disdain¹⁶
Upon God’s Lamb Whom they profaned.¹⁷

But hanging on the tree of shame,¹⁸
Was where Christ suffered soul-deep pain.¹⁹
“My God, My God,” pled He in woe.²⁰
“Why dost thou now forsake me so?”
Then “It is finished!” cried the Son.²¹
Justice was served, redemption won!²²

May we never be apathetic to the indescribable price that Christ paid to rescue us from God’s wrath that was manifested in His agony. For those who are not entrusting their souls to Christ, God’s wrath is but a heart-beat away! Care enough to share the gospel!

a James 4:4; **I** Jn.2:15; 3:9; 5:18 **b** Jn.3:28-30 **c** Jn.6:37,39; 17 **d** I Cor.2:14; 1:18 **1** Isa.53:6; Heb.9:28; I Peter 2:24; 3:18 **2** Matt.26:14-16, 47-50 **3** Isa.53:3 **4** Luke 22:64 **5** Matt.27:1-2 **6** Matt.26:53-56 **7** Jn.16:32 **8** Jn.19:11 **9** Matt.27:26-29 **10** Isa.50:6; Matt.26:67; 27:30 **11** Isa.50:6 **12** Isa.52:14 **13** Jn.10:18; I Jn.5:7 **14** Matt.27:28-29 **15** Matt.27:29 **16** Psa.22:13 **17** Psa.22:6-8 **18** Phil.2:5-8; Mark 15:25-32 **19** Psa.22:1-2 **20** Matt.27:46; Heb.5:7 **21** Jn.19:30 **22** Jn.17