

# 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:** Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of *the righteousness which is according to faith.*”

**Quote:** “Some people fail to recognize opportunity because it so often comes to them in overalls and looks like work.” Unknown

**T**he grace of God should be evident in the life of everyone who is entrusting his or her soul to the safekeeping of Christ by faith in Him and repentance towards God.<sup>1</sup> In Noah’s day, “the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”<sup>2</sup> God purposed to destroy mankind, “*but Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*” As is the case with any of us, “Noah was no better than the grace of God had made him.”<sup>3</sup> He was a righteous man who was serious about doing God’s will. Noah obediently preached a message of coming judgment as he built the ark for 120 years! Both his message and his work brought ridicule from scoffers. How his faith must have been tested, yet he remained obedient to do God’s will.

Likewise, Paul’s aim in life was to please the Lord. He reminded the Christians in Ephesus that they, too, were debtors to God’s grace and that the free gift of salvation brought with it expectations. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God, not of works*, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*”<sup>4</sup> He wrote to the Corinthians, “*We make it our aim*, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”<sup>5</sup> “Paul was speaking of his ambition in life, but not the kind of proud, selfish desire that ‘ambition’ expresses in English. ‘Aim’ is from the Greek word that means ‘to love what is honorable.’ Paul demonstrated that it is right and noble for the believer to strive for excellence, spiritual goals, and all that is honorable before God.”<sup>6</sup>

He placed his ambition to please Christ in the context of a coming judgment that is personal and permanent. While those who are entrusting their souls by faith to Christ are spared from the Great White Throne Judgment,<sup>7</sup> believers “must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, (so) that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” Paul concluded, “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but *we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*”<sup>8</sup> Believers will be judged for rewards that are the fruit of their labors of love in serving the Lord. A major part of our labors involves seeking to share the gospel and living in a way that others clearly see that we have acknowledged the truth of the gospel in our heads, absorbed the truth of the gospel into our hearts, applied the truth of the gospel to our habits and are writing the truth of the gospel into our history. That is what Noah, Paul and a host of other believers have done. Their work was a form of worship and witness that outlasted their lives on this earth!

## Noah’s Work

Peter warned, “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, *what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness*, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...?”<sup>9</sup> *No matter what your job may be, others should see in your work the difference that God’s grace has made in your life!* Paul said, “Whether you eat or drink, or *whatever you do*, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense.... Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”<sup>10</sup> As Noah declared a message of salvation through his work, Christians of our day should do the same by being commendable in all that we do for God’s glory. That declaration may bring with it ridicule now and riches later!

1 Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Luke 24:47 2 Gen.6:5 3 Matthew Henry 4 Eph.2:8-10 5 II Cor.5:9- 6 J. MacArthur 7 Rev.20:11-15 8 II Cor.5:10-11 9 II Peter 3:10-12 10 I Cor.10:31-33 11 Matt.6:19-21