

# 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:** Hebrews 11:31 “By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”

**Quote:** “How can it be? How can it be? That God should love a soul like me, O how can it be?” A.B. Christiansen

**R**ahab was a harlot who lived in a wicked city that was about to experience God’s wrath. Her life was an example of how salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. It was no accident that the spies went to Rahab’s house. In the midst of wicked idolaters, she feared God, and believed that He would destroy the walled city of Jericho. Rahab said, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you...for *the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath*. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token.”<sup>1</sup>

## Rehab’s Wickedness

The spies told Rahab to bind a scarlet cord in her window and to bring her family to her home. She displayed her faith by obeying. Her family displayed their faith by heeding her invitation. *Every man is a sinner in need of rescue from God’s wrath*. He must not rely upon the walled cities of religion or works. He must display the “scarlet cord” of faith in the blood of Christ alone to save him. “Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,’ says the LORD”

No matter what your history may be, rejoice that God will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be

as wool.’”<sup>3</sup> “If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son *cleanses us from all sin*. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to *cleanse us from all unrighteousness*.”<sup>4</sup>

Just as Rahab in the Old Testament is one of many examples of God’s amazing grace, Paul is one example in the New Testament. He said, “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.”<sup>5</sup> “I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.”<sup>6</sup> May we never think of our sin as less offensive to God than Paul’s. James writes that if we offend in one of God’s Laws, we are guilty of violating them all!<sup>7</sup> With Paul, we must all cry out, “Oh wretched man (or woman) that I am.” By God’s grace our attitude must be one of grateful humility as was Paul’s who also said, “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain*; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”<sup>8</sup> May our testimony be one of gratitude for grace that changed our deceitful, desperately wicked hearts and caused us to live in and for the Lord Jesus Christ!

<sup>1</sup> Joshua 2:9-11 <sup>2</sup> Jeremiah 9:23-24 <sup>3</sup> Isaiah 1:18 <sup>4</sup> I John 1:6-9 <sup>5</sup> Acts 22:4-5 <sup>6</sup> 26:9-11 <sup>7</sup> James 2:10 <sup>8</sup> I Cor. 15:9-10