

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: Philippians 4:1-12 “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*”

Quote: “One thing we may be sure of...: For the believer all pain has meaning; all adversity is profitable. There is no question that adversity is difficult. It usually takes us by surprise and seems to strike where we are most vulnerable. To us it often appears completely senseless and irrational, but to God none of it is either senseless or irrational. He has a purpose in every pain He brings or allows in our lives. We can be sure that in some way He intends it for our profit and His glory.”
Jerry Bridges

Someone coined the saying that “attitude will make or break you.” Practically speaking, there is a lot of truth in that statement. Paul tells us how to have the right attitude. “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind *let each esteem others better than himself.* Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”¹

“Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.”² Some people see the “thorns” in everything! Others choose to be thankful for the “roses.” Abraham Lincoln once said, “Die when I may, I want it said by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.” His attitude was, instead of complaining about how things are, he would try to make them better! If

we accept that God has a loving and wise purpose for all things in our lives, we Christians can rejoice even when our circumstances get difficult. We can look to “the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”³ We can “consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest we become weary and discouraged in our souls.”³ A Christ-like attitude views even the hurtful actions of sinful men as an opportunity to glorify God. It is all a matter of choosing to see “roses” and “thorns” as parts of God’s design. Paul wrote the following from *prison!* “*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* Let your gentleness⁴ be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your

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hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. “He then concludes, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—*meditate on these things.*”⁵

Concerning attitude’s role in the daily grind, Chuck Swindoll wrote, “The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.”

¹ Phil.2:3-8 ² Unknown ³ Heb.12:2-3 ⁴ “Graciousness with humility.” MSB ⁵ Phil.4:4-8