

# 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:** Galatians 1:9-10 “As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

**Quote:** “There are no easy steps to witnessing! No painless, unembarrassing methods! You must bring men to see that they are filthy sinners under the wrath of God who must flee to Christ for mercy. That is offensive. And there is no way to coat it with honey.” Walter J. Chantry

**A**ccclaim means “to shout approval or to applaud.” Paul was an impressive Pharisee. He could take great pride in his keeping the Law, his education, and his persecution of Christians. When God saved him, his focus went from making a name for himself, to making much of Christ. He said, “What things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but *that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith*; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”<sup>1</sup>

**God's A Honor Roll,  
Acclaim**

For Paul, life was now all about pointing men to Christ, even if it meant being misunderstood, misjudged or even martyred. To be truly used of God, you must “humble yourself and cease to care what men think. A meek man...knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring. He has obtained a place of soul rest. The old struggle to defend himself is over.”<sup>2</sup> In other words, like Paul, his “earnest expectation and hope (is) that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether

by life or by death. *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*”<sup>3</sup> The death to which Paul refers may not necessarily be physical for us; it may include the death of our own ambitions, desires and “idols of the heart.” Putting your loyalty to Christ ahead of popularity, position, power, prosperity and pleasure, like Paul and other heroes of the faith did, will not just happen. It takes daily deciding to live completely for Him. It takes learning contentment with His placement, His provision, His protection. In short, it takes bowing the knee to His providence in the daily issues of life that include the extremes of pain and pleasure. Someone wisely said, “In all His dispensations God is at work for our good. In prosperity He tries our gratitude; in mediocrity, our contentment; in misfortune, our submission; in darkness, our faith; under temptation, our steadfastness; and at all times, our obedience and trust in Him.”<sup>5</sup>

We can take heart that Paul and other inspirational saints of bygone days were not without the same struggles that plague our growth in grace. Long after his conversion to Christ, he called himself “a wretched man” and “the chief of sinners.” Concerning his own growth and service, he wrote, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”<sup>6</sup>

May our investment of every day that God gives to us be consumed with bringing acclaim to the Lord Jesus Christ. May we say, “This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important, because I'm exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.”<sup>7</sup>

1 Phil. 3:4-10 2 A.W. Tozer 3 Phil.1>20-21 4 Phi.3:12-14 5 Anon. 6 Phil3:13-14 7 Unknown