

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: II Timothy 4:7-8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Quote: **Finishing**—doing my best for the glory of God and the eternal good of men.

While there is no “I” in the word, team, there is an “I” in **I**ntegrity, **I**ntelligence, **I**ntensity, **I**mprovement and **I**nfluence. For the past few years, these five words have been the focus for the teams that I have been privileged to coach; however, they can also profitably impact every area of life. They sum up Finishing and are pillars of practical success for those who have been made “holy nobility” by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone.¹

INTEGRITY: We say and do what we are at the heart level. The tests, trials and even the temptations of life can develop or destroy our testimony depending upon how we react to them. When we approach every circumstance humbly acknowledging God, we can be assured that He will direct our path.² Be pure.

INTELLIGENCE: Whether it’s playing a game, working a job, or laboring in ministry, Christians should be exemplary. To do so, we must know the fine points of the task at hand, and demonstrate that knowledge through a consistent, commendable performance.³ Be learning.

INTENSITY: Christians should strive to give *their very best effort* every time and in every way in the context of self-discipline and group chemistry. In God’s economy, your best is always good enough, and less than your best is never good enough.⁴ Be pressing.

IMPROVEMENT: Lack of growing and improving is a characteristic of a sluggard on the one hand, or a prideful know-it-all on the other hand.⁵ Be advancing!

INFLUENCE: No matter what their age, people who demonstrate integrity, intelligence, improvement and intensity with a clear desire to honor God are people of influence *where it really matters*.⁶ Be testifying!

IMPACT is a reminder that **I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday. I pray that you will learn the vital truths of Proverbs 3:5-6 in your head, love them in your heart, live them in your habits and thereby leave them in your history. A simple, but sobering truth that *you are now becoming who you one day be* becomes more evident with age. That truth is reflected in the lives of former students who are now “kingdom agents” who love the Lord and live the gospel to varying degrees.⁷ It is likewise reflected in the lives of those who were wise in their own eyes, who did not depart from evil,⁸ who became disillusioned with a religion that did not “work” for them, and who remain spiritually dead. Solomon warns that they will one day say, “How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised correction! I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!”⁹ To those dear, but deceived people, I offer one appeal—**Make Haste to Christ!**

In God’s eternal plan there lies that time when time shall cease—when that which is shall always be, and justice is released. No time for that which might have been—no time to seek Christ’s face—for those who spurn the gospel call and shun God’s means of grace.

Boast not that you may come someday to bow before the cross—that you may yield your rebel will, avoiding endless loss. The breath that you *presume* will voice repentant-faith in Him may never come, and you will die condemned by all your sin.

This is the day to flee by faith to Christ Who has atoned for scarlet crimes of all who trust in His shed blood alone. ‘Tis at the cross, there justified with sin’s dread wages paid, that you, redeemed and reconciled, will find your guilt is laid.

No more estranged as enemy, you, too, can be set free from condemnation and God’s wrath for all eternity. Dethrone the flesh that held you fast, and heed the Spirit’s voice. By grace through faith look to the Son in Whom you may rejoice.

1 Rev.5:9-10; Eph.2:8-10 2 Luke 6:43-45 3 I Cor.10:31-33 4 Phil. 3:14; Col.3:23; I Cor.9:24-27 5 II Peter 3:17b-18; Phil1:10; Rom.12:1-3 6 Psa.119:74; I Tim.4:12; I Peter 2:21; I Cor.11:1 7 I Jn.2:28-29 8 Prov.3:7 9 Prov.5:11-13