

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: I John 2:28, 29 “...Little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that *everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.*” 3:7 “Little children, *let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.*”

QUOTE: The practice of righteous is an evidence of the presence of righteousness that is God’s gift through faith in the perfect life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

John makes it clear that our actions *demonstrate* the condition of our heart. There are those who profess to be Christians whose life betrays empty talk that is not confirmed by living in obedience to Scripture. Christians practicing righteousness demonstrate gratitude for God’s grace that has changed us for time and for eternity!

A person is saved by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone. This statement emphasizes that salvation is “*not by works of righteousness which we have done*,” but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been *justified by His grace* we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”¹ *The faith that saves is always accompanied by repentance.* Paul spoke of “...testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, *repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*”² “Salvation brings divine cleansing from sin and the gift of a new, Spirit-generated, Spirit-empowered, and Spirit-protected life as God’s own children.”³

True saving faith will result in change *from the inside out!* “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the

word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”⁴

Paul wrote to Christians in Philippi, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*”⁵ The state of being a Christian is all of God’s **grace** and is made a reality through the merits of His Son. Jesus provided the required righteousness for restored fellowship for people whose self-righteousness appears as filthy rags in the eyes of God Who is holy.⁶

Recognize the Facts

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and *righteousness* and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, *let him glory in the LORD.*’”⁷ Christians have been given **God’s Righteousness At Christ’s Expense**. Gratitude for that inexpressible and eternal gift will result in sincere, consistent and growing efforts to obey the Scriptures in practical righteous.

True Christians seek to be “instruments of righteousness”⁸ that point others to Christ through their attitudes and actions. The reality of the in-dwelling Holy Spirit is reflected in a life that is becoming increasing characterized by “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”⁹ Walking implies purpose, power, performance and progress. Do you desire to become more like Christ through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, and to demonstrate that on-going transformation through serving God for His glory? If we are not practicing righteousness in gratitude it is because we do not possess it by grace.!

1 Titus 3:5-7; Eph.2:8-10 2 Acts 20:23 3 MSB 4 II Cor.5:17-21 5 Phil.2:12-13 6 Rom.3:22; Isa.64:6 and 1:18 7 I Cor.1:30-31 8 Rom.6:13 9 Gal.5:22-25