**Adult Sunday School**

September 12, 2010

**BY GRACE TO BE BRANDED**

Galations 6:14 - But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world**. 15 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

To allow the Lord to work , both to impute and impart His life into our spirits, we are brought into the reality or “realm” of the spirit where **this world is crucified unto us, and we unto the world**. Can we say that we truly belong to the Lord? Also, do we realize that many of His will experience the Christ life that surged through the apostle Paul. Do we think this possible?

Gal. 6:17....”**I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus**”.” Will there be some, even here amongst us, that will “bear the marks” of our Lord Jesus? Will some, permit God’s Grace to allow themselves to be Branded for His sake?

Let us consider what “branding” actually means. To be branded: (webster) -( Branding: Impressing a mark with a hot iron; fixing a stigma or a mark of reproach.) **Recognition of ownership** The Apostle Paul speaks of his inward crucifixion, as he says in Galations 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God. Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

The marks of an inward crucifixion will be plainly evident that one has been “branded” for Christ

-1-BRANDED BY A **DEVOTION TO A TASK**

(Philippians 3: 13-14) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehendd: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

I believe God can bring us into a place where we can be made blind to what others of the world glory in.

We can be branded to the task of being spiritually separated from the ways of this present world. Our task will not be so much getting our “views” out there, but overcoming the works of the enemy.

**To be branded to the task**, a “wilderness” experience has to lived. If allowed, like our brother Paul in Arabia, we are to allow the Lord to transfigure our spiritual being, our minds and hearts, to propel us to press toward that mark, that branding of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!

-2- BRANDED BY **HUMILITY**

(Philippians 3:4-6) Here we read of Paul’s heritage, his lineage, and his religious acumen. In reading a quote from an old Welsh saint, “If you know Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, do not put them where Pilate did, at the head of Christ, but put them at His feet.”

(Philippians 3:7,8) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.  **BRANDED**! Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: For whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. **BRANDED!**

Can we say we live in great joy, do we possess the humility of nothing left to lose?

Do I still have an opinion of myself?

Do I still fear to fall?

Are we yet “branded”?

(1Peter 3:4) But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible; even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

-3 BRANDED BY **SUFFERING**

(Romans 8: 35-39)

Famine, peril, nakedness, and sword. This is the body branded in suffering.

Tribulation. This could be the mind branded in suffering.

Distress, persecution. This could be the spirit branded in suffering.

Paul made war on all that made war against God.

Look at this man Paul! This one with the scarred body, the stooped figure of a man chastened, yea, “branded” by suffering.

(Read 2 Cor 11:22-28)

And, after reading of his sufferings, Paul writes it off as “nothing”, because he allowed himself to be “branded” for his Lord and master, Jesus Christ. - **BRANDED!**

(2 Corinthians 4:17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory)

-4- BRANDED BY **LOVE**

**Romans** 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also **bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost**,2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

A man has to be dead center in the will of God, and even at times to walk a “tightrope” of obedience to have the Holy Ghost to bear witness to our witness.

Nothing could cast out the passion this man Paul carried in his spirit, and his heart. This man Paul burned and burned with a passion for His Lord, the lost, and the least. Would to God I would even have a grain of sulphur to start the flame of such passion for souls! Lord forgive me.

We need to be **branded** with this passion, and this fire for God.

**Branded**—scar of service-mark of suffering-Humility-**Love**

2Cor. 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you. 6:6 By pureness, by knowledge, by **longsuffering**, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

2Cor. 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

Eph. 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;