

# Blue Ridge Brandmarks

“...I bear on my body the brandmarks of Jesus” - Gal. 6:17

Volume 4

March 7, 2010

Number 3

## **You are Invited**

to a

## **Gospel Meeting**

at the meetinghouse of the

## **Blue Ridge Church of Christ**

with Biblical preaching by

## **Brad Sullivan**

of Comer, GA

Friday, March 26th at 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 27th at 4:00 & 7:00 pm  
Sunday, March 28th at 9:15, 10:00 & 11:00 am

Please bring your Bible and join us for this special series of lessons!

# Love and Sacrifice

Vauvenargues once said, "Our virtues are dearer to us the more we have had to suffer for them. It is the same with our children. All profound affection admits a sacrifice." This is a truth of life. As our interest in a thing increases, so does our willingness to sacrifice for it. Likewise, the more we give up for a particular thing, the higher we prize and value it. Like most truths of life, this one has applications that are virtually limitless, but let us examine four.

## **God's Love for Us**

That God loves us is evident in the fact that He created us. But the most compelling evidence for His unbounded care for us is His sacrifice for our sins. When He gave His Son on our behalf, God said, in effect, "This is how much I love you. This is how much you are worth in My eyes" (see Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:9). If we every questioned God's love before, the cross leaves no doubt. No one has ever loved us that much. No one but God ever could. We measure His love by what He was willing to sacrifice. He measured our worth by what He was willing to pay for us. Peter tells us, "*... you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without*

*blemish and without spot*" (1 Pet. 1:17-18).

## **Our Love for God**

Seeing the sacrifice of Christ given in our place begets love in our hearts (1 Jn. 4:19). But like our virtues, God is dearer to us the more we have had to suffer for Him. Sometimes we feel as though our love for God is waning. At those times, if we look back on our lives we see that our willingness to sacrifice for God has also waned. Which came first? Did we stop sacrificing, and then lose our love? Or did we lose our love and then stop sacrificing? One thing is for sure, God measures our love by what we are willing to sacrifice (John 14:15). We measure God's worth by what we are willing to give up for Him.

## **A Child's Love for the Family**

As we grow up, we feel like we are part of our physical family because we see others, usually our parents, making sacrifices for our interest. We feel loved, and we feel a sense of belonging. We do not, however, fully realize what it means to be part of a family until we begin to willingly make personal sacrifices for the good of others in the family circle. And then, oh, do we begin to feel affection for our family! They mean something to us

because we have decided to have a stake in their lives. There are children who go for years and years and never truly become a family member because they never sacrifice anything for the good of the family. It is a tragedy.

### Our Love for the Brethren

The same thing happens in God's family. Some become Christians, and "marry into" a huge pack of brothers and sisters. Some they know, others they don't know. They begin to feel a part of things when these "new relatives" make sacrifices for them. But like the child who never reaches out to those around him, some go for years and years and never sacrifice anything for the sake of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Maybe you don't feel a part of the family yet. If

you are in this position: I urge you, don't wait to "feel" an outpouring of love come over you before you start helping your family in Christ. Go ahead and start making sacrifices; begin to take time to get involved in the lives of other members; have a stake in whether or not they overcome their trials. You never thought you could love a group of people so much, but you won't be disappointed to find out you were wrong! *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"* (Eph. 2:19). *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith"* (Gal. 6:10).

◀Brent Paschall▶

## IT IS GOOD TO BE WISE, AND WISE TO BE GOOD!

### What Was I?

The answer to last month's riddle was "honey". Here are the details:

**Verse 1** - Everyone likes honey, but a little goes a long way (Prov. 25:27)

**Verse 2** -

\* A land flowing with milk and honey (many references)

\* Honey is a term of endearment

**Verse 3** -

\* Samson's question to the Philistines, "Out of the strong came forth sweetness" etc

\* Judges 14:14-18

\* Deceptive words (Prov. 5:3)

\* Sweet words (Psa. 119:103)

**Verse 4** -

\* Honey Bees

\* Powers that "Bee"

\* Busy as a bee (Isa. 7:18; Deut. 1:44; Judges 14:8; Psa. 118:12).

**Verse 5** -

\* Revelation 10:9-10

\* Out of a rock (Deut. 32:13; Psa. 81:16).

\* Forbidden in burnt offerings (Lev. 2:11)

**Verse 6** -

\* Savior ate honey (Luke 24:42)

\* John the Baptist ate locusts and wild honey

\* The word 'honey' is found in the first letter of the last 5 lines

# MARCH 2010 DUTY ROSTER

<b>Weekday</b>	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>Date</b>	3/7	3/10	3/14	3/17	3/21	3/24	3/26	3/27	3/28
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jeremy P.		Matt M.		Randy F.		@ 7:30	@ 4:00	Randy F.
<b>Morning Message</b>	Don H.		Eric B.		Larry P.		PM	& 7:00 PM	Brad S.
<b>Announcements</b>	Charlie K.	Jimmy F.	Bill A.	Leo R.	Don H.	Jeremy L.	Jimmy F.	Alan M.	Charlie K.
<b>Leading Songs</b>	Larry P.	Alan M.	Brad F.	Bill A.	Matt M.	Eric B.	Alan M.	Brent P.	David T.
<b>First Prayer</b>	John M.	Randy F.	Jerry D.	Jerry D.	David T.	Leo R.	Charlie K.	Larry P.	Jimmy F.
<b>Lead at Lord's Table &amp; Contribution</b>	Jimmy F.		Alan M.		Leo R.				Brent P.
<b>Assist</b>	James M.		Tripp H.		Jerry D.				Eric B.
<b>Assist</b>	Brad F.		Ed M.		Brad F.				Jeremy P.
<b>Assist</b>	Ed M.		Don H.		Tripp H.				Tripp H.
<b>Read Scripture</b>	Bill A.		Jeremy P.		James M.				Matt M.
<b>Preaching</b>	Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brad S.	Brad S.	Brad S.
<b>Wed. Exhortation</b>		Bill A.		Matt M.		Alan M.			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	David T.	Jeremy L.	James M.	Alan M.	Jeremy L.	Larry P.	Larry P.	Leo R.	Ed M.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Sunday

9:15 - Morning Message  
 10:00 - Bible classes for all ages  
 11:00 - Worship

## Wednesday

7:30 - Bible Classes for all ages

## Elders:

Jim Fields, Alan Moeller & Leo Rodrigue

## Deacons:

Eric Bridge & John Malloy

## Evangelist:

Brent Paschall

Read articles, sermons and download  
 class material at

[www.blueridgecoc.org](http://www.blueridgecoc.org)

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