

# Blue Ridge Brandmarks

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

Volume 4

September 5, 2010

Number 9

## You are Invited

to a

## Gospel Meeting

at the meetinghouse of the

## Blue Ridge Church of Christ

with Biblical preaching by

**Mark Mayberry**

of Alvin, Texas

**Friday, September 10th at 7:30pm**  
**Saturday, September 11th at 4:00 & 7:00 pm**  
**Sunday, September 12th at 9:15, 10:00**  
**& 11:00 am**

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

# Adorning the Doctrine

The apostle Paul told Titus to teach the older and younger men and women (2:1-6). (That covers just about everyone, doesn't it?) But in addition to Titus' oral teaching, Paul told the evangelist, "*in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works*" (v.7). Titus' example needed to mirror to his listeners his own conviction about the things he was teaching.

Paul then told Titus to "*exhort servants to be obedient to their own masters, ...not answering back, not pilfering... that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things*" (2:9,10). To "adorn" means "to put in proper order, that is, decorate" (Strong's Greek Dictionary). These servants, or slaves, were to 'decorate' God's word with lives that illustrated its teachings. No mere acknowledgement of the truth here -- rather, full consistency between doctrine and actions. By their good deeds even the lowliest class of society could cause the gospel to be more attractive to interested onlookers.

Looking at this from an opposite vantage point, Paul told servants that they were to eschew any behavior that would cause God's word to be "blasphemed" (1 Timothy 6:1).

To teach our neighbor the gospel of Christ is the greatest good that we could show toward him. But if our example is not consistent with our words our good will likely be turned into the greatest harm. Paul asked, "*You therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not* 2

*steal, do you steal? You who say, 'Do not commit adultery,' do you commit adultery?... For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you*" (Romans 2:21-24). Sadly, hypocrisy in a disciple's life has irreparably damaged many a teaching opportunity, and has too often "*shut up the kingdom of heaven against men*" (see Matthew 23:13).

On the other hand, consistent righteous deeds "adorn" one's teaching. Right doctrine coupled with a teacher's right living make the strongest educational tool, so much that even some skeptics can be brought to "*glorify God in the day of visitation*" (1 Peter 2:12). Isn't this what our Lord indicated? (Matthew 5:16)

It's a matter that should fill us with concern (at the very least), to think that our actions will either 'adorn' God's word or cause it to be 'blasphemed.'

Perhaps you are saying, "Jimmy, I already knew this!"

Okay...

Why, then, did you allow yourself to lose your temper the other day with the cashier who didn't get your fast food order correct?...

Why, then, did you break your word to your child last month after you told him you would help him study for a test?...

Why, then, did you allow your neighbor to see too much of your skin the other day?

You say, “When did I ever--?” ... Perhaps never. But what about your actions? Are they adorning the doctrine, or detracting from it?

Beloved, let our adorning of God’s word be with lives of godly consistency. Not only will it save us in the end, it will

help to save many others in that day. Don’t be fooled into thinking that others aren’t watching you -- they are! Our parents, children, siblings, friends, neighbors, brethren, and casual acquaintances need to see a life lived in harmony with our words.

◀Jimmy Fields▶

### What Was I? Answer to Last Month's Riddle by Eric Bridge

I’ve killed men holy, and I’ve killed dark,  
Some in the old, some new (Stephen was a  
righteous man but was stoned to  
death in Acts 7, In the Old Testament  
the worst offenders were to be stoned  
to death, i.e. Lev.20:27.)

I’m inside Peter, and in the ark,  
Though Noah never knew. (Peter’s name  
means “a stone”, see also 1 Pet.2:4-  
8; The two “tablets of stone”  
containing the 10 commandments  
were inside the ark of the covenant, 1  
Kings 8:9; Noah never knew about  
this “ark” because he preceded it.)

To eat of me you’d not desire,  
But tempt him Satan did. (Satan tempted  
Jesus in the wilderness to turn the  
stones into bread in Luke 4:1-4.)  
Nor would you think me weak to fire,  
But into ash I fled. (On Mt. Carmel the Lord’s  
fire from heaven devoured even the  
stones of the altar itself – 1 Kings  
18:38.)

Twelve times extracted, twelve times  
immersed,  
The kids remembered too. (When Joshua and  
the Israelites crossed the Jordan  
River on dry land, they removed 12  
stones from the river bed and  
replaced them with 12 others, as a  
memorial to their children – Josh 4:1-  
11.)

Sometimes collected, sometimes disbursed,  
Just as the preacher tells you. (In  
Ecclesiastes “the Preacher” (1:1)  
says in 3:5 that there is a time both to  
gather and to cast away stones.)

Abel, Noah, Abram, through me,  
Brought to the Lord a pleasing scent. (These  
three men built stone altars to God,  
who was pleased with their faithful  
sacrifices – See Gen.8:20-21.)

To work with me, by the king’s decree,  
The best of Hiram’s vassals went. (1 Kings 5-  
7, King Hiram of Tyre sent his best  
craftsmen to help Solomon on both  
the Temple and Solomon’s own  
palace.)

And Jesus talked about the day,  
My temple brethren I’d eschew. (Mark 13:1-2,  
Jesus knew that in the siege of  
Jerusalem the Romans would tear  
the temple apart stone by stone.)

On another day I’d roll away,  
And Jesus knew that too. (Mark 16:1-4, The  
stone sealing Jesus’ grave was rolled  
away for His resurrection, and Jesus  
knew this would happen – Jn.2:19-  
22.)

So call me Ebenezer (“a stone of help” – 1  
Sam.7:12),  
And don’t let me offend you, (Rom.9:32-33 –  
We must not be offended by the  
stone that is Jesus Christ.)  
For from day one I’m like your Maker  
(Technically day three of creation, if  
the first stones appeared at the same  
time as the dry land – Gen.1:9-10;  
Psalm 28:1 – God is our rock)

And like me He defends you. (Walls of stone  
have protected cities and families for  
thousands of years, just as God does  
– Ezra 9:9.)

# SEPTEMBER 2010 DUTY ROSTER

<b>Weekday</b>	SUN	WED	FRI	SAT	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED
<b>Date</b>	9/5	9/8	9/10	9/11	9/12	9/15	9/19	9/22	9/26	9/29
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James M.		@ 7:30	@ 4:00	Ed M.		Brent P.		Jeremy P.	
<b>Morning Message</b>	Randy F.		PM	& 7:00 PM	Mark M.		Larry P.		Charlie K.	
<b>Announcements</b>	Bill A.	Randy F.	Leo R.	Brent P.	Jimmy F.	Larry P.	Don H.	John M.	John M.	David T.
<b>Leading Songs</b>	Larry P.	Eric B.	Charlie K.	Alan M.	Brad F.	David T.	Randy F.	Charlie K.	Alan M.	Eric B.
<b>First Prayer</b>	Eric B.	David T.	Larry P.	Randy F./	Charlie K.	Matt M.	Tim P.	Alan M.	Michael F.	Leo R.
<b>Lead at Lord's Table &amp; Contribution</b>	John M.			David T.	Bill A.		Jimmy F.		Leo R.	
<b>Assist</b>	Brad F.				David T.		Jerry D.		Cody M.	
<b>Assist</b>	Michael F.				Eric B.		Brad F.		Matt M.	
<b>Assist</b>	Ed M.				Brent P.		James M.		Ed M.	
<b>Read Scripture</b>	Cody M.				Jerry D.		Bill A.		James M.	
<b>Preaching</b>	Brent P.		Mark M.	Mark M.	Mark M.		Brent P.		Brent P.	
<b>Wed. Exhortation</b>		Matt M.		Matt M./		Leo R.		Jimmy F.		Alan M.
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jerry D.	Michael F.	Jimmy F.	Leo R.	Alan M.	Brent P.	Ed M.	Leo R.	Don H.	Jimmy F.

## 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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Blue Ridge Church of Christ  
929 Indiana Ave NE  
Roanoke, VA 24012