

# Blue Ridge Brandmarks

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

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## "What Have You Here?"

In the 22nd chapter of his prophecy, Isaiah was sent with a divine message to a man named Shebna: *“What have you here, and whom have you here, that you have hewn a sepulcher here, as he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, who carves a tomb for himself in a rock? Indeed, the Lord will throw you away violently, O mighty man, and will surely seize you”* (vss. 16-17).

Shebna was the *“steward... over the house”* of the king (v. 15). His position was probably similar to being the king’s chief of staff. In his position he doubtless could do many good things, yet he apparently was exploiting his office for his own selfish interests. Instead of focusing on the needs of his people (which were great), he was obsessed with having an expensive and impressive burial vault carved out for himself.

*“What have you here?”* the Lord inquired. Shebna was obviously

concerned with building a legacy for his name. (It’s interesting that archaeologists have unearthed what is believed to be the lintel of Shebna’s tomb. Even more remarkable is that the lintel contains “the third longest monument inscription in archaic Hebrew.”<sup>1</sup> Legacy-building, indeed.)

### Leaders in Society

We hear the term ‘legacy-building’ used frequently today in political circles, especially concerning both current and past senators, congressmen, and presidents. “How will history remember me?” seems to be the anxiety of many. If only the goal of them all could be summed up in the question, “How could I best serve my constituents?” the welfare of their ‘legacy’ would (more often than not) take care of itself. *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan”* (Proverbs 29:2).

Cont. on Page 3 ►

# Could You Sign Your Name to This?

Dear God in Heaven:

I want to write you and let you know why we don't attend the worship services faithfully. You have chosen for your day a day that comes at the end of a hard week when we are all tired out. Also, it comes just after Saturday night and that is the night we feel we should enjoy ourselves and take in a movie or ball game or a party and it is usually after midnight when we get to sleep. You have chosen the very day that we need to sleep late. Then, too, my family demands a big Sunday dinner and when I get up 90 minutes late, I can't get all this prepared and make it to Bible study and preaching. John likes to read the Sunday sports page and the kids want to read the funnies I mean no disrespect, but it seems to me you picked the wrong day.

Then, too, we must think of John. He works so hard all week and Sunday is about the only day he has to catch up on odd jobs around the house. I also feel that he should have one day a week to sleep, fish, golf or visit the folks. Please try to understand and don't hold this against us.

Last Sunday we meant to go to worship but had company. The Sunday before we meant to go, but it was raining. I was telling John last night that we just had to get straightened out and get back to worship or people would think we had quit. You know how people are to talk.

I wanted to tell you all these things so that you could see our viewpoint and know that it is really not our fault we do not go to worship. And don't think we do not love you, dear God, for we do. We love the church too, and have been faithful members for years, and we expect to die in it and go home to Glory.

Faithfully,

Minnie Saints

Kareless City, U.S.A.

## What Have You Here? - from Page 1 ► themselves in their secular

The Lord's question, you see ("*What have you here?*"), is all about this matter of stewardship. When He places men in positions of leadership, He doesn't do so in order for them to seek their own legacy and notoriety. And we wonder if the Lord wouldn't ask the same question of some other leaders today.

### Leaders in the Church

"*What have you here?*" could possibly be the question for some pastors. Their position is certainly not granted to them for lordship, nor for notoriety-seeking (1 Peter 5:3; 1 Timothy 3:6).

employment, are forsaking their God-given responsibility to raise their children. Too many fathers and mothers have gotten caught up in the 'ambition trap' of their work, while their children are either brought up by someone else or sit alone at home to be nurtured by the television, computer, and Playstation. We aren't seeking to be harsh here. But beloved, a person does not have to be a steward over a king's house in order to receive the denunciation Shebna received. (Remember the one-talent man of Matthew 25?) Parents, what are you doing with that "heritage" that has

## **WERE WE PUT HERE ON EARTH TO BUILD OUR OWN LEGACY?**

While those charged to their care are, yes, to "recognize" and "esteem" them, their own focus must be to "*warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all*" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14). If a man has taken the position for the purpose of 'making a name for himself,' he has joined the ranks of Shebna and should step down immediately. Fame is not the name of the game -- service is!

### Leaders in the Home

We believe the question, "*What have you here?*" could be asked of many parents who, while making a name for

undoubtedly been placed in your hands by the Lord? (Psalm 127:3).

God told Shebna, "*Indeed, the Lord will throw you away violently, O mighty man... He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball into a large country*" (Isaiah 22:17,18). Those are serious words about a serious matter, this stewardship.

Our task on earth is to serve others, not to build our own legacy.

"*What have you here?*"

◀Jimmy Fields▶

# OCTOBER 2010 DUTY ROSTER

<b>Weekday</b>	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN
<b>Date</b>	10/3	10/6	10/10	10/13	10/17	10/20	10/24	10/27	10/31
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Bill A.		Eric B.		Randy F.		Michael F.		David T.
<b>Morning Message</b>	Jimmy F.		Larry P.		Leo R.		Alan M.		John M.
<b>Announcements</b>	David T.	Alan M.	Jimmy F.	Randy F.	Don H.	Leo R.	John M.	David T.	Leo R.
<b>Leading Songs</b>	John M.	Brent P.	Bill A.	Charlie K.	Alan M.	Matt M.	David T.	Larry P.	Matt M.
<b>First Prayer</b>	Jerry D.	James M.	Ed M.	Larry P.	Michael F.	J. Little	Don H.	Eric B.	Randy F.
<b>Lead at Lord's Table &amp; Contribution</b>	Charlie K.		Don H.		Bill A.		Jimmy F.		Larry P.
<b>Assist</b>	Brad F.		John M.		J. Little		Bill A.		Don H.
<b>Assist</b>	Michael F.		James M.		Jerry D.		Brad F.		Ed M.
<b>Assist</b>	Cody M.		Matt M.		Ed M.		James M.		Michael F.
<b>Read Scripture</b>	Eric B.		Brad F.		James M.		J. Little		Jeremy P.
<b>Preaching</b>	Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.
<b>Wed. Exhortation</b>		Randy F.		John M.		Charlie K.		Jimmy F.	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ed M.	J. Little	Jerry D.	Eric B.	Charlie K.	Michael F.	Leo R.	Matt M.	Alan 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

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class material at

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

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