

## BRANDED!

Text: Gal. 5:14-16

INTRO: This is a day of signs and symbols... crosses, fish, etc. hanging around necks, on bumper stickers...

Paul speaks of his symbol, sign.

STIGMATA: refers to custom of branding slaves with insigna or sign to show ownership.

This is the sign of Christ's ownership. And it points to: you always BEAR THE BRAND OF YOUR MASTER

### I. THE POSITION OF CHRISTIAN AS A SLAVE.

1. These words acknowledge Christ's ownership. Branded FOR Christ.

2. "Servant" is an inadequate translation. Means slave *Meaning N.T. Paul's designation of himself*

(1) Unconditional Sovereignty of Master.

(2) ~~Unquestioning Submission~~ Unquestioning Submission of Slave. — *Jesus not congregations — Trust Him if married He loves us.*

(3) You always bear the brand of your master: in the eyes, on the face... DRUGS, DRINK, etc.

*1 - a NEW Life  
2 - a NEW Lifestyle*

### II. THE PRIDE OF THE CHRISTIAN AS A SLAVE.

1. BEAR: Greek word doesn't mean to bear, tolerate, endure... but TO BEAR TRIUMPHANTLY AS A TROPHY, as SPOILS FROM WAR.

*Ex 21*

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1. Points to our Fellowship in Christ's sufferings.

2. Points to our faithfulness in Christ's service. It was his medal of honor. Every Christian ought to bear these marks of self-denial... Paul received

"I love, I love my Master,  
I will not go out free;  
For He is my Redeemer;  
He paid the price for me.  
I would not leave His service,  
It is so sweet and blest;  
And in the weariest moments  
He gives the truest rest.

I would not halve my service,  
His only it must be:  
His only, who so loved me,  
And gave Himself for me;  
Rejoicing and adoring,  
Henceforth my song shall be.  
I love, I love my Master,  
I will not go out free."

#### Havergal

How can I choose but love Thee, God's dear son,  
O Jesus, loviest and most Loving One?  
Were there no heaven to gain, no hell to flee  
For what Thou art alone I must love Thee.



these marks as a result of being faithful to serve -- stoned at Lystra -- and he thought of them not as accidents of fate or result of the arbitrary hatred of men, but he received them as from the hand of His Master...they were the Medal of Honor received from His master.

Being faithful to Jesus will cost you some marks somewhere ~~down~~ down the road.

3. Points to our freedom as Christ's servant. vs. 14 -- What a heart-ease --the joy of having nothing to lose...

HE IS FREE WHO DELIGHTS TO DO WHAT ~~HE~~ IS DEMANDED.

We are His responsibility!

### III. THE PROTECTION OF THE CHRISTIAN AS A SLAVE.

*The freedom of slavery*

"Let no man trouble me..."

1. Grants a certain kind of immunity.
2. Paul speaks of himself as a sacred person. God's mark is upon him. Let men beware how they meddle with him.

Zech. 2:8: "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of my eye."

3. Paul announces that whoever lays a hand on him does so <sup>*so guarded*</sup> at their own peril.

4. The measure that we belong to Christ... <sup>*supported*</sup> in that measure are we free from the ~~disturbance~~ disturbance of earthly influences.

5. Christ is your master -- take your orders from Him; let men rave as they like. Be content to be approved by Him.

CONCLUSION: What about your marks, your scars?

“Hast thou no scar?  
 No hidden scar on foot or side or hand?  
 I hear thee sung as mighty in the land;  
 I hear them hail thy bright ascended star.  
 Hast thou no scar?  
 No wound, no scar?  
 Yet as the master shall the servant be;  
 And pierced are the feet that follow me;  
 But thine are whole; can he have followed  
 far  
 Who has no wound, no scar?”

*Amy Carmichael*

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 Fla.*