

THE MARKS OF JESUS

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we should have certain marks in our life to show that we are like Jesus.
2. Gal. 6:17 "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."
 - a. Other versions of Gal. 6:17
 - i. ASV "Henceforth, let no man trouble me; for I bear branded on my body the marks of Jesus."
 - ii. NKJV "From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."
 - iii. YLT "Henceforth, let no one give me trouble, for I the **scars** of the Lord Jesus in my body do bear."
 - b. From henceforth
 - i. The Judaizers had troubled him by calling in question his authority as an apostle
 - ii. Paul had shown them to be wrong
 - iii. He then set forth the true teaching of God.¹
 - c. For I bear in my body
 - i. This is a reason why you should stop troubling me
 - ii. Some of the Galatians had seen those scars
 - iii. Therefore you should avoid causing any more trouble.²
3. Plan of lesson: Paul had troubles in his life, the marks of Jesus, Other marks of Jesus

Discussion

I. TROUBLES FOR PAUL

- A. From the time he became a Christian he had troubles - persecution from without
1. Acts 9:22-25 . . . He proved that Jesus is the Christ --- The Jews threatened to kill him
 2. Acts 14:19 "And there came thither [certain] Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, **having stoned Paul**, drew [him] out of the city, supposing he had been dead."
 3. 2 Cor. 11:23-27
- B. He had trouble from some who called themselves Christians - Persecution from within
1. 2 Cor. 11:26 "...in perils among false brethren."
 2. Acts 15 - there was trouble over the circumcision question
 3. These false brethren were not fully converted to the church.

II. THE MARKS OF JESUS SUFFERED BY PAUL

- A. Some ideas as to what this means
1. One man suggested that Paul's body was marked with an **X**, the initial letter of the Greek form of "Christ".³
 2. Another speculated that this meant the eye-trouble Paul suffered. He said that it resulted from his exposure to the blinding light of the divine glory on the Damascus road at the time of his conversion.⁴

3. A few people think this refers to a tattoo mark.
 - a. In that day a person often would have a brand-mark like a tattoo placed in their body that showed their dedication to a certain god.
 - b. This showed that they belonged to this god, and that was to provide protection for the person.⁵
 4. I do not believe any of these are the correct view
- B. The best and most logical view
1. These marks were scars in his body that he had received for standing up for Jesus.
 2. These were marks made upon his body when he was scourged, stoned, and drawn out of the city for dead.
 3. In Acts 14:19 he was stoned and drug out of the city as though he was dead - this no doubt left many scars
 4. Then in 2 Cor. 11:23-27 he tells us about some of his persecutions:
 - a. Stripes - above measure 5 times 40 stripes save one $39 \times 5 = 195$
 - b. Rods - beaten with rods 3 times
 - c. Stoned - 1 time - hit with rocks until he was unconscious
 - d. These persecutions left scars and marks on his body
- C. In the writings of Josephus he relates an occasion when a man named Antipater [Herod's father] stripped off part of his clothes to show the multitude of the wounds he had because of his loyalty to Caesar. ⁶
- D. Paul had marks [SCARS] in his body for the Lord Jesus
1. Paul endured these sufferings for the name of Christ
 2. They were evidence that Paul was loyal to Christ

3. They were called marks of Jesus not because he received the same wounds in his body which Jesus received at his crucifixion, but because of his service to Jesus.
4. 2 Cor. 4:10-11 "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

E. Lessons for us:

1. Would you become a Christian if you knew that you would be beaten ?
2. How many of us would remain faithful Christians if we had to endure such persecution for serving God?
3. 2 Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

III. OTHER MARKS OF JESUS

The real marks of Jesus are not physical scars on our body but our attitudes and work of service showing our loyalty and dedication. Here are some marks that we can have showing that we belong to Jesus.

A. **LOVE**

1. God is Love - 1 Jn. 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
2. Jesus is in the image of God - Heb. 1:3 "Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"

3. This word [LOVE] Describes Jesus better than any other. John 11:35-36
Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!
4. Matt. 22:37-39 Jesus teaches us to love God supremely
 - a. Jesus loved God and demonstrated that by giving his life in order that God's will might be done.
 - b. Likewise we show our love for God in doing his will - 1 Jn. 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
 - c. John 15:12 - teaches us that we are to love one another. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."
 - d. Our love for God is dependent upon our love for the brethren - 1 Jn. 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"
 - e. Proper love for God and for each other is a mark that must be true of all who are disciples of Christ.
 - f. Paul loved God and his fellow man - this is a mark of Jesus that he bore in his body and life

B. WORSHIP

1. Luke 4:16 "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read."
 - a. Jesus went to worship regularly
 - b. Jesus never violated the Father's will about going to worship

- c. We should have this same mark in our life and be faithful to worship God.
2. Christ spoke out against the traditions of men that had changed the true worship -
John 2:13-17
 - a. In like manner we should speak out against the things that change the true worship of God today.
 - b. Instrumental Music is not authorized in the N.T.
 - c. Fund raising schemes is not God's way of financing the work of the church - we are to give as we have been prospered - 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 - d. Women are not allowed to be preachers - 1 Tim. 2:12 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."
 3. Jesus did not allow the hypocrisy of the Jews to keep him from worship. Neither should we - Heb. 10:25
 4. Paul had this mark of Jesus in his life - he worshiped God

C. TEACHING

1. Jesus used every opportunity to teach others
 - a. Mk. 10:16 "And he took them up in his arms, put [his] hands upon them, and blessed them." Jesus blessed the children and used them as a means to teach us a great lesson on humility
 - b. Lk. 7:36-48 He dined with a Pharisee and used this experience to teach the importance of forgiving.
2. Christ commanded the disciples to teach the world
 - a. Mt. 28:18-20 - Mark 16:15-16

- b. God will hold us responsible for failing to develop into teachers
 - c. Heb. 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."
3. Paul had this mark of Jesus in his life -
- a. He went on many missionary journeys
 - b. He may have taught more people than any other person who lived in his day
 - c. This is a mark of Jesus that we need to have in our life

D. PRAYER

1. Jesus prayed often and he taught his followers to pray
 - a. Lk. 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them [to this end], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
 - b. He prayed before choosing his apostles - Lk. 6:12-16 - all night
 - c. He prayed before he was crucified on the cross - Lk. 22:39-44
2. If Christ needed to pray how much more do we need to pray today
3. 1 Thes. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.
4. Paul was a man of prayer - Rom. 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."
5. Prayer is a mark of a faithful Christian

E. SACRIFICE

1. Jesus became poor that we might be rich 2 Cor. 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

2. We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice - Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.
3. Paul sacrificed himself - he gave his whole self to work for the cause of Christ
4. This Mark of Jesus is one that we must bear for Christ in order for the church to grow and for us to be saved.

F. OBEDIENCE

1. Jesus obeyed when it meant death - Lk. 22:42 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."
2. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him. - Heb.5:8-9
3. A faith that does not obey will not save - Jas. 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
4. Lk. 6:46 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
5. The chief aim in the life of Jesus was to obey the Father's will - Jn. 4:34
"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."
6. Paul was obedient to God's will - this was a mark of his life
7. This is a mark that we must have in order to be saved. - Mt. 7:21

CONCLUSION

1. Paul had the marks of Jesus in his body - The scars - Gal. 6:17
 2. But Paul also had these marks of living for Jesus in his life:⁷
 - a. Love
 - b. Worship
 - c. Teaching
 - d. Prayer
 - e. Sacrifice
 - f. Obedience
 3. Acts 21:13 "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
 3. Paul then could write to us and say....I "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" 1 Cor. 11:1
 4. Do you have the marks of Jesus in your Life?
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Sources

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- 2.Gutherie - commentary on Galatians p. 152
3. F.F. Bruce Commentary on Galatians P. 276
- 4.F.F. Bruce - p. 276
- 5.Ridderbos - Commentary on Galatians p. 229
- 6.Josephus - Wars of the Jews p. 622
- 7.Gleanings from Galataians - by Gussie Lambert P. 163-166

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