

Virtues as found in II Peter 1



Words to Find:
charity
faith
godliness
kindness
knowledge
patience
temperance

Imitators of Christ

Edited from an article by C. H.

Spurgeon

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;”

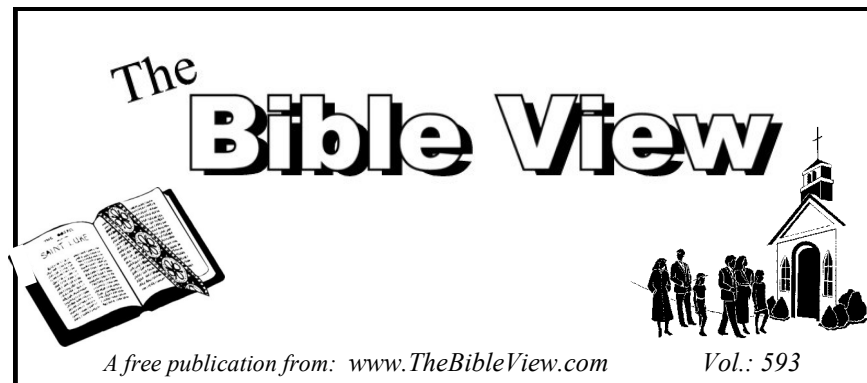
Ephesians 5:1

Imitate God, not as slaves might imitate their master unwillingly, dreading the crack of his whip; but loving, willing imitators, such as children are. You do not urge your children to imitate you, but they do so even in their games. See how the boy rides his wooden horse as does his father; and the girl imitates

her mother, who takes care of her. You see the minister’s little boy trying to preach like his father; and you all see the tiny girl with a Bible in front of her and an ancient pair of spectacles upon her nose, saying, “Now I’m grandmamma.” They copy us naturally. They cannot help it.

Such will be the holiness of the genuine Christian. He is born from above, and hence he lives above. His imitation of God springs out of his relationship to God. Holiness must be spontane-

Continued on Page 3



Marked Men

Bill Brinkworth

In the Word of God, several men and groups have been or will be physically and visibly marked by God. At a glance it was, or will be possible, to tell for whom they stood. Were they standing for the cause of Christ, or did they choose to stand against God?

666
or
Servant
of God?

The first man to be marked by God was Cain, the murderer of his brother, Abel. God cursed Cain for his sin by promising that his farming efforts would be for naught, and that he would spend the rest of his life without a permanent home; he would be a vagabond (Genesis 4:12). To keep others from killing Cain, God placed a mark on Cain. The Bible does not further describe what this mark was. Whatever the branding was, one look at Cain, and the people knew he was under the special care of God, and that none should harm him.

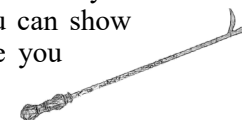
Others that will be marked will include 144,000 Jewish, virgin men that will be a group of soul-winners in the beginning of the future, seven-year tribulation (Rev. 7:3-8). God will place His seal, His marking, on their foreheads (Rev. 7:3). The marking will be God’s name (Rev. 14:1), and it will clearly identify them as servants of God at a time when the inhabitants of earth will not tolerate anyone that stands for God. These evangelists will win many to the cause of Christ

Continued on Page 2

God’s Will

Edited from an article by D. L Moody

When the War between the States started, an elderly woman shook an iron fire-poker threateningly at the enemy troops. She said, “I can’t do much with it, but I can show what side I’m on.” My friends, even if you can’t do much, you can show to which side you belong.



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Marked Men

Continued from Page 1
and pluck many out of Hell's grasp. Their efforts will result in their deaths, but they will have a special position in Heaven for their stand for Christ.

Another group that will voluntarily have a mark placed on their hand or forehead will also be seen during the tribulation period (Rev. 13:15-18). They will be told that they will not be able to buy or sell unless they have the mark of 666 placed on them. In doing so, they will be branding themselves as part of the anti-christ's and false prophet's systems. They might temporarily be able to get food, and what they need to survive; but they will mark themselves as enemies of God and will end up in Hell — forever!

These, and others in the Bible, were visibly identified as being for or against God. Although, we are not marked physically, we, too, can be "marked". God knows the sway of our heart and our allegiance to or against Him. He knows what we do for Him, and the value we place on abiding by His commandments. We are "marked" in His eyes.

The unsaved world can also

"Your walk talks louder than your talk talks."

often see how we, who claim to be Christians, are "marked". They see if we are boldly living for Him, or if we will ashamedly back down on biblical principles to blend in with those around us. Our refusal to pray in a public restaurant, in fear of what others think, will mark us as being like all others that do not claim to be Christians. A cowardly decision not to tell our friends and acquaintances about God's way of salvation or other biblical teachings will also brand us as being like everyone else, in their eyes. However, a verbal stand for biblical righteousness when we may receive persecution from others, will boldly mark us for whom we stand in God's eyes and on-lookers.

The world is looking for ones with the Truth. They do not know where to look. Unfortunately, many are looking in the wrong places for answers. If you are a Christian, and you cross paths with those unsaved, what markings are they seeing in your behavior and character? Do they know from your actions and words that you are a child of God, or have you hidden Whom you are standing for? For which side are you marked: God's or Satan's?

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Jos. 24:15

To learn more about those "marked" during the tribulation period, read the book

of Revelation. To read a brief summarization of what happens during those times go to <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/blog/>, and select "Revelations" from "Devotions from the Books of the Bible" on the right-side of the page. Then select which chapter you want to read a brief explanation of what the chapter is about.

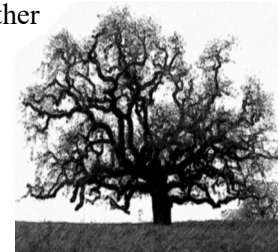
The Rooted Christian

Edited from an Article by C. H. Spurgeon

I saw, one day, a number of beech trees which had formed a thicket. They had all fallen to the ground during a storm. When developing as young saplings, they leaned upon one another to a great extent, and the thickness of their neighbors' roots and trunks prevented each tree from getting a firm hold of the soil. They kept each other up, but also constrained each other from growing tall, healthy, and with proper root-growth. When a storm forced down the first few trees, the others readily followed; one after the other.

Close to that same spot, I saw another tree still standing in solitary strength. The same hurricane had beaten upon it, but it had endured all its force. That lone, brave tree seemed to be better rooted and was able to withstand the storm, because it grew apart from the others.

I thought, "Is this not also true with many professors of Christ?" They often hold together, and help each other to grow up; but if they have not firm personal root-



"Behavior is a mirror in which everyone shows his image."

growth, when a stormy trial arises they will fall in rows with others not living godly lives.

When a minister dies, or certain leaders are taken away, church members sometime spiritually fall. The loss of their spiritual leader caused them to fall, as they had no spiritual stability or growth of their own.

Be self-contained! Each one of you should be growing in Christ independently. Each being rooted and grounded in God's love, faith, and obedience to His Word. Then, when the worst "storm" blows upon your life, you will not fall as do others.

Imitators of Christ

Continued from Page 4

ous, or it is spurious. We cannot be driven to holiness like a mule to his plowing. We must delight in the law of God after the inward man.

Be imitators because you do not wish for anything better than to be like your Father. Have no ambition in the world except for the aspiration to be holy, even as God is holy.