

## **CHRISTIANS ARE MARKED PEOPLE**

**St. Paul once said, “From now on let no man trouble me, for I bear on my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” This is a fascinating statement. Keep in mind it was the custom in those days to brand upon the body of a slave a mark of ownership. The burning by a brand was also used in cases of theft of a great crime. So that, in St. Paul’s time, anyone who was branded with a mark, was identified, either as a slave or criminal.**

**Yet St. Paul was not ashamed to apply this idea to himself and his Master, Christ. He said, “I am a slave, the slave of Christ, and I am not ashamed to carry with me this mark which identifies me Christ’s man.**

**Numerous whipping and stonings had left their scars on St. Paul, signifying the suffering that he bore for Christ. Fortunatley, Christians are not subjected to such physical tortures in America today. Still, there should be some marks of our love for Christ, something about us that proudly identifies us as followers of Him. Through the mysteries of Baptism and of Chrismation, in which we are “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” There is placed an indelible mark upon us.**

**As we live our lives, the ownership of us by Christ should be obvious to the world. Our lives could be marked by kindness and love to others. There could be the mark of honesty, of worship, of service. There could be the mark of learning and loving God’s Word.**

**One did not have to ask martyrs, confessors or saints their faith - it was crystal clear to all with whom they came into contact. Their way of living reflected Christ. Christians are marked people. Let all see the indelible seal of the cross that is upon us.**