



“Are We Branded?”

By: Clay Barnes

I am sure we are all familiar with cattle branding, when a farmer puts his mark of ownership on his livestock. We also see “branding” on various products we buy. This shows that these products belong to an individual or company. However, there are times when a competitor comes along and tries to look like the real thing. They will even brand their product to make it look like a copyrighted brand. We see this a lot with Christianity, people trying to make various religious organizations and denominations trying to look like the real thing, trying to make them look like the Lords Church. Please refer to Ephesians 4:4-6. It was Christ that died for us, even when we were lost in sin and in Satan's clutches. Please see Romans 5:8. When we obey the Gospel of Christ like they did at Pentecost (Acts 2), The Eunuch (Acts 8), The Jailer (Acts 16), we become “branded” “by Christ.” We start wearing His name, and we belong to Him. But, what happens if we attach ourselves to something that is an imitation? This happened in 1 Corinthians 1:11-15. What do we have here? People joining themselves to something other than Christ. The wrong brand. For the balance of our reading lets examine some “brands” we are to wear. First, we are to set our minds on things eternal. As we mentioned above, when we become branded Christians

according to the way the Bible instructs us we become a person who looks at things in an entirely different light. We now look at things from a Heavenly standpoint. Please see Colossians 3:1. Second, we become branded with his name. We become part of Him, and we gladly follow him because he loved us to the point where He died for us. Please refer to Colossians 2:12-14. Third, we must be branded in faith. Please refer to Hebrews 11:1-3. How many times have we reached for something just because it was “at hand” and was available at the time? Why do we do this? Because it satisfies a desire for instant gratification, a fulfillment of the moment. Sound familiar? It should, because this is what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 3. Their faith was not enough to make them realize that God was able to take care of their every need. Even the ones that they could not see. Unfortunately, we see that a lot in the religious world today. It seems that we cannot be happy with the commandments that outlined our Bibles, We have to have instant gratification in the form of worldly and physical desires. We have a very stern warning against this given in Revelation chapter 22. Please refer to Revelation 22:18-19. On the other hand, we see just what faith and a complete trust in God will do. Please refer back to Genesis and see chapter 22:1-12. The Hebrew writer tells us about the importance of waiting when he uses Abraham for an example in Hebrews 11:8-10. The bottom line is God's plan is always right, it's always in his time, and it's

always complete. We need to be “branded” in this plan. So what does your brand say about you? Are we seeking those things which are above?