



# Northside Proclaimer

*Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord*

1 Thessalonians 1:8

**Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!**

**December 27, 2015**

## **Mark These People**

### **Bill Hall**

Quickly now - What type of people are to be marked by Christians according to the scriptures? Those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to Christ's doctrines? Yes, for so we are taught in Romans 16:17.

There is another type of person to be marked, however. "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" (Philippians 3:17 KJV). The word "mark" is not synonymous with the word "withdraw." According to W.E. Vine, the word means "to look at, behold, watch, contemplate." Those who are evil, then, are to be marked and avoided; while those who walk in God's way are to be marked and followed.

Godly elders should be marked. Elders are to be examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3). They are to be men whose character is above reproach, who rule their own house well, who are hospitable, and whose sound teaching can convict the gainsayers. We know such elders, and their example is priceless. Even after such men have passed on, they are to be remembered: "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow (a similar word to mark-BH), considering the outcome of their conduct" (Hebrews 13:7). Thank God for godly elders; mark them and follow their good example.

Godly women should be marked. If there are women in the congregation who stand out for their piety and humility, whose major attractiveness is their "meek and quiet spirit," who have adorned themselves with good works, who love their husband and children, who find joy and contentment in being a wife and mother and keeper at home, who feel no resentment toward their position of subjection to man, who have devoted their lives to doing God's will - and there are such women in every congregation - then mark these godly women and follow their example. In these days when the women's liberation movement is affecting so many and actually intimidating many women who want to do right, it is wonderful to have godly women in the church who are able to lead the way and provide a role model for other women who are Christians. Thank God for godly women; mark them and follow their example.

Godly preachers should be marked. Not all preachers are godly, but most of the gospel preachers of our acquaintance are godly men whose lives speak as effectively as do their lips. They do their work, not as hirelings, but as men concerned for the truth and the souls of men and women. Mark such men and follow their example!

Godly parents, godly young people, godly older people, godly suffering people, godly dying people - the godly faithful! How sad that some are so blinded by the faults of the few that they cannot see the virtues of the many. Good people are all around us. Let's look for them, contemplate their good qualities, mark them, and follow their example.

Northside  
*church Of Christ*

25 Greenfield Pike  
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!  
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock  
Evangelist

Office: 937.393.3634  
Cell: 478.256.0325

preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

## Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

### Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Dec 27 2 Jn 1, 3 Jn 1  
Dec 28 Rev 1-5  
Dec 29 Rev 6-11  
Dec 30 Rev 12-18  
Dec 31 Rev 19-22  
LAST WEEK!!

## They Can't Live It Bill Hall

Many who have never entered the Lord's service explain their hesitancy with the words, "I'm afraid I just can't live it." We usually try to quell their fears, but the truth is they can't live it, for their concept of what it is they are trying to live is a completely false concept.

Consider the man whose wife became a Christian. He was sure she couldn't "live it." He watched her carefully, and sure enough, one day under considerable stress, she lost control, yelled at the children, and said some things a Christian ought not to say. "If she were a Christian," the man thought, "she wouldn't talk like that; I knew she couldn't live it." On another day the preacher came around, and in reaction to something someone said, he turned a bit red, although he otherwise controlled his temper. But the man saw that tinge of redness, and immediately concluded, "That preacher can't live it either." He eventually observed faults in other Christians, and finally concluded that none of them could "live it," that the whole church was a bunch of hypocrites. Of course he never even tried, for he knew his weaknesses all too well. He knew he couldn't "live it."

Poor man! He thinks that the Christian life is a life of perfection; that all "Christians" fall into one of two categories: either they are perfect or they are hypocrites. He knows he can't live up to perfection, to the standards he has set for others, and is thinking with an almost self-righteous attitude, "One thing about it, Preacher, I'm not going to be a hypocrite."

But there is pardon for the sincere Christian's imperfections. "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). And that Christian who sincerely strives to live for the Lord, and daily seeks His forgiveness, though he should have a thousand weaknesses, is no hypocrite. There are hypocrites in the church, and we offer no defense in their behalf. But weaknesses do not necessarily imply hypocrisy.

Let the faithful Christian, then, not be intimidated by the constant charge of "hypocrites in the church." And let the sinner forget about living "it," if by "it" he means perfection, and let him come to Christ, through whom he can go to heaven.