

BY THIS I KNOW

(I Kings 17:1-24)

- Introduction:
1. As we begin the new year, we need to ask ourselves if Jesus can be seen in us.
 2. Hopefully, the world can see Him in our lives.
 - a. (II Cor. 3:2) "**An epistle written and read among all men...**"
 - b. (Acts 4:13) "**They realized that they had been with Jesus.**"
 3. In I Kings 17:24, the widow of Zarephath raised a very thought provoking statement: "**Now by this, I know that you are a man of God...**"
 4. It is this statement that we want to consider. By what do we make known to the world that we are children of God?

I. BY OUR LOVE

- A. (John 13:34-35) Love identifies the disciples of Christ.
- B. (I Thess. 4:9) Love was a fundamental characteristic of the early church.
- C. (Galatians 5:2) Love is one of the fruits of the Spirit.
- D. (I Corinthians 13:1-8) Characteristics of genuine love.

II. BY OUR LIGHT

- A. (Matthew 5:16) Let your light so shine...
- B. (Ephesians 5:8-15) Light exposes error and illuminates righteousness.
- C. (John 19:38) Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple.
 1. As a secret disciple, Joseph of Arimathea lived in obscurity.
 2. But because he took courage to cast his influence in the right direction, he will be remembered forever.

III. BY OUR LOYALTY

- A. Our loyalty can be summarized in three categories:
 1. Loyalty to God [*bearing the marks of Christ in your body*] (Galatians 6:17; Matthew 10:38).
 2. Loyalty to Others [*bearing one another's burdens*] (Galatians 6:2; Matthew 22:39).
 3. Loyalty to Self [*bearing your own burdens*] (Galatians 6:5; II Corinthians 13:5).

IV. BY OUR LONGING

- A. (Matthew 6:19-21) Your heart is where your treasure is.
- B. (Hebrews 11:8-10) Abraham longed for a Heavenly home.
- C. (Philippians 1:21-23) Paul desired to be with Christ.

- Conclusion:
1. Let us resolve to manifest the Lordship of Christ in our lives.
 2. While one may possess just enough of these qualities to deceive the world, he cannot deceive God (II Timothy 2:19).
 3. Cloth yourself with the mind and spirit of Christ and allow Him to live in and through you.