

490 THE PENCIL

Text: Rom. 14:7-8 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Introduction:

- A. At first glance a pencil may appear to be just an ordinary thing. (Very insignificant).
- B. As with many things however, if we examine it closely, we can see that it has many traits in common with a person.
- C. Please notice the pencil.

BODY

I. IT IS A NEW PENCIL. (or it was at one time)

- A. 2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- B. Eph. 2: 11-13 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

II. IT WAS DESIGNED FOR A PURPOSE

- A. Ecc. 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.
- B. Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- C. Jn. 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
- D. Jn. 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- E. The pencil can be used for a good or evil purpose: We can use our bodies and minds for evil or good.

III. IT WAS PURCHASED WITH A PRICE.

- A. Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
- B. 1 Pet. 1:17-19 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- C. 1 Cor 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
- D. 1 Cor 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

IV. THE INSIDE IS MOST IMPORTANT. (SOME PENCILS JUST PLAN UGLY)

- A. 2 Cor. 4:16 – 5:8 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
- B. It is the heart (mind) of man that matters most.
- C. Rom. 7:25a I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God,

V. IT HAD A MAKER.

- A. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- B. Ecc. 12:1 “Remember now your creator in the days of your youth...”
- C. Prov. 22:2 The rich and the poor have this in common, The Lord is the maker of them all.

VI. PENCILS COME IN ALL COLORS AND SHAPES.

- A. God loves us all. “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight”
- B. Acts 10:34 -35 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

VII. PENCILS HAVE A TRADEMARK WHICH DISTINGUISHES IT FROM OTHER PENCIL COMPANIES!

- A. We also have a trade mark.- Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- B. Some would “blur” our trademark.
- C. We need to have a distinctive plea. “return to the Bible”.

VIII. IT HAS AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. If the pencil fails to perform its job it will be thrown out and burned.
- B. Matt. 25:24-30 4 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- C. Gal. 6:4 -5 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.

IX. THE PENCIL IS USED UP AS IT PERFORMS THE TASK IT WAS DESIGNED FOR!

- A. 2 Cor 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.
- B. Men pray, "Wear us out in useful service"
- C. Some say "I am burned out" better than "rusting out"

X. THE PENCIL LEAVES ITS MARK

- A. Rom. 14:7-8 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
- B. We are leaving a mark! Is the world better off because we have lived?

XI. NOTICE THE ERASER.

- A. Usually worn off from correcting mistakes long before the pencil is used up.
 1. We need something to erase our mistakes (sins) besides ourselves!
 2. Luke 17:10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"
 3. Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- B. The pencil only erases its wrong marks by bowing its head low!
 1. James. 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
 2. Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

CONCLUSION:

1. There is a standard that makes a NO. 2 pencil a # 2 Pencil.

A. Rom 6:17 -18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

B. Acts 4: 10 -12 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. "This is the `stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

C. Jn. 14:6 6 Jesus said to him, " I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. There is at least one great and important difference between you and the pencil.
(Break the pencil) You have an eternal soul!