

Intro:

- At first glance, a pencil may appear to be rather insignificant; but, if we examine it closely, we will see that it has many traits in common with a person.

It is a New pencil!

- **2 Cor 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- **Eph 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

It was designed for a purpose!

- **Ecc. 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
- **Rom. 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- **Rom. 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- **John 15:8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

It was purchased with a price!

- **Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
- **1 Pet 1:17** And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:
- **1 Cor 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- **1 Cor 7:23** Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

The inside is the most important!

- Like the lead in the pencil It is the heart (mind) of man that
 - 1.Thinks
 - **Matt. 9:4.** And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?
 - 2.Understands
 - **Isa 32:4**The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.
 - 3. Believes
 - **Rom. 10:10.** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - 4. Purposes

- **2 Cor.9:7.** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- 5. Desires
 - **Rom. 10:1.** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
- 6. Obeys
 - **Rom. 6:16-18.** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

This pencil had a maker!

- **Eccl 12:1** Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
- **Prov 22:2** The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.
(pencils are made in all colors and shapes. (God is color-blind)

This pencil has a trademark which distinguishes it from pencils of all other companies!

- Christian trademark is found in **Eph 6:6** - Not with eye service, as menpleasers; but **as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;**
- Some brethren would “blur” the trademark.
- One thing that can win us from denominational religion is the distinctiveness of the churches of Christ. Let us not compromise.

It has an individual responsibility!

- **Gal. 6:4-5.** But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.⁵ For every man shall bear his own burden.

If this pencil fails to perform its responsibility for which it was designed, it will be thrown out and burned. (one talent man)

- **Mat 25:30.** And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The pencil is used up as it performs the task it was designed for!

- **2 Cor 12:15.** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved. (Burn out or rust out!)

It leaves its mark!

- **Rom. 14:7-8** For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. ⁸ For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

- We are leaving a mark! Is the world better off because we have lived?

It can erase its wrong marks only by bowing its head low!

- **James 4:10.** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

CONCLUSION:

- There is one great and important difference! You have a soul! (Break pencil)

INVITATION