



JESUS – NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME
“The Potter”

Phil. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him **a name which is above every name:**

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Prov. 18:10 **The name of the LORD is a strong tower:** the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Last week, we began considering how the Lord Jesus is “The Potter” and is in complete control of who we are as His clay, and how He is working upon us on the potter’s wheel called “life.”

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**



<https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/God-the-Potter.html>

❖ All things in life must begin with the Potter and He has the preeminence – Col. 1:16-18.

I. THE PREEMINENCE OF THE POTTER

❖ God the Potter brings us out of the mound of miry clay and places us on His wheel where He begins the process to deliver us from nothingness to the vessel He has designed for us to be!

Psa. 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, **out of the miry clay**, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

❖ Our spiritual life begins with the Living Water, Christ, coming into our lives; then a spiritual wedging begins filling the empty places in our life while causing us to no longer stick or cling to the world as before.

Wedging is a process used to transform clay that is not ideal for working (either because it's either too dry, too wet, or is inconsistent and lumpy) into a homogeneous ready-to-use consistency once again. Wedging is an essential technique for a potter to master, and will help ensure smooth and successful form building (whether in slab work or wheel throwing). <https://www.thepottery.com/wedging-clay/>

- ❖ When the Potter finishes the molding and shaping of the believer, He then puts it through the fire. Firing brings about the maturity of the clay causing it to endure and last even thousands of years.
- ❖ This last step consists of adding the glazes and paints; it's where the color begins! Any artist will tell you there are limitless combinations of colors and glazes making each piece not only hand-formed unique, but also individually decorated, and individually unique, a masterpiece of the Potter.

- ❖ Each believer is a personal representation of the Potter and His work.
- ❖ We are safe in His hands from the beginning of the process to the day we are finished. In the mean time, we are loved and valued by our Creator and are given purpose through His design.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce4_yMxZYqs

Tonight, we observe how the clay responds to the Lord Jesus as the Potter.

II. THE PLIABILITY OF THE POTTERY

❖ Clay is found in the swamp and there is no perfect clay.

Isa. 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous,
no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none
that seeketh after God. ...

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory
of God;

- ❖ The Potter knows that the clay has impurities.
- ❖ The clay must be oriented in the Potter's direction on the wheel.
- ❖ Through the Potter's hands there is pressure upon the clay.

- ❖ Impurities must be removed. Earthen impurities are from the natural world.
- ❖ Air pockets must be removed as it compromises the clay's integrities. As heat expands, the moisture turns to vapor and expands within the clay, prohibiting it from reaching its potential.
- ❖ Unremoved air pockets can cause the clay to explode, even damaging other pieces of clay.

Heb. 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;**

- ❖ Sin compromises a person's integrity. Pressure from the Potter forces the impurities to the surface in order to be removed. The process can be called repentance.
- ❖ The "clay" contains impurities (sins) committed against God

1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- ❖ The "clay" may contain impurities (sins) committed by others against you. Forgiveness is needed.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Eph. 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 Jn. 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

- ❖ The Potter knows the clay and shapes it accordingly.
- ❖ The pressure of the Potter working out the impurities of the clay must happen before the clay gets upon the wheel = wedging.
- ❖ The clay then must be “centered” upon the center of the wheel. Just being on the wheel is not sufficient for the clay to be molded and shaped by the Potter. If not centered, the clay is just going around in circles.

- ❖ Uncentered clay confuses activity with accomplishments.
- ❖ The wheel exerts a centrifugal force upon the clay and the Potter keeps it from flinging off the wheel.

Psa. 46:10 **Be still, and know that I *am* God:** I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

- ❖ Stillness precedes the knowing.

- ❖ The Potter and the clay are intimately interacting to begin the molding and shaping of the clay.
- ❖ The next step is the Potter opening up the clay, beginning in the center of it.

Psa. 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart:
try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and
lead me in the way everlasting.

- ❖ The Potter works on the inside and simultaneously on the outside to “lift up” the clay.

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

- ❖ As the Potter works on the inside of the clay, the evidence is manifested on the outside of the clay.
- ❖ The Potter can see more about the clay than anyone else can, including the clay itself.
- ❖ As the Potter sees the potential, it is not functional until he sets the potential...by fire.

Isa. 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.

2 **When** thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: **when** thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

❖ When, not if, you go through the fire, the Lord will be with you. (Heb. 13:5)

- ❖ The Potter “scars” the clay with a unique, personal design or artwork.
- ❖ Scars tell a story of events during the life of the clay.
- ❖ When the glazing fire is applied to the clay, the scars enhance its beauty.
- ❖ When a believer becomes hard-hearted and dried out, the clay gets brittle and breaks. Placed back on the wheel in smaller pieces, the broken clay can better absorb the water.

Eph. 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

- ❖ If the broken clay has a stone of rebellion within it, the blemish may hurt the hands of the Potter.
- ❖ When sinning, the clay needs to be aware of hurting the Potter, not just His wrath or correction.
- ❖ If the blemish is not corrected, the clay organizes itself around it, becoming unbalanced, trying to cover it up (not healing it.). A diversion will be trying something new.

Prov. 11:1 A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight.

- ❖ If the blemish is not corrected, other blemishes develop.
- ❖ If the blemish is not corrected, limitations develop. Progress stops.

Psa. 46:1 God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Summary

- ❖ The clay does not go directly from the swamp to the wheel.
- ❖ The clay then must be “centered” upon the center of the wheel. Just being on the wheel is not sufficient for the clay to be molded and shaped by the Potter. If not centered, the clay is just going around in circles.
- ❖ Uncentered clay confuses activity with accomplishments.

- ❖ As the Potter works on the inside of the clay, the evidence is manifested on the outside of the clay.
- ❖ The Potter “scars” the clay with a unique, personal design or artwork.
- ❖ Scars tell a story of events during the life of the clay.
- ❖ When the glazing fire is applied to the clay, the scars enhance its beauty.
- ❖ The Potter and the clay are intimately interacting to begin the molding and shaping of the clay.

Conclusion

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Psa. 139:14 I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: marvellous *are thy works*; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Psa. 119:73 **Thy hands have made me and fashioned me**: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

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.