



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.

Two weeks ago, 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.” Last week, we focused upon how the clay responds to the Lord Jesus as the Potter.

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>

## I. THE PREEMINENCE OF THE POTTER

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

## II. THE PLIABILITY OF THE POTTERY

- ❖ The miry clay is taken from the swamp by the Potter who begins the wedging process in preparation to move the clay 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ After the fire the “vessel” is ready for the Master’s use.

2 Tim. 2:20 But in a great house **there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.**

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.**

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.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8tMR-mUE5s>

Tonight, we observe how the potter/clay relationship is applied to the believer.

## I. THE PICTURE OF THE POTTER/CLAY

- The Clay Must Be Submissive To The Potter



Jer. 18:2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, **as seemed good to the potter** to make *it*.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. **Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand**, O house of Israel.

- ❖ The principle of the Potter/clay relationship is the preeminence of the Potter, His power, His purpose for the clay, and the importance of the clay's submissive spirit.

Isa. 29:16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed **as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?**

Rom. 9:20 Nay but, **O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?**

21 **Hath not the potter power over the clay,** of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

❖ Believers are not even to question the Potter, or complain about His methods.

○ The Clay Must Be Serious To The Purpose

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for **he is a chosen vessel unto me**, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Jas. 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that **we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

- ❖ The clay is to have an attitude of acceptance about the role to be utilized in accordance to the purpose created.
- ❖ Believers are to walk by faith, trusting the Potter in all things, pleasing Him.

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- The Clay Must Be Self-Effacing To The Praise

Lam. 4:1 How is the gold become dim! *how* is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.  
2 The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, **how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!**

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

- ❖ All humans, believers and unbelievers, are fragile entities of clay.
- ❖ Abraham was guilty of duplicity, and yet he became the man of faith and the friend of God.
- ❖ And Moses, another clay pot, had his halting speech and quick temper; yet he was the man chosen to make a nation and to commune with God, to receive the law.
- ❖ David, another clay pot, was guilty of adultery and murder, but he repented and became a man after God's own heart and the sweet singer of Israel for all time, whose songs we even sung this morning.

- ❖ Elijah ran from Jezebel and sat under a juniper tree, angry at God. But he had stood on Mount Carmel and defied Ahab and all the prophets of Baal, and now he sinks to this low level. But even Elijah heard the still, small voice of God at Horeb and was used mightily.
- ❖ And then there was Isaiah, who in the presence of God admitted that he was a man with a dirty mouth. And yet it was he that God called and used mightily.
- ❖ And then there was Peter, the leader and the spokesman of the Twelve. Peter, who failed so many times, and finally, when everything was really on the line, denied his Lord with cursing and oaths. He was later restored by the compassion of Jesus to the most effective and powerful ministry to that point, 3,000 people repenting at his one sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

❖ And there was John the apostle. John the apostle, who expected to be praised by Jesus for refusing to allow a man not of their company to cast out demons. John who with James wanted to call down fire from heaven and burn up a whole Samaritan village. John who, along with his brother and his mother, came and asked Jesus to put them on the right and the left hand in the kingdom. A very blatant act of pride. It was John who became the beloved disciple, the apostle of love, the eagle who soared to great heights. And of all the apostles, perhaps the one who pierced most deeply into the mystery of Christ as the Son of God.



❖ What about the Apostle Paul? He was just another clay pot. Under assault, the unjustly accused, falsely accused, and yet very much aware that all of the weaknesses for which he was being accused were, in fact, true. Reluctantly for himself, but gladly for the Lord and the gospel, he has to defend himself. But he can't deny his human weakness; he can only affirm it, and he does. And his human limitations, and his frailties, and his imperfections are not defects. In the end, they are credentials – credentials of his authenticity.

1 Cor. 2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

2 Cor. 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

## Summary

- ❖ Mankind is just a clay pot—cheap, common, breakable, replaceable, valueless, and ugly.
- ❖ It's a clay pot. You use them to put a plant in; you fill them with dirt.
- ❖ In ancient times clay pots were used to bury valuables. Put your valuables in a clay pot, dig a hole, and put it there.
- ❖ They were also used to remove the household waste. They were the garbage. They were the receptacles of the sewage of the house. This is very, very graphic language.

- ❖ The same word is used in [2 Timothy 2:20](#), there are vessels unto honor, and there are vessels unto dishonor. This vessel has no intrinsic value.
- ❖ They accused Paul of being weak. They said his speech is contemptible, his personality is unimpressive, and he agreed; he's a clay pot.

## Conclusion

1 Thess. 4:4 That **every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;**

2 Tim. 2:20 But in a great house **there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.**

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.**

❖ If God couldn't use poor and feeble vessels, he wouldn't have any servants to use for His glory.

1 Cor. 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that **not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:**

27 But **God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;**

28 And **base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:**

29 **That no flesh should glory in his presence.**