

Rebellion or Defiance

- Jeremiah 18:1-12
 - Potter's jar did not turn out as he hoped
 - He crushed it and started over
 - As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand
 - The Lord says, "Turn from your evil ways and do what is right"
 - The People replied, "Don't waste your breath"
 - We will continue to live as we want
- The Love and Compassion of God – **to crush you**
 - Luke 15:11-32 – Prodigal son – came to his senses
- Psalm 73 – Wicked people enjoying a life of ease
 - I envied them when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness
 - They don't have trouble like other people
 - They have everything their hearts could ever wish for
 - Did I keep my heart pure for nothing?
 - I get nothing but trouble all day long
 - In the sanctuary I finally understood their destiny
 - In an instant they are destroyed
 - My health may fail, my spirit grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart
 - I have made the Lord my shelter

Ignorance

- Check the Owner's Manual
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments...
- Isaiah 55:8-10 ...my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. ...They cause the grain to grow, producing *seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry*.
- Romans 12:2 ... let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think..
- Two strongholds of Human Reasoning
 - Relationships – dealing with disappointment
 - Finances – seed for sowing, bread for eating

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
 - Plant a few seeds – get a small crop
 - Plant generously – get a generous crop
 - Decide in your own heart how much to give (decide your crop)
 - Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure (compelled, manipulated, guilt)
 - God loves a person who gives cheerfully
 - God will generously provide all you need and plenty left over to share with others
 - God provides seed for the farmer and bread to eat (decide how much to give)
 - He will increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you
- Proverbs 4:20-23 ... pay attention to what I say ... Guard your heart above all else, for *it determines the course of your life*.
- The Love and Compassion of God - **Truth**
 - John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth...
 - John 8:31-32 ... "You are truly my disciples *if you remain faithful to my teachings*. 32 And you will know the truth, and *the truth will set you free*."

Trouble in this World

- John 16:33 ...Here on earth, you will have many trials...
- James 1:2-4 ... when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.
- 2 Corinthians 4:17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!
- The Love and Compassion of God – **help when you need it**
 - Hebrews 4:15-16 ... let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.
 - Psalm 90:12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Properly responding to others

- Careful not to judge their type of trouble
- Help them to understand their trouble
- Prayer for God's mercy and grace in their trouble