



## ***The Potter's Heart***

**Ephesians 2:1-15**

**Sunday, May 26, 2024**

### **Introduction:**

*"Is it not like God to attach a truth about Himself that never changes to a craft that never changes. The craft of pottery was true in 600 BC and is still the same in 2024 AD."*

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

### **Some amazing truths about the Potter's Heart:**

- The Potter's heart is always thinking of the clay. He finishes one vessel and then turns his mind to the next lump of clay.
- The Potter has envisioned in his mind and heart what he desires the clay to become. Everything that the Potter has planned for the clay will only increase the clay's value and worth.

#### **I. There is the matter of the clay before the Potter's heart. (V.2-5)**

- A. The clay is undesirable because it is formless.

**Ephesians 2:1** *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

*"Following the mayhem of this world: no form, no structure, just following society's whelms."*

**Ephesians 4:14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

B. The clay is undesirable because of its filth.

**Ephesians 2:2** *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (V.3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

**1 Peter 2:11** *Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

**2 Peter 1:4** . . . *the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

C. The clay is undesirable because it is feeble.

**Ephesians 2:5** *Even when we were dead in sins,*

**Romans 5:6** *For when we were yet without strength,*

*“The Potter understands if the clay is left where it is, it will remain bound up in a worthless mound of uselessness. Why he cares for the clay is beyond the reason of those who know him.”*

### **“Just Clay”**

*“Clay may be purchased by the acre and sold by the carload. Of very little value in itself. If you asked the Potter for a handful of it, He would give it to you and then you would not know what to do with it. If it hardened in its natural state, it would be worse than useless. If it dried out and pulverized, it would become dust and be a public nuisance. If it became wet and soggy, you would call it mud. If it got onto your shoes, you would scrape it off. If it got on your clothes, you would pay a cleaner to take it out. It is clay, nothing more.”*

**- E.W. Praetorius**

*One man bragged in an assembly to **Abraham Lincoln** that he was a self-made man. **Abraham Lincoln** said, “I’m glad to hear that. That relieves the Almighty of a fearful responsibility.”*

## **II. There is the motivation of the clay over the Potter’s heart. (V.11-12)**

**Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

A. The clay motivates the Potter because it is not determined.

**Ephesians 2:11** *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

B. The clay motivates the potter because it is not decorative.

**Ephesians 2:12** *That at that time ye 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:*

*“Multitudes of people see no purpose in life whatsoever and find confusion on every hand.”*

*“In a day of illusions and utter confusions, we base our conclusions.”*

**- J. Vernon McGee**

### **III. There is the motive over the clay in the Potter’s heart. (V.6-10)**

A. His motive is to endow in the clay virtue and value.

**Ephesians 2:6** *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: [He wants to give us capacity for joy, happiness, and peace we cannot humanly achieve.] (V.7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (V.8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*“His desire for the clay and his ambition for it to become a vessel outweighs the difficulty he will endure in making it a vessel.”*

*“He wants to demonstrate Himself through our formlessness. He wants to reveal His nature, His beauty and His majesty through us!”*

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

B. His motive is to express in the clay His views and His victory.

**Ephesians 2:9** *Not of works, lest any man should boast. (V.10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

*“He has built equipment, he has provided storage, and he has a plan of action to live his life centered on turning clay into a vessel.”*

*“Why? Because he is a Potter. He sees value where no one else does, and has the patience, skill, and determination to see the job through.”*

**1 John 3:2** *It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;*