

Christian Students @ SAC
College Meeting - Fall 2022
Week 2

BASIC LESSONS ON LIFE
LESSON TWO
A VESSEL OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:7-9, 15-17; Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Cor. 4:7; John 1:11-12; Col. 2:6

I. WITH A SPIRIT AS THE RECEPTACLE TO RECEIVE GOD

God's intention in making man is to have a vessel that can contain Him and express Him. The man created by God is a vessel. In God's thought man is just a container, not a means or an instrument. Unless man can be a vessel, a container to contain God and to be filled up with God, man can never be used by God to fulfill His purpose.

In Romans 9:21 and 23 Paul tells us that God's creation of man was just to produce, to create, man as a vessel to fulfill God's purpose. God created man as a vessel to contain Him just as a potter makes a vessel of clay to contain something. Second Corinthians 4:7 also conveys this thought. The apostle Paul considered himself as an earthen vessel to contain a treasure, and the treasure is just Christ, the very God. Thus, in Romans 9 and 2 Corinthians 4 we can see a clear revelation that man was created by God to be His vessel to contain Him.

There is the need of a receptacle within man to receive and contain God. Today's radio has an outward box and an inward receiver to receive the invisible radio waves. Genesis 2:7 shows us that man has an outward body made with dust, and an inward receptacle, an inward receiver, produced by God's breath of life. This inward receiver is the spirit of man.

A. The Human Spirit Being Very Close to God the Spirit

The human spirit is very close to God the Spirit. Although man did not receive God's life at his creation, he was created with a human spirit, which came from God's breath of life. Thus, although the human spirit is not the Spirit of God or the divine life of God, it is very close to the Spirit of God. This is why the human spirit can receive God the Spirit. A substance like copper has the ability to receive electricity, but wood or paper does not. Between the electricity and the copper there is no insulation but rather a kind of transmission. Likewise, between God the Spirit and our human spirit there is a kind of transmission; there is no insulation. Because the human spirit comes out of God's breath of life, our human spirit is very close to God the Spirit.

B. The Human Spirit Being Able to Contact God and to Be One with Him

Because our human spirit is close to God, and there is a transmission between God the Spirit and our human spirit, our human spirit is able to contact God and to be one with God. John 4:24, which says that God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit, proves that our spirit is able to contact God. Romans 8:16 says that the Spirit witnesses with our spirit. This verse uses the preposition *with*. This means that God's Spirit is one with our spirit. This little word *with* is very precious, indicating that now our spirit is one with God's Spirit.

II. WITH A MIND TO UNDERSTAND GOD

Man was made not only with a spirit but also with a mind to understand God (Luke 24:45; Rom. 12:2). God created man with a mind, a part of the soul, so that man could understand God. Understanding is the function of the mind. Luke 24:45 says that the Lord opened the mind of the disciples to understand the Scriptures. This is a very good verse proving that we need to understand God.

III. WITH AN EMOTION TO LOVE GOD

Man was also created with an emotion to love God (Matt. 22:37). The Bible shows that in our psychological being, besides the mind as the understanding organ, there is also the emotion as the loving organ. Matthew 22:37 says that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart and all our mind. The mind is also a part of the heart, but it is separately mentioned in this verse. Since the mind is separately mentioned here, surely this indicates that the heart in this verse must refer to the loving function of the heart, that is, the emotion. After we receive God, we have to understand Him. After we understand Him, surely we have to appreciate Him, like Him, love Him, and treasure Him. Thus, an emotion, the loving function of our heart, was also prepared for us by God.

IV. WITH A WILL TO CHOOSE GOD

Man was created with a will to choose God. Without his will, man would have no choice, no decision, no direction, and no goal. Thus, God created a strong choosing organ for man. In our psychological being, our will is the strongest part. Even after the fall of man, God still somewhat preserved the human will for His purpose. When we believe in the Lord Jesus, this is a strong determination on our part by the exercise of our will. Martin Luther is an example of a person whose will was very strong, so he had great faith. To have strong faith always depends upon a very strong will.

V. MAN NEEDING TO BE GOD'S VESSEL TO CONTAIN HIM

Man has to be the vessel of God to contain Him. This is the concluding emphasis of this lesson. To emphasize this we should use Ephesians 3:17a—"That Christ may make His home in your hearts."

In the book of Ephesians, Paul strongly charges us to be the home of Christ. He desired to see that Christ might make His home in our hearts so that we might be His real vessels.

Questions

1. Use Rom. 9:21, 23 and 2 Cor. 4:7 to prove that we are vessels of God.
2. What are the three parts of the soul and their functions?