

The Potter and the Clay #2

Rom 9.19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

* **Though Rom 9-11** is very _____ and features God’s sovereignty and his pruning of his covenant people, it also contains, of all Paul’s writings, the greatest concentration of the Greek word for _____, which becomes the basis for his takeaway and for the entire Christian life: “I beseech you therefore brethren by the _____ of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice ... to God” (Rm 12.1).

* **The complaint** of unbelieving Israelites: “God is obligated to bless/save me because I am a _____ of the covenant. Otherwise, it’s all a game; God is using us as pawns for his _____.”

* **OT Potter & the Clay** (Jer 18; Isa 29; 44-45): God showing great _____ and patience to Israel, who persists in unfaithfulness until God must prune her down, preserve a faithful shoot/remnant, then build Israel up again, pointing forward to Christ, the “shoot of Jesse” and “Seed of Abraham” (Is 11.1; Rv 22.16; Gl 3.8, 16, 29).

Heb 3.10 “I was angry with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.’ ” ... 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief ... 4.2 For indeed the gospel was preached to

us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Rom 2.4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,

* **“Vessels of wrath”** correspond to “children of wrath” in Eph 2.3, which are so “by _____ ... like the rest of mankind.” In 22, the lump is _____. Post-fall, vessels of wrath require no act of God; vessels of mercy require a _____.

Eph 2.1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ... (ESV)

Rom 5.17 ... by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one ... 18 ... judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation ... 19 ... [and the] many were made sinners ... 20 ... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 8.7 ... the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Rom 7.13 ... sin was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

John 3.19 ... this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

* **Vs 22-23** are not saying, “God, wanting to show off his _____, let sins and sinners go so he could impose the

maximum wrath possible.” Rather, “God, though wanting to punish sin immediately with the wrath it deserved, held off, patiently enduring sinners and their sin, so that he in mercy could _____ a multitude through Christ.”

Rom 3.24 ... Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

* **Two questions:**

1) **Does God's** sovereignty nullify man's _____ agency?

Gen 50.20 “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Acts 4.27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”

2) **Why did** God in his sovereignty allow man's _____?

Eph 3.17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you ... 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1Cor 2.7 But we speak ... the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

* **We may not** know the “secret things,” but we do know _____.

- **We know** he paid the ultimate _____ for us.

- **We know** he took the _____ part in human history for himself and transformed it into the _____ part.

- **We know** life's not a _____, & we aren't _____ things.

- **We know** he intends to _____ us with all his fullness.

- **We know** we can _____ him.

