

Molding a Masterpiece  
Jeremiah 18:1-12  
Jeremiah: The Christ-like Prophet

- Today, let's take a trip to the potter's house.
  - 1.) If you are saved you are being molded into the image of Christ.
  - 2.) If you are not saved, you will be molded for your own destruction by your own rebellion.

Romans 9:20, 21: 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? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor? *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

- Let's see three things about God molding a masterpiece. We see that God is molding a masterpiece, with...

### **1. His (Powerful) Control over the Clay**

Jeremiah 18:3; He wrought a work on the wheels.

- God our Creator has absolute authority and infinite power over the clay, that is, over every individual and every nation.

Romans 9:21: Hath not the potter power over the clay? (power= authority, the right to act). He has control and is absolute & sovereign.

Isaiah 45:9; Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to Him that fashioneth it, What makest Thou? Or thy work, He hath no hands?

Isaiah 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.

### **2. His (Personal) Compassion for the Clay:**

Jer. 18:4: 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.

- In compassion:
  - A. He personally makes the vessel
  - B. He patiently remakes the vessel
- Alexander Whyte said "the victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings."

### **3. His (Plain) Counsel to the Clay, v.6-11**

Jer.18:6: Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

A. Human clay can hear, resist or repent and obey the potter.

B. Truths about God's Repentance:

1.) God's repentance is not any change in His nature nor any admittance of wrong-doing.

Numbers 23:19; God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent.

Malachi 3:6: For I am the LORD, I change not.

2.) God's repentance in his dealings with man is always a consistent (and predictable) response according to His unchanging holy character in accordance with how we respond to Him. Jer.18:8-10.

3.) Warren Wiersbe says, "God neither changes in character nor needs to repent of His actions."

C. What is human clay to do?

Jeremiah 18:11c: Return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

1.) When are you to do this? Now!

2.) Who is to do this? Everyone!

3.) What are you to return from? Your evil ways!

D. The sad response of the clay:

Jer. 18:12: And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.

- Charles Spurgeon said, "Habits begin like cobwebs, but they end like chains of iron."