

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MESSAGE FIVE

God as Our Sovereign Potter Making Us His Vessels, His Containers, to Contain Him

I. God as our sovereign Potter; it is crucial that we see a vision of God's sovereignty:

Jer. 18:6b Indeed, as the clay is in the hand of the potter, so you are in My hand, O house of Israel.

A. Sovereignty refers to God's unlimited authority, power, and position.

Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power.

B. Romans 9:19-23 refers to God's sovereignty.

2 "Does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?"—v. 21.

II. God as our Potter has sovereignly created us to be His vessels, His containers, to contain Himself:

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

2 Tim. 2: 21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

A. God's purpose in creating man was to make man His vessel, as God's great corporate vessel for His expression.

B. So that we can be vessels unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master.

D. All of Paul's fourteen Epistles can be summed up in two words—open vessel.

III. God make the ones whom He has selected and called to be vessels of mercy unto honor and glory:

Rom. 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

A. We were chosen by God according to His sovereign mercy.

B. "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy' ... so then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy"—Rom. 9:15a, 16.

C. Romans 9 reveals the principle that everything depends on God's mercy—vv. 15-16.

D. "Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help"—Heb. 4:16.

E. We must praise and worship Him for His sovereign mercy.

G. We were created to be vessels of mercy unto glory to contain Christ as the God of glory:

1. Glory is God Himself expressed and manifested.

5e. God's glory is wrought into the church, God is glorified in the church.

Eph. 3: 20-21 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us, To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

6. We have this treasure, Christ as the God of glory, dwelling within us, the earthen vessels ; "this treasure" indwelling us is "the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6-7).