



**WELCOME
TO
BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

The Potter

and

The Clay.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Potter and the Clay.

Topics.

- The potter and the clay.
- A simplistic example of this principal.
- The riches of god's glory.
- God called those who were not his people.
- The story of Hosea.
- I will betroth you (Israel) to me forever.
- A simplistic visual and practical example of god's sovereign will.

HAS NOT THE POTTER POWER TO MAKE A VESSEL FOR HONOUR OR FOR DISHONOR?

- **Romans 9:19-20:** You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²⁰Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.

Paul perceives the question all humanity will ask and then asks the question himself, "Why does God find fault? Who can resist his will?" Paul does not really give an answer to the question instead he says, "What is man that he should answer back to God or question God." All humans come from Adam and Adam was made from the dust so all humans come from the same dust or clay or lump of dirt. Paul is not saying that God has predestined one human for honour and another for dishonour, but he does say God has the right to do this. Paul does say that God endures wicked, corrupt and prideful humans that are only fit for destruction and that He will show his judgment and wrath on those who are corrupt, but in actual fact they are preparing themselves for judgment and wrath by their corrupt behaviour.

A SIMPLISTIC EXAMPLE OF THIS PRINCIPAL

In the following story the railway tracks symbolise the following two things:

1. A life of wickedness without God.
2. A life of goodness with God.

Imagine a man travelling on a train that is bound for a station named judgment and wrath. The railway tracks and the station were built long before the man chose to board the train, if the man chooses to remain on the train it is going to take him to its predestined destination. Now imagine that at the same time the railway tracks leading to the station named judgment and wrath there was another set of railway tracks built that headed in the opposite direction to another station named eternal life and glory.

Now if the man on the train on the railway tracks predestined to arrive at the predestined destination named judgment and wrath tears up his ticket and boards the train travelling in the opposite direction predestined to arrive at the predestined destination named eternal life and glory he will not only be delivered from arriving at the station named judgment and wrath, but will instead be taken to the station named eternal life and glory. It is the railway tracks and the stations (or final destination) that are predestined, not the man that is travelling on them. The man is always free to choose whichever train he prefers to travel on. God will not force anyone onto either train, nor will He ever violate human free will. We always have the choice to choose life or death it is not our choice that is predestined, but the two paths in life and the destination of each path. We chose the path we take and the path we take determines our final predestined destination.

THE RICHES OF GOD'S GLORY

It is not the vessels of mercy God has prepared or predestined beforehand it is the riches of His glory that He will make known to the vessels of mercy that God has prepared beforehand. Those who accept God and His way and show mercy to others become vessels fit for God's mercy while those who deny God and His way and show no mercy to others become vessels fit for wrath.

NOTICE: vessels fit for wrath is not about doctrine, but about how we treat other humans.

When a potter makes a beautiful jar to display to all his friends the only reason the potter destroys the jar if the clay has a flaw in it or something goes wrong in the making of the jar. When this happens, the potter destroys the jar and moistens the clay and begins to remould the clay again.

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THE PROPHET JEREMIAH WROTE THE FOLLOWING

- **Jeremiah 18:6-12:** O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in mine hand, O house of Israel. ⁷At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; ⁸If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. ⁹And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; ¹⁰If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

This is exactly what God did with Israel, because Israel had become so grossly corrupt (they sacrificed their sons to Molech) and turned away from God so He used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon to bring judgment and wrath upon their nation. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land of Judah destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and took the people of Israel into captivity for seventy-years. During this seventy-year captivity in Babylon God the master potter remoulded Israel (the clay) into something that it should always have been.

Israel went into captivity as two corrupt nations (Israel and Judah) that had turned to pagan gods and was melded into one nation and a people of one faith toward the LORD their God and desired with all their heart to return to Him and their beloved city Jerusalem and rebuild the LORD'S temple. The only reason a potter will destroy his work is because it has a flaw and therefore has not turned out as the beautiful object, he originally had in mind for it.

IN THE BOOK OF JOHN, IT IS WRITTEN

- **John 12:37-43:** Though Jesus had done so many signs before them they (primarily the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes) still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them." ⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

During Jesus time on earth the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes were so full of self, pride and ego that they constantly plotted to kill the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ and also made plans to put Lazarus to death (John 12:10) so God blinded them. Pride is the enemy of humbleness, so whoever is full of pride is going to reject God since to acknowledge God a person has to humble themselves before Him, and pride does not want to humble itself before anyone. Because of this principal it is right and proper to say that man hardens his own heart and that God hardens his heart.

God does not want people full of self, pride, ego and a corrupt heart to enter His Kingdom so He has designed the laws of nature in such a way that pride hardens and blinds a person to the Gospel it is in this sense that it can be stated, God hardened their hearts. If these same people repent of their pride and corrupt hearts as the lost sheep of Israel did their eyes would be opened to the Gospel.

NOTICE: having an evil heart is not about doctrine, but about our attitude toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ and how we treat other humans it is about whether we show people forgiveness, mercy, kindness, compassion and love and do-good or whether we dismiss God and deny Him and oppress or treat people as merchandise to achieve our own selfish goals or criticize, demean and degrade others to make ourselves feel important. These are the things the Bible has in focus when it uses the words, and evil heart

GOD CALLED THOSE WHO WERE NOT HIS PEOPLE

- **Romans 9:24:** even us (the apostles) whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" ²⁶"And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'" ²⁷And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,

Paul uses the story of Hosea to teach the Israelites that God's mercy is not bound to birthright, race or religious authority, power and position.

THE STORY OF HOSEA

God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer, he did and they had three children. Gomer's unfaithfulness to her husband, served as an example of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Israel represented by Gomer had forsaken their true husband the LORD and turned to worship the false idols of Egypt.

The LORD told Hosea to name:

- His first son, Jezreel.
- His second son, Not My People.
- His daughter, No Mercy.

Hosea's first son was to be named Jezreel because he would punish the house of Jehu. His second son was to be named, Not My People, because he was to represent Israel who had forsaken Him so God is going to forsake them. His daughters name was to be No Mercy because she was to represent Judah and Judah God's beloved people had become so corrupt God was going to show them no mercy. The LORD says, "Unless Israel and Judah repent of their gross wickedness and turn to Him, He will have no mercy on them." Often, we don't appreciate a thing until it is gone. A good example of this is the following story, while watching TV one night I listened to a thirty-five-year-old woman's testimony she was involved in a tragic accident in which she lost both her legs. During the interview she told the TV reporter, with joyful tears in her eyes how thankful she was on the day she was simply able to stand up on her new artificial legs and be at the same eye level when she talked with her friends.

The words:

- You are not my people, 'there they will be called 'sons of the living God.

Is the LORD'S future promise of blessing to the nation of Israel, because Israel had become so grossly corrupt and made their hearts diamond hard against the prophets and turned to other gods, God rejected them and used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon and his mighty armies to bring judgment and punishment upon them. The Jews believed they were right before God because they were descendants of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac and because they adhered to the ceremonial laws of Moses and strictly kept Jewish religious customs and traditions. Paul in these verses is shining a spotlight on the truth that a person's birthright, religious authority, importance, power, position and popularity has nothing to do with a person's salvation. He is highlighting the truth that being saved is about a person's heart attitude toward God and their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and living their life in the Spirit (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness).

In today's language: Paul is saying that it does not matter whether we are born into a Christian family, raised in a small church or a mega church, whether our father is head minister of a religious organisation or we sang in the church choir and faithfully attended or taught in Sunday school, none of these things guarantees our salvation. They may help and perhaps bring eternal rewards, but ultimately, we all have to make our own individual decision to believe in God and trust in Christ and God's grace to be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory.

I WILL BETROTH YOU (ISRAEL) TO ME FOREVER

- **Hosea 2:19-23:** I will betroth you (Israel) to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰I will betroth you (Israel) to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. ²¹"And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, ²²and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel, ²³and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on no mercy, and I will say to not my people, 'you are my people; and he (the nation of Israel) shall say, you are my God.'

Paul is applying these verses to the nation of Israel who had rejected the LORD their God and so God had rejected them, thus the reason they are called not my people. The story of Hosea and Gomer shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God's mercy is always available to a humble and repentant heart.

A SIMPLISTIC VISUAL AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL

Place in a large glass jar (representing God's sovereign will) and cut out multitudes of men and woman from many different coloured pieces of cardboard and place them all in the glass Jar. Explain that various colours symbolize the different races and nations of the world then shake the jar around and point out that every individual person moves in various directions, but all are within the glass jar, symbolizing God's sovereign will. This (though simplistic and limited) gives a certain level of insight into how God's eternal wisdom and man's free will works within God's sovereign will.

For further information see the title:

- Election and God's Sovereign Will.
 - In Various topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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