

“Our God Prefers to Use Cracked Pots”

(Sunday Morning November 14th, 2021)

Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

Judges 7:2 “The LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, ‘My own power has delivered me.’”

Our God is so powerful that He didn’t even need those three hundred men; so, He r_____ the s_____ of Gideon’s army so that He would get all of the glory.

2 Cor 12:9-10 (Reference)

2 Cor 2:17 “Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit....”

2 Cor 10:10 “...‘His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible”

I. God’s G_____ is Revealed Through Our H_____

1) Clay is a Biblical Symbol of Our Humanity

Gen 2:7 (Reference)

Jer 18:1-4 (Reference)

Isa 45:9 “Woe to {the one} who quarrels with his maker-- an earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making {say,} ‘He has no hands?’”

There is really only one thing that a lump of clay can do; all a lump of clay can do is r_____ p_____.

2) Paul Referred to Himself as a Clay Pot

Pottery of this type was as common and valueless in Paul’s day as a _____ c_____ or p_____ b_____ are in our day.

1 Cor 1:26-27 “26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong”

a. This is S_____ G_____ N_____ for Common Folks

Matt 25:34-40 (Reference)

b. This is N_____ B_____ N_____ for Uncommon Folks

3) Paul Was Not Ashamed of His Shortcomings

John 12:1-8 (Reference)

It is a paradox, and the point is this: God’s glory is revealed through our humanity, and it is through our b_____ that His glory is released.

II. God's S_____ is Demonstrated Through Our W_____

- 1) We are Afflicted But Not Crushed
- 2) We are Perplexed But Not Despairing
- 3) We are Persecuted But Not Forsaken
- 4) We are Struck Down But Not Destroyed

Paul is simply making it clear that his victories always came in spite of his own human weakness and because of God's d_____ c_____.

2 Cor 12:10 "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong"

- a. Goliath Was G_____ Superior to David
- b. Goliath Was T_____ Superior to David
- c. Goliath Was P_____ Superior to David

1 Sam 17:45 "...You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted"

III. God's L_____ is Appropriated Through Our D_____

- 1) We Live in a Real World

The fact that Paul was being p_____ in no way proved that he was not being used effectively for the Lord; on the contrary, it was evidence for the fact that he was being used effectively.

2 Tim 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"

- 2) We Have to Make Sacrifices

Mark 8:34-35 "34 ...If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 'For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's shall save it"

It is in d_____ to s_____ that we find true fulfillment and meaning in life.

- 3) We Will be Rewarded

The Christian life is not a life of defeat; it is a life of victory, overwhelming victory, but our victory can only come through the i_____ of Jesus Christ.

Rom 8:37 "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us"

Eph 1:6 "(Our Salvation is) to the praise of the glory of His grace..." (Emphasis Added)

Rev 5:12 "(The 24 Elders Were) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." (Emphasis Added)