

The Potter's Purpose

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[0 : 0 0] How many of you are really good at making stuff? I see some wives pointing to the husbands.! Look, how many of your dad was awesome at making stuff?

! Maybe working with wood, metal, something else. How many of you were awesome at pottery? Nobody?

Okay. Well, we have unlocked a skill. Maybe we'll hold a pottery class here at the church. We can all get good at it together. I'm not either. I'm terrible at it.

I think I tried when I was a kid one time. We did some kind of pottery type deal. I couldn't make anything very well. That's just... You know, when you're really good at something, is it frustrating to watch somebody else try to do what you're good at?

Anybody? Yes. See some heads nodding. There's that level of it, right? When you see a master potter, would you guys put the next slide up?

[1 : 1 0] Check this out. They're really good at their craft. They're very skilled at it. They know exactly what they're doing. When I get a hold of a potter's wheel, it doesn't go well.

Yes. Thank you. I'm not going to say that that's my creation. I'm not going to say it's not. Anyway, Isaiah 64 at verse 8 has something to say about this.

Ready? Let's get back to it. You are our father. We are the clay. Can we say that together? Ready? You are our father. We are the clay.

Let's keep going. And you are the potter. We are all the work of your hand. We're talking about fathers today, and our mind should go to our heavenly father.

And the interesting thing about that is one of the names he calls himself in the scriptures is the potter. And if he's working with clay, he says, you are the clay I'm working with.

[2 : 1 6] Guess what? His creation doesn't come out looking like this. Now, at times, through the process, it might be ugly. It might not be attractive because it is a process to make something.

But in the right hands, something beautiful can come from what the potter is working with. So, we've been talking throughout the book of Romans as we've been studying Paul's letter to the churches in Rome that we call Romans.

We've been talking about different subjects. Last week, we talked about how Jesus saves. Can we say all that together? Ready? Jesus saves. How many of you believe that this morning?

Just wave at me. There you go. Today, we're going to talk about a slightly different truth about our heavenly father and about the son of God, Jesus Christ.

And we're going to study the purpose that the potter has for our lives. So, would you turn with me to Romans chapter 9? We left off in verse 30. We got into chapter 10 some last week.

[3 : 2 4] We're kind of working our way backwards through Paul's letter or epistle called Romans. So, we're going to pick it up in verse 29 and then work back to the beginning of this chapter.

The last several weeks, we've been in this series called When in Romans. This is one of the most influential things Paul ever wrote. Paul wrote so much of the New Testament.

And this is one of his keystone pieces of literature that he ever penned. There are some truths that I think we can take away from Romans chapter 9 beginning in verse 29.

So, if you're there with me, we're going to pick it up in verse 29. Tell you what, let's go from verse 25 down through 29.

Ready? Would you stand with me in honor of God's word if you're able to? We won't stand for every scripture reading. But just here at the beginning, this is something they often did in the Old Testament.

[4 : 2 4] When God's people would be reading from the scriptures. And we can do that again now. So, verse 25. This is what he says in Hosea, the prophet. God speaking through his prophet Hosea.

He says this. I will call, quote, not my people, quote, my people. So, he says, I'm not going to call those who are not my people. I'm not going to call them my people. He says, and the not beloved I will call beloved.

Isn't that interesting? There's a contrast here. Verse 26. In the place where it was said to them, you are not my people, there they will be called the sons of the living God.

So, he's saying these are the people who are not my people. I could not call them my people. But there's going to come a day when they become my people. Anybody have a guess who he's talking about? Us.

The Gentiles. It was the Jews first, right? They were his people. But then, we, back then, were not his people. But he says there's going to come a day when you get to be the people of God.

[5 : 26] The sons of the living God. Verse 27. Isaiah cries out concerning Israel. Even if the number of Israel's sons are like the sand by the sea, only a remnant shall be saved.

For the Lord will bring judgment on the earth, complete and decisive. As Isaiah said in an earlier passage, if the Lord of hosts had not left us seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah.

But we've been wiped out, right? If you know the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, they were completely wiped out. So, he's going back to the prophet Isaiah. We went back to the prophet Isaiah just a minute ago.

And we're going to pick it up with this first truth. The potter welcomes everyone. Thank God the potter welcomes everyone.

Let's thank him right now. God, we thank you that you are a God who opened the door for not just the Jewish people, but all peoples to come to you and become your people. Thank you for welcoming everyone.

[6 : 29] Thank you for your heart of kindness, of welcome, of warmth, of hospitality. I pray that we would learn today from you that you are molding us. You're shaping us to become more like you.

It's in Jesus' name we pray. Thank you.