

CHEAP POTS AND TEMPLES

*"And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever."
(Ezekiel 37:28)*

Context:

- (1) Jesus' purpose is to reconcile us to God -- in every detail of how we live, how we think and how we feel.
- (2) Jesus gives us grace for exactly that purpose: for us to become true servants of God by allowing Him to use everything in our life for His glory.
- (3) This means we are to change everything about our life so that it fits together with the Lord. Our thoughts and ways are supposed to change to become like His (Isaiah 55:6-12). We are to take Jesus' yoke upon us (Matthew 11:28-30). The whole purpose for our "clay pot" is to hold and display the treasure of God's way of life.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1:

- (1) Much of what it means/takes to become a truly spiritual person is enduring affliction and disappointment for the sake of others. How we respond to the agonies inflicted upon us will determine how effective we will be in ministry.
- (2) But that is only half of the story. How we respond to the sins in our life -- the distortions of our own heart and mind -- will ultimately influence how effectively God can use us.
- (3) The "deals" we make, with people/things which are not the way God wants them to be, are usually:

Motivated by fear that God will not take care of us; and,

Consummated by "unclean" thoughts, feelings or deeds.

Both the motivation and the consummation compromise God's purpose for our lives.

- (4) As frail and base as our lives are (cheap clay pots), God has chosen them as His temples. That means He lives in us; He welcomes us; He provides for us; and He wants relationship with us.
- (5) We will lack nothing by trusting completely in Him. Therefore, we want to remove every splotch and defilement from our temple, both inside and outside. (For further elaboration of the promises, see Exodus 29; Leviticus 45; Isaiah 52; Jeremiah 31; and Ezekiel 37).

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