



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Many years ago, while my family and I were traveling to Lincoln City, Oregon, we had the opportunity to stop at "The Alderhouse" glassblowing studio and watch a glassblower make a beautiful object out of molten glass. I had never witnessed anything like it before. I found myself transfixed as I watched the lady design and fashion the melted glass using various colors, instruments and equipment (including a furnace of over 2,000 degrees). Not only were her skills very evident, her artistic creativity was really impressive.

That experience caused me to think of the passage in Scripture where God likens Himself to a potter and us to a lump of clay: *"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 'Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.' So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?' declares the LORD. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel'"* (Jer.18:1-6).

If you have ever seen a potter work a lump of clay, it is an impressive sight. Having absolutely no glassblowing or pottery skills myself, I am always fascinated and amazed at what these artists can create. I am sure that when Jeremiah witnessed the potter working masterfully at his wheel he was impressed, and appreciated what he saw. Watching the potter take a cheap, unimpressive, and beauty-less lump of clay, and craft it into something that is extremely valuable and special is quite a sight to behold. But God did not direct Jeremiah to the potter's house so he could appreciate the potter's handiwork. God wanted Jeremiah to see a deeper truth: As the potter was able to craft and fashion the lump of clay with his ability, according to his pleasure and in his time so God – with infinite powers and perfect skill – is able to fashion us in whatever way seems best to Him and craft us into whatever pleases Him.

The potter is a metaphoric illustration of the sovereignty of God. The Bible makes it clear that we are but clay – lifeless, mindless and beauty-less objects – in the hands of Almighty God. In other words, God has supreme and absolute authority to do whatever pleases Him – that is what it means to be sovereign. This is exactly what the Psalmist was stating when he wrote, "Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him" (115:3). The prophet Isaiah echoed this truth when he declared, *"Yet, O LORD... We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand"* (64:8), and Isaiah solemnly warned, *"Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherd on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'?"* (45:9, cf. Rom.9:20-23; 2Tim.2:20).

The implicit answer to Isaiah's rhetorical question is, "No. The clay never argues with the potter or questions its maker." Likewise, human beings are never to doubt or dispute with God – we are but clay in the hands of God. Certainly, there is great mystery with regard to God's sovereignty and providence. But Scripture is clear: God is Creator and we are His creation, God is infinite and we are finite, God is perfect and we are sinful, God is God and we are not. Therefore, He is absolutely worthy of our praise, and utterly deserving of our trust.

(continued, Lord willing, next week)

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #16):

Exodus 9-12; 1 Samuel 26-31; Psalm 45-47; Job 31-32; Jeremiah 17-21; Mark 11-12; 1 Corinthians 15-16

Recommended Reading:

"The Potter's Freedom" by James R. White

Calendar of
Events:

April 19

SAM's Luncheon

April 21

Women's Breakfast

April 22

Business Meeting

Men's Retreat

May 4-6

Looking Ahead....

Youth Garage Sale

May 26

Family Camp

June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God" by D.A. Carson
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
*Begins April 18th
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"

w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Christian Walk"
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Not By Sight"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ April 19th, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for our SAM's potluck luncheon in the Fireside Room. Dennis Wood will be speaking on "A Physicist's Testimony". We don't want to miss you - if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Women's Breakfast ~ April 21st, 8:30am

Ladies, please join us for a light breakfast and fellowship as we look at the Attributes of a Godly Woman.

Men's Retreat ~ May 4th to 6th

Register now for a great weekend of growth and fellowship at our Men's Retreat from May 4th to 6th. Our speaker is Doug Hazen from WorldVenture. Register online at www.sbcnb.org, or grab a brochure off the News & Events bulletin board in the church foyer.

Youth Garage Sale ~ May 26th

We will start accepting clean, reusable donation items on April 2nd for our May 26th fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds for the Mexico Mission Trip in August.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.