

Living Connections Bible Study



The Master Potter

Text: Romans 9:17-33

Prayer:

Icebreaker: Read Jeremiah 18:2-4 and discuss what might cause a clay vessel to become marred in the making as it spins on the potter's wheel.

1. How did God use Pharaoh to accomplish His elective purposes for Israel and for the world in spite of Pharaoh's unbelief and hardness of heart? Verses 17-18

God would accomplish His elective plan for the redemption and salvation of mankind with or without Israel's cooperation. As God used Pharaoh for His own elective purposes God would also use Israel in spite of their unbelief, hardness of heart and rejection of their Messiah.

2. How does Paul answer those who blame God for making them the way they are? Verses 19-21

3. Who is the *vessel of dishonor ... vessels of wrath prepared for destruction*? Verses 21-22
Jeremiah 18:5-12; Romans 1:18, 2:5

4. What corporate body is represented by the *vessels of honor and mercy prepared beforehand for glory*? Verses 21, 23-24; Romans 5:1-2

5. Was Israel permanently elected to hardness of heart, unbelief and wrath? Jeremiah 18:8, 11;
Ezekiel 18:23, 32

6. Should Israel have known that God intended to save the Gentiles and extend His mercy and grace to them? Romans 9:15, 25-26

7. What does Isaiah call the remnant in Israel who would believe and be saved when compared to the vast majority who would continue in unbelief? Verse 27

According to Isaiah's words in verse 28, God's plan for our redemption through the cross was completed simply, quickly and justly through the cross. God's judgment on Judgment Day will also take place swiftly, righteously and justly, and is also in view here: *For God will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.*

8. What would have happened to Israel had it not been for the righteous remnant (*seed*) whom He foreknew would believe and carry out God's plan for the redemption of men? Verses 22 and 29

9. What tragic mistake did Israel make that caused them to stumble over Jesus when contrasted to believing Gentiles? verses 30-33

Think about it this week:

Am I cooperating with the hand of the Master Potter as He seeks to shape and mold me into a vessel of honor for His glory and purpose?