

# **Clay Pots: Purposes & Promises**

**II Corinthians 4:7-15**

# The Picture of Clay Pots

## – Priceless Treasure

- See **4:6; 4:4; 4:1; 3:6; 2:16,17**
- **The glorious gospel of Christ and the ministry of the New Covenant**
- ***That* is what is we are to be impressed with...  
*That* is what should preoccupy us...**

## The Picture of Clay Pots

### – Priceless Treasure

### – In Lowly, Clay, Earthenware Pots

- A vivid picture of our present, humble, weak, fragile, earthly phase of existence.
- **Gen 2:7** – man (*'adam*) of ground (*'adamah*)
- The 'styrofoam cup' of the ancient world – cheap, utilitarian, disposable, negligible... only of value when something of value is placed within!

## The Picture of Clay Pots

## The Purpose of Clay Pots

– This is God's express intent...

- ... *so that* the surpassing power would be of God and not of us... (**Vs. 7**)
- ... *so that* the life of Jesus would be revealed in our bodies... (**Vs. 10**)
- ... *so that* the life of Jesus would be revealed in our mortal flesh... (**Vs. 11**)
- See also: **I Cor 2:3-5; 1:19-21; 1:26-30**

## The Picture of Clay Pots

## The Purpose of Clay Pots

- This is God's express intent...
- This is what it looks like (**vs. 8-12**)
  - *Afflicted, hard-pressed, squeezed*
  - *Perplexed, bewildered*
  - *Persecuted, pursued, hounded*
  - *Struck down, knocked down*
  - *Carrying around the marks of Jesus' dying*
  - *Always being given over to death*
  - *Death working within us*

## The Picture of Clay Pots

## The Purpose of Clay Pots

## The Promises for Clay Pots

### – Present Sufficient Grace (**vs. 8-12**)

- Squeezed *but not* squashed
- Bewildered *but not* befuddled
- Pursued *but not* abandoned
- Knocked down *but not* knocked out
- This is Jesus' life in us now!

## The Picture of Clay Pots

## The Purpose of Clay Pots

## The Promises for Clay Pots

- Present Sufficient Grace (**vs. 8-12**)
- Certainty of Full Future Grace (**vs. 13-15**)
  - Here and now in part... there and then in full
  - Now the ‘tip of the tongue on the spoon’... then the soul-satisfying fullness
  - Now the light and momentary afflictions... then the full weight of glory
  - See **Rom 8:18-39**

**The Picture of Clay Pots**

**The Purpose of Clay Pots**

**The Promises for Clay Pots**

**Living the Life of a Disposable Cup**

- *Embracing weakness and ‘insignificance’ as a way of life...*
- *Dying daily to self for the sake of Jesus, the sake of others, and for the glory of God...*