

Help Wanted: A Potter

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Jeremiah 18:1-10.
- B. We all need to answer important questions to develop our philosophy of life.
- C. We can build a working philosophy of life out of Jeremiah 18:1-10.

II. Potter.

- A. God is the potter.
- B. Behind everything in this universe is a person--the world is not in the hands of an impersonal faith.

III. Clay.

- A. We are the clay.
- B. The difference is that we can resist.
- C. It takes a sovereign God to deal with people who have free will.
- D. No matter what one is going through, God knows what he is doing. He has a plan and is working patiently.
- E. Clay cannot mold itself, but it has tremendous potential.

IV. Vessel.

- A. God has made us to be vessels.
- B. A vessel is valuable because of the one who made it.
- C. A vessel is valuable because of what it holds. It is important only that we be clean, empty and yielded.

V. Wheel.

- A. The wheel is life.
- B. The turning of the wheel gives the clay opportunity to become something.
- C. Sin is failure to be what God wants us to be. Clay cannot rebel, but we can rebel in the hands of the potter
- D. Whenever the vessel was marred, the potter patiently fixed it.

VI. Furnace.

VII. The factors collectively.

- A. The key to everything is the Potter who is God.
- B. We should not be pessimistic about the wheel, which is life, because history is His story.
- C. There is nothing good about the clay, which represents us. There is no such thing as a self-made man.

VIII. Personal application.

- A. Our first responsibility is to recognize that God is in your life.
- B. We have to admit that we are "the clay" accepting our weaknesses.
- C. We yield to God.
- D. We need the furnace to become strong and beautiful.

Application questions:

1. What does the image of clay tell us about ourselves in Jeremiah 18:1-10?

2. How should we view life in light of God's control?

3. What areas of your life do you need to yield to God? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections below.
