

The LORD God formed earthen vessels to hold the _____ of His image.

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7.

- Men are jars of clay. The Bible does not attempt to cover up the weaknesses of its leading characters.

God puts another treasure into earthen vessels when He offers man the good news of _____.

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7.

- “The light and salvation of God in the soul of man is a heavenly treasure in a mean casket.”
- For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ... Romans 1:16-17
- How honored we should feel to be commissioned to make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20).

Bearing the glory of God in this world will have its difficulties, but God is _____.

We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-- always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.” 2 Corinthians 4:6-12.

- Giving ourselves over to His presence & power in our hardship, makes Him visible to others.
- We have this treasure in clay pots, to show that this extraordinary power belongs to God.

We are either a vessel that brings honor to God or one that _____ His name.

“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter (*iniquity*), he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:19-21

- We can all be a vessel God can use but there is a condition. - “Purge yourself of iniquity.

Clay pots in the hands of Gideon's men looked useless but contained the light _____ for victory.

“Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: “When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, ‘The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!’” So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers--they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing--and they cried, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled... Judges 7:16-22

- God had already promised them victory but something was needed to claim that victory.
- Brokenness is necessary for light to escape from within you. Victory demands brokenness.
- There comes a time when you have to change your perspective, see what the process was about and **GET OVER IT!** Get over the hurt, the backstabbing, the offense, the failure.
- Cracked pots are great weapons in the hands of God!
- Pray that we will be broken so that the LIGHT of Christ will escape from us and from this house.