

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
29 March 2020
Romans 9:20-24 (KJV)

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The Power to Create

(1) The Power to Create

Romans 9:20-21 (KJV) 20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

The power to create is the prerogative of God. He created the universe. In 6 literal days out of nothing, God completed His creation of the universe. In the first three days, God forms His creation, transforming it from a state “without form” (Gen. 1:2) to where it can support animal life on Earth. He created light and darkness, day and night (day 1), sea (waters below) and the sky (waters above – clouds) (day 2), land and vegetation (day 3). Then God created in the last three days sun, moon and stars (day 4), birds and sea creatures (day 5) and land animals and finally man (day 6)!

Since then, there has been nothing new in creation. Man needs to realize that he is not the Creator! Putting a thousand scientists together will not result in the creation of anything new. And every new life is brought about by God. Proud man needs to know his place in God’s created order. And for man to not recognize His Creator God, is indeed great ingratitude. Therefore, it behooves us to set our lives in order by coming back to God through Jesus Christ, the Originator of life.

This is the line of thought that the Apostle Paul is bringing forth. Man has rejected his Creator and continue in rebellion against Him. When we come to terms with the truth that God is the divine Potter, and we are the clay, and yield ourselves to God’s sovereign leading according to His Word, we are blessed!

We are vessels of honour prepared for heaven through Jesus Christ. May God help us see our privilege as God's children and to give thanks to Him this day by our life.

(2) Vessels of God's Mercy

Romans 9:22-24 (KJV) *22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*

When the Philistine giant Goliath challenged the children of Israel, he said to them, "I defy the armies of Israel, this day; give me a man, that we may fight together" (1 Samuel 17:10). All Israel trembled, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. David, the shepherd boy, delivering food for his brothers by the instruction of his father Jesse, heard the challenge of Goliath. David replied, "...who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Samuel 17:26). We are familiar with this story of David, who by faith, defeated Goliath by a single shot from his sling. God made His power known that day when Goliath, raised of God as a vessel of wrath prepared for destruction, who challenged Israel for 40 days, was taken down by David. This little boy was God's vessel of mercy, to show forth the riches of His glory.

Christians are named by the Apostle Paul as vessels of mercy to underscore their great privilege to reflect the glory of God. By our faith in God through Christ, we experienced God's power to overcome sin to reflect the beauty of holiness in our lives. Indeed, it is a blessed life that God wants His people to cherish and share!

(3) Prepared Unto Glory

Romans 9:23-24 (KJV) *23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*

The riches of God's glory that the Christian experiences is twofold, present and future. Firstly, it is manifested in the Christian's hope or confidence of God's sustaining power delivering, keeping and protecting him throughout his life especially at present. By resting in the omnipotence of God, His infinite ability to deliver us from any trouble and bring us to our final destination in the last time when Christ returns to take the church to glory.

Secondly, there is a heavenly glory awaiting the Christian as he travels on the pathway to receive his heavenly inheritance. This heavenly inheritance is incorruptible –

everything in this world decays and will not last, this inheritance will not be destroyed by earthly decay. It is undefiled for it cannot be polluted, it is pure and without the defilement of sin. And it fades not away – time cannot ravish it unlike the flower that finally blooms and starts to decay and die thereafter.

True Christians are called of God to be vessels of mercy reflecting the glory of God. When God warned Noah of an impending global flood, He instructed Noah to build a great boat that will house the living when death will come over the entire earth by a global flood. Noah hearkened to God and experienced God's mercy. There is an impending flood of fire coming upon the entire earth. The only escape is "up", to be caught up to heaven to meet Jesus at the rapture.

Dear brethren, may we be ready! Amen.