

NEWSLETTER
September - 2024

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday Bible Study &
Sunday School start
September 8 @ 9:45 a.m.**

***NO Bible Study or Sunday
School on September 22.***

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.**

SPEAKERS

September 1: Ivan Niemela,
Holy Communion

September 8: Ivan Niemela

September 15: Bruce
Sarkela

**Please join us for Fall
Services September 19 - 22
with guest speakers Ken
McLachlan & Titus Fraki**

September 19 @ 7 p.m.
two speakers

September 20 @ 7 p.m.
two speakers

September 22:
10.30 a.m. – two speakers

2 p.m. – two speakers

6 p.m. – one speaker

September 29: Ken Storm

The Potter's Clay

“And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it”
Jeremiah 18:4

In the first ten verses of this chapter God explains the work of a potter; how he shapes and reshapes clay until it meets with his approval. It was at God's request that Jeremiah went to the potter's house and, while he observed the work, God interjected thoughts into his mind about the way of salvation that he was later to impart to Israel and to the rest of the world. It is through everyday interactions such as this that God can “*cause thee to hear my words*” (18:2). In other words, observable events can help to reveal God's plan of salvation recorded in Scripture and of which we in turn are to share with others.

One lesson for us in all this is that God can shape us in any way He desires in spite of our many flaws; it would be quite foolish to think otherwise. It would be like the clay disputing with the potter. In our subject text, the clay contained impurities that prevented it from being fashioned as originally designed. Remarkably, rather than discarding the clay, which might be our natural tendency, the potter reused it to shape it into a different vessel, different from that originally intended. This event is relatable to the fall of mankind where Adam and Eve became marred with sin, yet God continued to work with them; and, fortunately, with us too!

Thus, the ‘marred’ clay epitomizes the impure nature of mankind: “*There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one*” – (Romans 3:10-12). Like the clay, we all are marred by sin and unless God somehow reshapes us, we have no hope of spending eternity in heaven; quite the opposite, he who resists the call of God to be reshaped will forever be separated from God.

And, as suggested above, God works with all people, regardless of who or where they are. He does this by calling each person to repent of their sin. In the Old Testament, penitent souls could voluntarily confess their sins to a priest who would then sprinkle the blood of the sin offering to “*make an atonement for him for his sin which he hath sinned, and it shall be forgiven him*” (Lev 5:10). In the New Testament, Jesus gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matt 16:19) to His believers, who are of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), to proclaim the word of reconciliation to a penitent soul, “*Thy sins are forgiven*” (Luke 7:48). In both cases, God gave the penitent souls the faith of Abraham to believe that He had indeed forgiven their sins.

Perhaps the main lesson for us is that God will reshape us according to His desire, but only if we will answer His call of repentance. He does not force us to come forward with our sin, He merely makes that offer. Unfortunately, scripture tells us that not all will answer the call of God: “*And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto*

CONTACT

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you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not” (Jeremiah 7:13).

Dear reader, time is short, do not delay but rather, *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 55:6-8).* Lastly, the forgiveness of sins is for all people who become troubled by sin; unbelievers and believers alike.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen