

Introduction: Bible use of word vessel. Jesus would not permit commercial vessels in the temple. He said we shoud not cover a candle with a vessel. At His cross they had a vessel full of vinegar. In the Revelation we read that the nations were broken as a vessel of a potter. We read of vessels of gold, silver, wood, earth, ivory, precious wood, brass, iron, and marble. The writer to the Hebrews speaks of the vessels of the ministry used in the religieus rites in the tabernacle.

### I. How Paul was a Chosen Vessel.

#### 1. In his unusual experience of conversion.

A. Miraculous

B. Gracious

#### 2. Chosen to serve and witness for Christ.

A. "To bear my name."

B. The greatest commission in all the world.

C. To whom?

(1). Before Gentiles

(2). Before Kings

(3). Before the children of Israel

#### 3. Chosen to suffer for Christ's name

A. The experiences of suffering which he endured. II Cor. 11:23-27

B. The reward of suffering for Christ.

### II. How we too may be Chosen Vessels.

#### 1. All Christians are chosen in Christ.

A. Eph. 1:4

B. The ground of the choice lies in Christ and in His merits.

C. I Peter 1:2, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father."

D. Rom. 8:29, "When He did foreknow, He also did predestinate."

2. The purpose of the choice is:

- A. "That we should be holy and blameless before Him in love." Eph. 1:4, (the main verb is followed by the accusative case with the infinitive, denoting the <sup>purpose</sup> ~~end~~ of the choice).
- B. "That we may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9 (after "Ye are a chosen race").
- C. "To be conformed to the image of His son." (Rom. 8:29)

3. Perhaps a better translation is:

"A choice instrument." (gen.) quality)

A. Its Material <sup>best, the kind or place of</sup> excellent, preeminent.

- (1). Earth, plus the love & grace of God.
- (2). Flint or granite ground finely -- centrite hearts. Centrite means rubbed together and made soft, exactly as stones are ground into the softest clay in our potteries.

B. Its Maker.

- (1). He is the Great Potter.
- (2). Pottery is not self-made.
- (3). We are His workmanship. Eph. 2:10.
- (4). Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men."
- (5). The potter often puts the vessel through the fire.

C. Its Use.

- (1). Not just a lovely vessel to be admired for its beauty, but a select or choice instrument to be used in service.
- (2). "Meet for the Master's use."