

## #5: God created man as a vessel to contain God.

### As believers, we need to be open vessels

**OL1:** God as our sovereign Potter has absolute right over us as His pottery; it is crucial that we see a vision of God's sovereignty. **OL2:** God is the very content, and we are the containers made to receive the content; we must contain God and be filled with God so that we can be vessels unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work. [Jeremiah 18:6](#) Am I not able to do with you, O house of Israel, as this potter does? declares Jehovah. Indeed, as the clay is in the hand of the potter, so you are in My hand, O house of Israel.

**First**, you, as a creature, need to realize the sovereignty of God the Creator and make Him God. [Rom. 1:20](#) For the invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse.

**Second**, you should know you were created as a vessel to contain God. [Romans 9:23](#) In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

**Third**, after the revelation in Romans 9 that we are God's vessels, it reveals in chapter 10 how to fill the vessels with the Lord. [Rom. 10:12](#) For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

**Fourth**, you as God's vessel need to be continually open to God. The summary of Paul's fourteen epistles is "open vessels". The degree to which God can dispense Himself into us depends on the degree of our openness; Decline starts from self-complacency; progress starts from hunger and thirst. You must never fall into self-complacency.

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, I learn to recognize the sovereignty of God who is the Creator and to make Him God in all things. I was created as a vessel to contain God. I call upon the name of Lord. Lord, make me an vessel which is always open.

**Brother's testimony**: "When I joined brother Lee's fulltime training in Taipei, in the beginning, I thought that I could join the training because my consecration was good. But within less than one month, I wanted to go back to Japan because I couldn't speak Chinese. I was a team leader but since I couldn't handle Chinese, when the team members asked me, I even didn't understand what they were asking about and I felt miserable every day. I was often complaining to the Lord saying "I was bit useful in Japan but no use in Taiwan." And I was trying to ask permission to quit team leader. But before asking, I thought I would better to fellowship with the Lord first and started complaining to the Lord. Strangely, as I complained, the Lord enlightened me and I touched the Lord's love and mercy and tear came up. And I realized that my consecration and my joining to the training were all by God's mercy. And I confess my sin of being proud and of unbelief. In this way, I was filled with the Holy Spirit and preached the gospel and many got saved. By God's mercy, I could complete two-year full time training in Taiwan. I thank and praise God's mercy from bottom of my heart. Amen!"

**Sister's testimony**: When I was in Junior high school, I was in a special class and most of students could enter good high schools. But I failed in the entrance exam I only got accepted by the school of my third choice, whereas other students enter their first or second choice school. I ended up going to high school not of my choice. Then from that time on, I was discouraged by myself and didn't study much in the beginning of my high school years. I only did my club activity and played with friends. My mother was worried about my grade and warned me a lot. But I was rebellious and often fought with her. I joined one summer camp in U.S. in my freshman year, but since I couldn't speak English well, I became lonely and started to call on the Lord's name. When I was calling around 30 minutes, I touched Lord's love for the first time. From that day, I started fellowshipping with the Lord daily. Then when I fought with my mom, Lord enlightened from within and I confessed my sin of rebellion many times. From the latter half of my second year, I started to live in the sisters' house. And one of the rule there was to have fellowship with parents weekly. Because of this rule, I started opening to my mom and fellowship. Then we prayed a lot for my entrance exam. I started studying hard before the exam and at my exam I was the third from the top in my class. Then I could pass the college where there were many brothers and sisters who loved the Lord. I thank the Lord for his mercy and leading. After graduation I joined full time training. And came to Japan for study and graduated with master degree. Looking back, everything is of God's mercy.

## 1079 If I gained the world, but lost the Savior

1. If I gained the world, but lost the Savior,  
Were my life worth living for a day?  
Could my yearning heart find rest and comfort  
In the things that soon must pass away?  
If I gained the world, but lost the Savior,  
Would my gain be worth the lifelong strife?  
Are all earthly pleasures worth comparing  
For a moment with a Christ-filled life?
2. Had I wealth and love in fullest measure,  
And a name revered both far and near,  
Yet no hope beyond, no harbor waiting,  
Where my storm-tossed vessel I could steer;  
If I gained the world, but lost the Savior,  
Who endured the cross and died for me,  
Could then all the world afford a refuge,  
Whither, in my anguish, I might flee?
3. O what emptiness!—without the Savior  
'Mid the sins and sorrows here below!  
And eternity, how dark without Him!  
Only night and tears and endless woe!  
What, though I might live without the Savior,  
When I come to die, how would it be?  
O to face the valley's gloom without Him!  
And without Him all eternity!
4. O the joy of having all in Jesus!  
What a balm the broken heart to heal!  
Ne'er a sin so great, but He'll forgive it,  
Nor a sorrow that He does not feel!  
If I have but Jesus, only Jesus,  
Nothing else in all the world beside—  
O then everything is mine in Jesus;  
For my needs and more He will provide.

## 700 福音一むなしさと苦痛

1. よろこびがありますか？  
生きがいがありますか？  
過ぎてゆくものごとに、  
安そく、なぐさめなし。  
全世かいを得たとしても、  
主がなければ価値がない；  
キリストに満ちたじん生、  
これこそすばらしい！
  2. とみとあいとめい声を、  
きわみまで得たとしても、  
とつ然あらし来るとき、  
やすみ場ありますか？  
全世かいを得たとしても、  
主がなければ価値がない；  
とつぜんあらし来るとき、  
キリストこそちから！
  3. キリストを得なければ、  
ただつみとかなしみだけ！  
キリストを得なければ、  
何のかいけつもない！  
全世かいを得たとしても、  
死のときはかならず来る；  
キリストを得なければ、  
くらやみがあるのみ。
  4. 主イエスにはかん喜あり、  
ころいやすあぶらあり、  
主はつみをゆるされた、  
よろこびわき上がる。  
イエスあれば、イエスがあれば  
すべてのものはすばらしい！  
イエスあれば、イエスがあれば、  
無げんのほう富得る。
1. 若尽得世界，而失去救主，  
岂值得一日在此活着？  
在这些就要过去之物中，  
安息与安慰岂能寻得？  
若尽得世界，而失去救主，  
所得的一切够用一生？  
地上所有的快乐，  
也不能比那充满了主的生命！
  2. 纵令你满得财富和爱情，  
无论远或近也都知名，  
前面仍无望，  
仍无一港口让你这惊船可以靠停。  
若尽得世界，而失去救主，  
就是那为你受死的主，  
是否这世界能供一避所，  
给你逃进去永远居住？
  3. 何等的虚空！若没有救主：  
地上尽都是罪恶、苦难！  
永世何黑暗！若没有救主：  
黑夜与眼泪，痛苦无边！  
若没有救主，虽暂能活着，  
但到要死时，将要怎办？  
哦，必要面对那无主幽谷！  
且一直无主，直到永远！
  4. 在主得一切，何等的快乐！  
何等能安抚伤痛心田！  
并无一罪过祂不肯赦免，  
也无一忧患祂不承担！  
若你只有主，只有主基督，  
全地除了祂，你无他物，  
那，在祂里面，你就有一切，  
应付你需要，无限丰富。