

Friday 21st January 2022

Is.64,8: *"Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

Jn.15,16: *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."*

By using the image of clay in the hands of the potter an appeal is made to God on behalf of the people, not to punish them beyond measure (v.12), but to be reminded of his purpose. Would a master potter give up on his purpose regarding the clay? Or would he let his purpose be defeated by the clay in his hand? Would not the clay be caused to take the shape for which the potter purposed it? But the appeal is really for the ears and hearts of the people, to become conscious of this once more and yield themselves to God's purpose for them in repentance and faith.

What is purposed in the potter must be caused in the clay. What is purposed in God for his people must be caused in his people. Judgment is not the purpose, but must serve it! What causes God's purpose to take shape is what God himself does in Christ through judgment and grace received in the sinner by faith:

*"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace that you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*