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## A Spiritual Makeover from the Potter Hands: Renewal through Repentance

*A Commentary by Jason Curry*



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I enjoy watching television with my daughter. Like many young people of our day, she is attracted to and fascinated by the arts. From time to time, we watch educational programs; however, most of our television time is spent watching entertainment programs. These programs primarily concern people who are talented in the areas of singing, acting, dancing or modeling. Throughout the course of an entire season, these shows often discuss and demonstrate the complete, artistic transformation of the person. For example, the producers show the competitors before they received advice from a professional dancer or singing lessons from a popular or professional singer, and towards the end of the program, the producers show how these aspiring professionals were transformed by the assistance that they received from various leaders in the entertainment industry. All of these artists, dancers and models were energized by and thankful for the artistic makeover that

they received. In fact, their chances of leading happy, productive and successful lives, in both professional and personal circles, were greatly enhanced because of the invaluable advice that they received from various professionals.

It is good to know that our God is also in the business of providing "makeovers." In Jeremiah 18:1-10, the prophet tells the story of how the spiritual lives of the people of Israel would be reshaped and remolded if only they placed them within the Potter's hands. God told Jeremiah: "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel (Jeremiah 18:6)."

The substance or "clay of our lives" is ever before us. We are indeed talented, ambitious, insightful and creative. The question that confronted the people of Israel is still a question that confronts us today: Will we allow the Potter to provide us with a divine

makeover or will we remain talented, ambitious and creative, but self-serving, lumps of clay?" Jeremiah's message was ultimately a call to repentance. When we confess our sins, ask the Lord for forgiveness, and intend to lead new lives by following the example of Jesus Christ, we stand ready and poised for a spiritual makeover that only God can give. The world often provides us with a physical makeover, but it cannot compare to the life-giving and life-changing, spiritual renewal that comes only from the Potter's hand. Indeed, our prayer for this spiritual makeover is eloquently captured by the words of Adelaide A. Pollard: "Have Thine own way Lord, have Thine own way. Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and me after Thy will. While I am waiting, yielded and still." Amen.