

together in one Book, and are like the testimonies in a social meeting. They do not represent things in just the same style. Each has an experience of his own, and this diversity broadens and deepens the knowledge that is brought out to meet the necessities of varied minds. The thoughts expressed have not a set uniformity, as if cast in an iron mold, making the very hearing monotonous. In such uniformity there would be a loss of grace and distinctive beauty." *Select-ed Messages* 1:21.3-5.

The existence of a variety of vessels which contain the word of God clearly indicates the love of God, for He wants to come as close as possible to every person. In this way the gospel is not only preached to one generation, or one nation, but to every generation and every nation. "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people." *Revelation* 14:6.

#### **"... yet without sin"**

Some people go so far as to say that we must sin in order to reach sinners. But nothing could be more opposed to the word of God! It is only as we are freed from sin that we can help those who are held captive to it.

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." *Hebrews* 4:15.

This Bible verse clearly describes both the treasure and the vessel. Christ, the High Priest, is the treasure, and our weakness—human nature—is the vessel. Christ can sympathize with us because He has borne our weakness. This verse ends with the equally important assertion: "... yet without sin."

God Himself chooses the vessel that can come as close as possible to us. Therefore, it must come from a sinful environment. But the Lord has nothing to do with sin. The mystery of God is the revelation of Himself in sinful flesh, but without sin. This is clearly expressed in the following verse: "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh." *Romans* 8:3. This means that although Christ bore our mortal, weak, sinful flesh He did not yield to sin, even by so much as a thought. He lived a life entirely without sin.

It would not have been possible for Christ to represent the mystery of God if He had sinned, because sin is, by definition, separation from

God. When Christ bore our sins on the cross of Calvary He felt the separation from His heavenly Father. This caused Him to cry out: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" *Matthew* 27:46.

God cannot reveal Himself through sin because "every good gift and every perfect gift" comes from Him. And with Him "there is no variation or shadow of turning." *James* 1:17. Therefore, whoever claims that the mystery of God is revealed by sin is a liar.

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them." *Matthew* 7:15-20.

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.

#### **The Vessel Without the Divine Treasure**



**The treasure:  
The divine nature**

**The earthly vessel:  
Sin**

**The divine cannot be hidden within sin because sin is separation from God. The treasure cannot be found in this vessel.**