



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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HANDMADE



IF YOU RECEIVED A HANDMADE GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR, I'M SURE YOU TREASURE THE GIFT BUT ALSO THE GIVER. HANDMADE ITEMS ARE OFTEN EXPENSIVE AND EXQUISITE. THINGS MADE BY HAND MAY ALSO BE EXPRESSIVE. MANY FAMILIES ENJOY HEIRLOOMS THAT WERE SPECIALLY MADE BY A GRANDPARENT OR GREAT-GRANDPARENT. INDEED HANDMADE GIFTS ARE UNIQUE. THEY ARE NOT MASS-PRODUCED IN A FACTORY; THEY ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND ITEMS. THOSE WHO CARVE, BUILD, SEW, KNIT, EMBROIDER, PAINT OR CRAFT SKILLFULLY AND PATIENTLY WORK TO FASHION THEIR PIECE AND THEN PRESENT IT TO SOMEONE SPECIAL. IT'S GREAT TO BE THE RECIPIENT OF SUCH A GIFT.

CONSIDER JOB 10:8-12. "YOUR HANDS FASHIONED AND MADE ME ALTOGETHER REMEMBER NOW, THAT YOU HAVE MADE ME AS CLAY.... DID YOU NOT POUR ME OUT LIKE MILK AND CURDLE ME LIKE CHEESE; CLOTHE ME WITH SKIN AND FLESH, AND KNIT ME TOGETHER WITH BONES AND SIN-EWS? YOU HAVE GRANTED ME LIFE AND LOVINGKINDNESS; AND YOUR CARE HAS PRESERVED MY SPIRIT." NOTE THE INTRICATE WORK OF GOD IN FORMING US. WE ARE HAND-FASHIONED AND FORMED AS CLAY. MARVEL AT THE DESCRIPTION OF GESTATION AS WE MOVE FROM CONCEPTION TO BIRTH. FIRST A LIQUID THAT BEGINS TO SOLIDIFY (CURDLE) THEN TAKE ON SKIN THEN BONES FOL-LOWED BY MUSCLES. JOB PRAISES GOD FOR HIS KINDNESS AND CARE THAT PRESERVES NOT JUST HIS PHYSICAL FORMATION BUT EVEN HIS IMMATERIAL SPIRIT.

THE FIRST HUMANS, ADAM AND EVE WERE HANDMADE (NOT EVOLVED). GENESIS 1:27 TELLS US THAT GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE. THE HEBREW WORD FOR CREATE (BARA) CAN ALSO BE TRANSLATED "TO SHAPE." WHEN DESCRIBING EVE'S SPECIAL CREATION GENESIS 2:22 SAYS THAT GOD "FASHIONED INTO A WOMEN THE RIB WHICH HE HAD TAKEN FROM THE MAN ..." THAT WORD "FASHIONED" (BANAH) CAN ALSO BE TRANSLATED "TO BUILD." GOD SHAPED AND BUILT MANKIND. SOUNDS HANDMADE TO ME.

THINK TOO OF PSALM 139:13 WHERE WE'RE TOLD THAT BEFORE BIRTH GOD FORMED OUR IN-WARD PARTS AND WOVE US TOGETHER IN OUR MOTHER'S WOMB. IN JEREMIAH 1:5 GOD REVEALS TO HIS PROPHET "BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I KNEW YOU, AND BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I CONSECRATED YOU." TO BE WOVEN AND FORMED BY GOD IS INDEED TO BE HANDMADE.

LIKE THE PSALMIST, OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT OF THANKSGIVING FOR WE ARE FEARFULLY, WONDERFULLY MADE. (PSALM 139:14). TRAGICALLY MANY ARE UNGRATEFUL AND DESTROY THE SPECIAL AND SACRED HANDMADE GIFT THAT GOD GIVES. LET US PRAY AND WORK TO STOP THE KILLING OF UNBORN, HANDMADE BABIES.

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE