

# Are You A Block of Wood?

## Introduction:

A. Scripture: **Jeremiah 18:1-6**

B. What is it?

- 1) The Block, a block or beautiful carving? Ron Henson's carvings.
- 2) A rocky mountainside A Big rock or Mt. Rushmore?

C. Those are just things, but what about people?

1) Helen Keller

2) One man was blind from the age of three and in 1818 went as a foundling to the National Institute for the Young Blind in Paris. Soon showing marked ability in both science and music, he became famous in Paris as an organist and violoncellist. In 1828 he began teaching the blind in the institute, and the following year Louis Braille conceived the idea of modifying the Barbier "point writing" system, used for coded army messages, to enable the blind to read. He was more than a block of wood. ("Braille, Louis," Microsoft (R) Encarta. Copyright (c) 1994 Microsoft Corporation. Copyright (c) 1994 Funk & Wagnall's Corporation.)

3) In 1921 Franklin D. Roosevelt contracted Polio, yet in 1932 was elected as the President of the U.S. He was more than a block of wood

4) From a negative point of view, you could have everything the world has to offer, yet like

- a. Howard Hughes, end up a recluse and disappear from the world
- b. Marilyn Monroe
- c. Elvis Presley

D. It doesn't matter what abilities you have or don't have, what money you have or don't have, who you know or don't know, what matters is what you do with your life and how you allow your life to be molded.

1) You are this block of wood and you can remain just a block of wood:

- a. You can let people say, "you are just a block of wood that has no real value."
- b. You can let people say, "You are only useful as a door stop, but not much more."

2) Or you can be this block of wood and become something

- a. You can allow a master carver to shape your life, to chip away what is really of no value
- b. You can allow a master carver to bring out the beauty and significance of your life.

3) One thing is sure, You can be more than a block of wood.

4) I want to ask three questions to help each one realize his/her potential.

## I. First, What is your image?

A. God's image.

1) **Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (RSV)

2) **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (RSV)

3) **Ephesians 4:22-24** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness. (NIV)

4) Maybe we don't do it perfectly, but "He's still working on me."

## B. Men's image

- 1) "Self-made-men" (people)--Hard work
- 2) "Image is everything."--Valuable reputation
- 3) **1 Corinthians 15:33** --Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (NIV)
- 4) Billions of \$'s are being spent every day to influence you. What media affects you? TV, Radio? Advertising?

## C. Who or what is your image? Who will molds you? Who carves you into shape?

## II. Secondly, What are your intentions? (What will you "become?")

A. **Matthew 18:3** and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and **become like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (RSV)

B. **Matthew 13:15** For this people's heart has **become calloused**;

C. **Matthew 20:26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must **be(come) your servant**, (NIV)

D. **John 9:39** Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see (**become seers**) and those who see will **become blind**." (NIV)

E. **Romans 3:12** All have turned away, they have together **become worthless**; there is no one who does good, not even one." (NIV)

F. Romans 6:18-22 You have been set free from sin and have **become slaves to righteousness**.  
19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you **were slaves to sin**, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have **become slaves to God**, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (NIV)

G. What image have you reproduced? What intentions do you have with your life?

## III. What is your influence?

A. Who are you influencing and how are you influencing them?

1) Children?

a. **Eph. 6:1** Provoke not

b. **Prov. 22:6** Train up

2) Jesus said in **Matthew 5:14-15** 14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (NIV)

3) **Matthew 23:15** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are. (NIV)

B. What image have you reproduced? What are your intentions? Who is influencing you? Who are you influencing?

C. If we could set you on a shelf like pottery or carvings, what would you be?

1) just a block?--worthless?

2) something ugly?--sinful?

3) something beautiful?--righteous?