

Tools in God's Tool Box

Romans 6:13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many present can well appreciate a well stocked tool box.
1. A well stocked workshop.
 2. A well stocked work truck or work van.
 3. Some jobs can be done easily and quickly if one has the right tool.
 4. Some are meticulous about every tool being assigned a particular spot and accounted for at all times.
 5. Our lesson text underscores the subject of tools.
- B. **Romans 6:13** – “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”
1. Paul is telling us that our body is an instrument, and we choose to use it for righteousness or unrighteousness.
 2. In reading and studying this passage, it is important that we know that the Greek word translated “instrument” there means “tool or weapon.”
 3. We tend to think of a tool as being something that we have rather than something that we are.
- C. Question: What kind of tool or weapon are you? Are you an instrument . . . A tool . . . That God holds in His hand to do His will among His human family?

ARE YOU A BATTERING RAM?

- A. The ancients would use a log or some other hard object to break down and wall or door. It is a destructive device that forcibly removes barriers.
- B. As Christians in God's service, we need to be able to break down barriers that are keeping the honest-hearted away from God. We need to do so by “speaking the truth in love” (**Ephesians 4:15**)
- C. The evil one is trying to barricade souls behind the wall error. God has given truth with which to break down those barriers and free its captives. John 8:32

ARE YOU A CROWBAR?

- A. Crowbars pry things apart.
- B. We need spiritual crowbars.
1. There are things we should separate from our thinking.
 2. There are things we should separate from our lifestyles.
 3. There are things we need to pull away from. Example: worldliness.
- James 4:4** – “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity (deep rooted mutual hatred) with God? Whoever

therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” Pry yourself away from worldliness.

ARE YOU A CHISEL?

- A. A chisel is a tool that does meticulous, detailed work.
1. Its blade carves or cuts hard materials.
 2. It has a variety of uses.
- B. Do we have the tenacity and trust needed to use God's Word and Benefit from His providence to remake our lives into the image of Christ?
1. **2 Corinthians 3:18** – “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
 2. Perhaps some rough edges of our lives need to be chiseled away . . . The remainder of some things that have not been removed that should be removed.

ARE YOU A LEVEL? To some I might want to ask, “Are you on the level?” Others may seem to be about two bubbles past plumb.

- A. Levels are used to determine whether something is true (on-the-level) and as it ought to be.
1. What may look to the eye, may not be.
 2. What may seem level to the touch, may not be.
 3. A level will determine the truth so as to enable corrective action to be taken in the matter.
- B. We live in not only a dishonest world, but also in a corrupt world.
1. So many call good evil and evil good. **Isaiah 5:20** – “ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”
 2. Can people find in us a reliable standard of right and wrong, as we reflect the principles of God's Word?
 3. God's Word can be used to gauge your life and allow you to see where adjustments need to be made in order to bring into compliance with God's will.

ARE YOU A PLANE?

- A. A plane makes rough surfaces smooth by repetitiously moving it back and forth across the surface.
- B. Matthew (3:3), Mark (1:3), Luke (3:4), & John 1:23) speak of John the immerser's work as making ready the path of the Lord, making his paths straight . . . Preparation for walking over.
1. We are not forerunners of Jesus . . . But rather, we are followers of Jesus

. . . We follow in His steps. **1 Peter 2:21** – “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

2. As we do follow Him, we are going to forge a path safe for others to follow.

ARE YOU A MAGNET

- A. A magnet is an object that draws and holds another object disposed toward such attraction. I like screwdrivers with magnetic heads.
- B. Magnets can be used as tools themselves, but they are often a part of other tools. Such as hammers and screwdrivers.
- C. As a spiritual magnet, by living like Jesus, we can draw people to Him.

CONCLUSION:

- A. **Romans 6:13** – “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”
- B. Paul also referred to “tools” or “weapons” when talking to the Corinthian brethren.
 - 1. **2 Corinthians 6:7** – “Armor of righteousness”
 - 2. **2 Corinthians 10:4** – “”weapons of our warfare.”
 - 3. In both cases the tools or weapons are spiritual and figurative . . . Yet, with them we can help shape and build up those around us.
- C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**