

Tools In God's Box

Romans 6:13 tells us our body is an instrument, and we choose to use it for righteousness or unrighteousness. The Greek word translated "instrument" there means "tool or weapon." What kind of tool or weapon are you? Are you an instrument God holds in His hand to do His will?

Are you a battering ram? The ancients would use a log or some other hard object to break down a wall or door. Have we filled our hearts with the Word to the degree that we can, "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), break down barriers keeping the honest hearted from God?

Are you a crowbar? Crowbars pry objects apart. These are things we should separate from our thinking and lifestyle. Are we trying to pull away from worldliness? (James 4:4).

Are you a chisel? This is a tool that does meticulous, detailed work. Its blade carves or cuts hard materials. 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? (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Are you a level? We live in not only a dishonest world but also a corrupt world. So many call good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20). Can people find in us a reliable standard of right and wrong, as we reflect the principles of God's Word? Levels are used to determine whether something is true and as it ought to be.

Are you a plane? The plane makes rough surfaces smooth by repetitiously moving it back and forth across the surface. All four Gospels (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. We are not forerunners of Jesus; we follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21). As we do follow Him, we are going to forge a path safe for others to follow (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Are you a magnet? A magnet is an object that draws and holds another object disposed toward such attraction. Magnets can be used as tools themselves, but they are often made a part of other tools, such as hammers and screwdrivers. By living like Jesus, you draw people to Him.

Paul also referred to "tools" or "weapons" when talking to the Corinthians. He mentions "armor of righteousness" and "weapons" of our warfare (same word). In both cases, the tools or weapons are spiritual and figurative, yet with them we can help shape and build up those around us.

- Neal Pollard, via *Bulletin Digest* -

HOW TO WORSHIP

- Larry R. Kilpatrick -

Be **SILENT**, be **THOUGHTFUL**,
Be **REVERENT**, for this is the house of the Lord.
Before the service, speak to God.
During the service, let God speak to you.
After the service, speak to one another.

The Bible is God's prescription for the health of our soul.

News & Notes

OUR MEETING: We have just concluded a good Gospel Meeting with Tim Hatfield. His lessons were biblically sound, powerful, challenging, and easily understood. Thanks, Tim, for coming our way. Tim is scheduled to return in 2022.

SPECIAL THANKS: To Ed & Linda Wiersbicki for the beautiful floral arrangements placed at the main entrance of our building for our Gospel Meeting.

SYMPATHY: To the **Beagle Family** at the recent passing of Jim Beagle's brother, Eddie. Also, to the **Brown Family** at the passing of Rico's uncle, Walter Brown. God bless and comfort these families.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Charlie & Barb Delong on the birth of a great grandson, Isaac Matthew Donahue, born **September 20, 2018**. The grandmother is Terri Patterson, and the parents are Nick & Kellie Donahue. Best wishes to all.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 401.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes this Tuesday, Oct. 2nd at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate.

MEN'S ENRICHMENT CLASS: Resumes this Tuesday, Oct. 2nd at 7:00 p.m. for 1 hour. Men, come and study together with other men of the church.

FAREWELL GATHERING: Next Friday, Oct. 5th, 6:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building for Jason, Tamara, Mackenzie & Jordan Sprout. They have moved their membership to Hanoverton. Any gifts or monetary donations should be given to Sharon Sprout by **Wednesday, Oct. 3rd**.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Oct. 6th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's Restaurant in Chester.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Next Saturday, Oct. 6th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Columbiana, OH Church of Christ. Theme: "A Common Thread." Speaker: Angie Mong Haustein of North Little Rock, AR.

FOX NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13th.

NO FELLOWSHIP DINNER OR EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE IN OCTOBER.

GOSPEL MEETINGS:

Weirton Heights.....**Oct. 14-18 (Mon. - Fri., 7:00 p.m.)**Dan Kessinger
Hanoverton.....**Oct. 21-25 (Mon. - Thur., 7:30 p.m.)**Will Montgomery

MEMBER VISITS: Elders and Minister visits with members can be scheduled in your home or to meet here at the building by signing the sheet on the desk, or arrange an appointment by talking to Rico. Thus far there has only been 30% participation.

PANTRY: Peanut butter & jelly.

TO HAVE SURGERY: Jenny Rhodes is scheduled for knee surgery, **Wednesday, Oct. 17th** at Sewickley Hospital.

SEND CARDS: **Patty Eddy** (wife of Bob Eddy, preacher in Lorain, OH). Patty was injured in a auto accident. Her address: 4898 Oroszy Ave., Lorain, OH 44052.

Alex Harless, 1322 North 4th Street, Toronto, OH 43964.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Ernie Robinson, Charlie Delong, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19). **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **AUBURN NURSING HOME, SALEM, OH:** Jim Mick. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.