

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Store In My Heart

Judges 2:17

Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as their fathers.

What a sad statement regarding the people God had brought out of Egyptian bondage and made into a powerful nation.

I cannot help but compare their actions to what I see in our world today. Too many have forgotten the ways of God and turned aside to worship false gods. Our world seems bent on following after the fleeting ways of this physical world instead of reaching to the eternal God of creation. Let us learn from the mistakes of Israel and avoid them today. Seek after the Way of the Lord.



Wrenches Don't Sing Their Own Praises

Jason Hardin

My lawn and I have an appointment this evening. Time to mow. You know what's not going to happen? As I push the mower back into the garage, it's not going to boast about what it did for the last two hours.

I can be carried at 30,000 feet and more than 500 miles per hour, but I'm not going to hear the airplane magnify itself as I step off to retrieve my luggage.

Parking lots aren't full of chatter between Chevys and Fords, Hondas and Toyotas about what a fabulous job they did on this morning's commute.

They're all just tools. Some tools cost more than others, some are shiny and some are worn, but they're just tools. The lawn mower is pushed, the airplane is piloted, the automobile is driven, and we expect them to do what they were created to do. Once they've done so, tools don't boast.

In **Isaiah 10**, the awesome Assyrian empire is described as a rod in the hand of the LORD. *"Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets"* (**Isaiah 10:5-6**).

But the "rod" quickly forgets his place. In the arrogance of his heart, with a boastful look in his eyes, the king of Assyria says, *"By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull I bring down those who sit on thrones"* (**Isaiah 10:13**).

And to God, that sounds about as foolish as my mower leading my shovel and rake in a chorus of self-exalting praise.

"Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it? As if a rod should wield him who lifts it, or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood" (**Isaiah**

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is doing much better.

Paula Laubach is doing some better. Her poison ivy has cleared up, but she has other difficulties.

While we still need to exercise caution in our gatherings, it is good to be closer to normal in our studies and worship. Our Sunday evening Bible study in **Judges** has begun and we are in **1Corinthians** Wednesday evening. All are welcome at any time we meet.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

10:15). When God has accomplished his purposes with the shortsighted "rod" of Assyria, his anger *"will be directed to their destruction"* (**Isaiah 10:25**).

Thousands of years later, tools still shouldn't boast. Even Apollos and Paul—men of mighty influence in the life of the early church—were simply "servants through whom you believed." Instruments of service don't exist to magnify themselves. *"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth"* (**1Corinthians 3:5-7**). Preachers need to remember that Sundays are a celebration of what God has done, not a demonstration of what they can do.

In **Matthew 6**, Jesus encouraged all of his disciples to beware practicing their righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, "for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven." So when you give to the needy, don't sound a social media trumpet. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrite who prays for the sake of appearances. Wrenches don't sing their own praises. Mowers don't magnify themselves.

"So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" (**Luke 17:10**)

Do what you were created to do this weekend. Fill the gaps. Meet the needs. Shine for the reputation of Jesus. And trust that the Father who sees in secret will reward you.

(Sometimes we forget that we are just the means God uses to show His work in the world today. We are the servant, not the master. I know that kind of language is not popular today, but it vividly expresses our situation with God. No matter how great my accomplishments, I am just the tool God used to get His work done.

I must admit that the title caught my attention when I saw this online a few days ago. I guess that 'auto technician' background still rears its head from time to time. After reading this article I recalled a few conversations I had with a brother in Texas a decade or so ago. We talked in similar phrases as we discussed how God works through us to edify others. He was also a man who used tools, so this avenue was familiar to us both. This is a concept we sometimes have difficulty putting into practice, but if we are to serve God successfully, we must see our self as His tool to do the work necessary work.

To stretch this idea a little bit further, we also need to understand that God has many different tools at His disposal. I have one toolbox drawer with more than two dozen screwdrivers. I also have, probably, twice as many more around the house and truck. Some of them are almost identical, and others look very different. But each one only does its particular job when someone picks it up and directs its use. A straight blade can be used to turn some other types of screws, but it will never work like one that was made for that job. A lesson? Just because God does not use you for a particular work is no indication of how much you are needed in His service. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!