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Sunday School Times

# How To Use Your Tools Well

***Stuff For Today***

• Bob the Square!

• The Pineapple Story

 Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

***Luke10:2
He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the field.***

 What would you like to have written on your gravestone? I have considered this at times, and I believe the following phrase would suffice for me.

**Here Lies a Disciple of Jesus Christ, Cleverly Disguised as a Woodworker. He Used His Tools Well.**

 I just hope that I can live up to it. Let me explain what I mean.

 We as Christians are called to be disciples. That title requires more than just a desire to follow along behind a leader. We are to become like Jesus in word and deed. Everything else that we do pales in comparison to that task.

 Life absorbs much of our time and assets. It is very easy to get lost in the everyday grind and its demands. But our focus must be where our citizenship really lies—in Heaven. All that we have in our lives is a gift from God. Gifts are given with reason and purpose. We are to use what we have to work for Him. Our tools, as it were.

 Our tool chests consist of far more than just money. Included in the drawers and trays of that tool chest are our talents and abilities, health, reputations, and time.

 As a woodworker by trade, I am quite familiar with the importance of tools. Without them, work does not progress very quickly or very well. Tools are specific to task, and size is sometimes critical.

 Too often we judge success or failure in this life by the balance in our bank account. God judges by other criteria. He has given us a task, as well as the necessary equipment to adequately accomplish His plan.

 Giving our money to His work is of value, to be sure, but our other assets must not be overlooked. We talk of giving a tithe of our money, but has anyone considered what a tithe of time, or a tithe of talent might look like?

 In Luke 10:2, it is interesting to note there is no mention of a financial plan, or many of our other usual concerns. Rather, the focus is upon the time and effort of individuals willing to perform the necessary task.

 You see, money is no object to a God who owns everything. But our time—now that is a commodity of immense value to God.

 May we use our gifts-**our tools-**wisely!

**Devoted**

**(Malachi 4)**

 Malachi’s soliloquy is the concluding scene in the final act of the Old Testament. As the curtain begins to descend, the closing expression we hear, the last word spoken by God, is *curse.* The audience sits in reverent silence, unsure if applause is appropriate at this point. The lights go down; it is a somber ending to the story to be sure. Four hundred years of silence follow. God will say nothing more until His Son steps out onto center stage in Matthew.

 The Old Testament would seem to be merely backdrop scenery, were it not for the New Testament. It is there that we realize what God was doing, and why. The panoramic background on the stage is filled with the colors and subtle hues and tints that point to the person of Jesus Christ. We began this exercise with a study of the first word in Genesis. It would be appropriate to consider the final word found in the Old Testament.

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## **Questions, But Sadly, No Answers**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. If I *Save the Whales*, can I collect the whole set?

2. Can a fool be so sufficiently talented that nothing can be considered fool-proof?

3. Are fast reflexes an acceptable substitute for good manners?

4. Is it legal to fill out my taxes in Roman Numerals?

5. If a recipe calls for eggs to be beaten, consider this first—what did they do?

6. What disease did cured ham actually have?

7. Why do all toasters have a setting that burns toast to such a horrible black crisp that no human being could possibly eat?

**This Week**

 Have you ever had a question about God, the Bible, church or religion in general? Well, you are in luck. Once per semester Mr. Lyle allows you to write down one question—anonymously—and he will take time during class and attempt to answer your questions. No topic is off the table. So if you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask—here’s your chance. And if it takes several weeks to get through them all, that’s ok.