

A FINISHING TOOL IN GOD'S HAND

Text: Exodus 20:24-26

Key Word: Tool

Key Thought: Lets Become a Tool Fashioned by God for His Purposes

God is in the process of shaping us into His image in order that we may draw closer to Him. This process does not happen instantly. Some are still foolishly looking for an event that will change their Christian life when they should be striving to daily conform and transform into the image of God.

I was recently struck with the unique way that the Word of God uses our English word "**tool**." It is only used 4 x's in the entire Bible and those are all found in the O.T. There are actually 2 Hebrew words that are translated "**tool**."

The first word is "**chereb**" finds its root in the Hebrew word "**charab**" which means "**to parch (through drought); also to desolate, destroy, kill.**" As a cutting tool it was used to describe a knife, sword or other sharp instrument. When used in this type of a destructive manner its brings forth desolation, destruction and loss of life.

The second word is "**keli**" which carries with it the idea that it can be used "**to bring a process to completion.**" The process can be either positive or negative. Something may either be added to the process until it is full or complete, or something may be taken away from it until there is nothing left. The English word "**finishes**" carries with it similar thoughts. We would not be too far from the truth by calling this a "**finishing tool**."

In the 4 cases where this word is used it comes with a warning that no tool is to be used when fashioning either an altar or the stones for the Temple of Solomon.

"Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you.

*25. If you make an altar of stones for me, **do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.***

26. And do not go up to the altar on steps, lest your nakedness be exposed on it."

Exodus 20:24-26

An altar is to be used to shape and cut away at our sin. We are not to approach it with a spirit of pride. It removes the sharp corners from our lives not vice-versa.

The **second place** where the word is used highlights the danger of not being obedient to the Word of God. **Aaron followed the people instead of leading them and standing against their wicked schemes.**

*"Come make us gods which will go before us . . .
3. So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.
4. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, **fashioning it with a tool.** Then they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt.'"*

Exodus 32:1,3,4

Instead of being shaped into the image of God they became conformed to the world around them. Aaron became a **tool of unrighteousness** because He forsook the Word of God.

The **third place** the word is used is when Moses gave instructions to the people in what to do once they crossed the Jordan River. They would eventually make their way to Mount Ebal. It was a very desolate mountain. They were NOT to build an **elaborate altar** at this location.

*"Build there an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. **Do not use any iron tool upon them.**"*

Deuteronomy 27:5

This altar served as a reminder that God allows difficulties to come our way. **He brings us to the altars of our lives as we walk through desolate places. We are not to attempt to change the shape or form of any altar but rather be changed as we lay our lives before it.**

The **final place** this word is used is with the building instructions that were given for Solomon's Temple. **This Temple was to display the glory of God not of man.** It had to be built to exact specifications. God was the chief Architect.

*"In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and **no hammer, chisel or any iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.**"*

I Kings 6:7

God is continually bringing His saints to the altar and temple to be fashioned into His image. [There Are at Least 4 Results of Becoming a Tool That Is Fashioned by God and Not One That Foolishly Believes We Can Fashion Others.](#)

I. PURITY OF LIFE

II. HOLINESS OF CHARACTER

III. INTEGRITY - BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

IV. HEALING AND RESTORATION

I. PURITY OF LIFE

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Matthew 5:8

This is not something that we hear emphasized very often in our churches today. I believe that much of the problems in our churches today are a direct result of impure lives. Our thoughts, actions and words often do not line up with God's intent for our lives.

The apostle Paul could have used a number of commendations of himself to find access into the heart of the Corinthian church. One endorsement seems to rise above the rest in our day of slothfulness.

*"Rather as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way . . .
6. in purity . . .
7. with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left."*

II Corinthians 6:4,6,7

We need to return to a vision of the purity of God working in and through us. Our churches need to see the Living and Pure God.

"No one is so blind as he/she who will not see."

*To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.
16. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good."*

Titus 1:15,16

II. HOLINESS OF CHARACTER

Purity in life will lead to holiness in character.

"Holiness is a life that is pleasing to God, which Christians are **privileged to live** through the power of the Holy Spirit - a privilege made possible by the saving death of Jesus Christ."

George Lyons
"Holiness in Everyday Life"

Holiness has to do with how we behave. What we DO is what we ARE.

"Your reputation is what people think you are. Your character is what God knows you to be."

"He that sees the beauty of holiness, or true moral good, sees the greatest and most important thing in the world . . . unless this is seen nothing is seen that is worth seeing; for there is no other true excellence or beauty."

Jonathan Edwards
"Treatise of Religious Affections"

"Holiness is the architectural plan upon which God buildeth up His living temple."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon
"Holiness"

*"You also, like **living stones**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

1 Peter 2:5

God has chosen you and I to fit into His temple. **He knows what areas in our lives require removal and reshaping. He becomes the TOOL to shape us and mould us so we can fit into His plan.** Holiness is a wonderful tool that He uses on a constant basis.

III. INTEGRITY - BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

We must be careful when we deal with this topic. There are people just waiting for ammunition to use against the church.

"I'd rather be a struggling Christian in an imperfect church than a perfect sinner outside the church . . . One of the church fathers said that the church was something like Noah's ark: if it weren't for the judgement on the outside, you could never stand the smell on the inside."

Warren Wiersbe
"The Integrity Crisis"

For 1900 years the church has been telling the world to admit its sins, repent and follow the message of the Bible. Today the world is telling the church the same thing. Some people think the church needs a cosmetician while others feel it needs a surgeon.

The word *"integrity"* means according to the Oxford English Dictionary *"wholeness, entireness, or completeness."* It comes from the root word that means *"untouched, intact, entire."* A person who has integrity is not divided or putting on a face. Those who walk in integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear and do not need to masquerade themselves.

"If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth."

1 John 1:6

God is in the **reconstruction stage** of His church. The work site is a little messy and cluttered with scaffolding that will soon disappear and give the viewer a full look at the completed building. We are still in the stage of major changes so don't be alarmed.

"When small men cast long shadows, it's a sign the sun is setting."

Like in the days of Nehemiah we must battle with swords in hand at the same time as we build a wall to protect God's Temple. **We must follow the road of repentance, returning and rejoicing.**

IV. HEALING AND RESTORATION

If we use a worldly means we will build a worldly church which will never experience the ultimate blessing of God. We can go a long way in the flesh, but remember that all these things will be burnt up at the time of judgement. God wishes to bring His church into a true time of healing and restoration.

IV. HEALING AND RESTORATION (Contd.)

"Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?"

Jeremiah 8:22

There has been enough hurting in the house of God.

"If someone asks him, 'What are these wounds on your body?' he will answer, 'The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.'"

Zechariah 13:6

We must be willing to help those of our church body who have been wounded in battle.
Failure does not have to mean ultimate defeat.

*** I've heard that a broken bone heals in such a manner that it is actually stronger than it was before the break.

If our natural body can recover in this manner just imagine how extensive the healing and restoration of our spiritual bodies can become. ***

Lets allow the process of revival to continue through those who are willing to become a correct finishing tool in God's hand. Not a tool to fashion others but a tool to be fashioned for God's purpose.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2019\Revival\Exodus 20_24.26.wpd

Date: Nov 24 & Dec 1/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Pm

Song: When I Look into your Holiness - G

A FINISHING TOOL IN GOD'S HAND

Text: Exodus 20:24-26

Key Word: Tool

Key Thought: Lets Become a Tool Fashioned by God for His Purposes

INTRODUCTION: The first word is "*chereb*" which finds its root in the Hebrew word "*charab*" which means "*to parch (through drought); also to desolate, destroy, kill.*" The second word is "*keli*" which carries with it the idea that it can be used "*to bring a process to completion.*"

Exodus 20:24-26; Exodus 32:1,3,4; Deuteronomy 27:5; I Kings 6:7

There Are at Least 4 Results of Becoming a Tool That Is Fashioned by God and Not One That Foolishly Believes We Can Fashion Others.

I. PURITY OF LIFE - *Matthew 5:8; II Corinthians 6:4,6,7; Titus 1:15,16*

II. HOLINESS OF CHARACTER - *I Peter 2:5*

III. INTEGRITY - BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

The word "*integrity*" means according to the Oxford English *Dictionary* "*wholeness, entireness, or completeness.*" It comes from the root word that means "*untouched, intact, entire.*"

I John 1:6

IV. HEALING AND RESTORATION - *Jeremiah 8:22; Zechariah 13:6*