

this fine row of teeth?—sawed them into the proper lengths.”

The hammer, of course, was offended at both their remarks and fairly shouted, “Shame on you both! How far would you have gotten without me? You would have left a pile of boards, had not I, with my straight, heavy blows nailed each board into its proper place. The truth of the matter is that the whole structure was practically built by me!”

It wasn’t long until the square, the chisel, the level and half a dozen other tools were in on the argument and the whole thing seems to have ended up with everybody concerned feeling pretty hurt.

Of course it is only a story which human beings tell about tools, for the interesting part of it is that carpenters’ tools never stoop to such foolish boasting—while human beings do!

That is one reason why God will not allow anyone ever to get to heaven by works.

See what He says in His Word:

*“For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Eph. 2:8,9).

That is important. You cannot pay God anything or do anything for Him to gain entrance into heaven. You must realize that He is too great and you too small—He too holy and you too sinful—for you to do anything for Him to buy your way into heaven.

He wants to do something for you. In fact He has already done something for you—He loved you and gave Christ to die for your sins—and now He asks you to receive eternal life as a gift.

He says, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us”* (Titus 3:5).

*“For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23).

No. God will have no boasters in heaven. He won’t allow it; it only makes for unhappiness and hard feelings and heaven would not be heaven if He allowed one boaster there. That’s why you can’t get to heaven by works.

In fact He says, *“To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness”* (Rom. 4:5).

Aren't you glad about it! God certainly knows better than we. He knows that proud people are never happy. They always think they're not getting a square deal and ought to have more coming. Only humble people are glad.

That's why we read that "David also describeth the *blessedness* of the man to whom the Lord imputeth *righteousness without works*" (Rom. 4:6).

That's why the Psalmist says, "Thou, Lord, hast made me *glad* through *Thy work*" (Psa. 92:4).

That's why he says, "The *humble* shall hear thereof and be *glad*" (Psa. 34:2).

Which would you rather be, *proud* or *glad*? Well, then, trust Christ as your Savior and accept salvation as the gift of God.

—C. R. Stam

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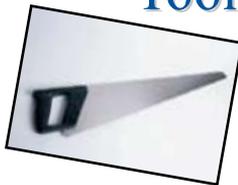
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## The Quarrel in the Tool Shed



Have you heard the story of the quarrel that took place in a tool shed one evening after the building of a beautiful new home?

It began when one of the tools, a plane, remarked how nicely the woodwork had been finished, and practically claimed to have built the whole house.

"Why!" exclaimed the saw, "You couldn't even begin to plane that wood until I had finished my work! All the boards were wrong lengths until I with my sharp teeth—see