



“What became of Noah’s Carpenters?”



AGENTLEMAN engaged in a work of benevolence had found that the work was *too heavy* for him, and he had invited a young friend, Henry, to aid him. Together they had spent many a weary day in the work. Hitherto, not a word had been addressed to the obliging youth about his soul. The fitting occasion seemed to have arrived.

“Henry,” asked he “do you know what became of Noah’s Carpenters?”

“Noah’s carpenters, sir!” exclaimed Henry; “I didn’t know that Noah had any carpenters.”

“Certainly he must have had help. There must have been many ship-carpenters at work for a long time. What became of them, think you? And you may also tell me, if you will, what you would have done in that dreadful hour, when the storm came in its fury, and Noah’s prophecies were all fulfilled, and all but the family of the preacher of righteousness were ready to be engulfed in those black waters.”

“I don’t know,” said Henry, “perhaps I should have got on the rudder.”

“That is human nature exactly, Henry. It would ‘climb up some other way,’ rather than enter the fold by the only door.

“But I’ll tell you plainly what I mean, Henry, by Noah’s carpenters. You have given me your aid day after day, and I feel grateful for your help. But I greatly fear that while others will be rejoicing in the fruits of our labours, you will be swept away in the storm of wrath which will by-and-by beat on the heads of those who enter not the ark of Jesus Christ. No human device will avail for you. ‘Getting on the rudder’ will not answer; you must be in Christ, or you are lost. Remember Noah’s carpenters, and flee to the ark without delay.”

They parted, but that conversation was blessed to the conversion of that young man.

Now, though Noah’s carpenters were all drowned, there are a great many of the same stock now alive.

Sabbath-school children who gather in for the poor, or to aid the work of missions, and yet remain unconverted, are like Noah’s carpenters.

Teachers in Bible-classes and Sabbath schools, who point their pupils to the Lamb of God, but do not lead the way, are like Noah’s carpenters.

Careless parents who instruct their children and servants, in the great doctrines of the Gospel, and seek not a personal interest in the blood of Christ, are like Noah’s carpenters.

Wealthy and liberal, but unconverted men, who help to build churches and sustain the institutions of the Gospel, but who “will not come unto Christ that they may have life,” are like Noah’s carpenters.

Moralists who attend church and support the ministry, but who do not receive into their hearts the Gospel they thus sustain, are like Noah’s carpenters.

Remember “these things ought they to have done.” The danger is, that the great thing will be left undone. “Run, speak to this young man.” Tell him that the storm of wrath will come. Tell him that “getting on the rudder” of the ark, and all other human devices for salvation, are vain refuges of lies. Tell him that the ark is open, that it is safe, that it waits for him. But, if scorned or neglected, when once the door is shut, they only that are in the ark “will remain alive.” Who can abide the storm? Who can buffet those waves? Who will survive that deluge?—*Rev. Dr. Cook.*