

What We Need Most!

by Wayne Goff

As most of you may know, I attended an annual golf tournament in Texas this past week. Golf is a great sport for those who need a heavy dose of humility, or who think they can master anything, or who prefer exercise over therapy. What else would make you get up at 5:00 a.m., leave an air conditioned room for sweltering heat, and spend six hours beating a little white ball with a stick just to have little to show for it at day's end?!

On a more positive note, golfers are known as honorable men who call fouls on themselves, who put integrity above victory, and who learn the rules of etiquette to think more of others than themselves. But none of this is my point.

Every summer you see millions of dollars spent on new golfing equipment — shirts, pants, shoes, caps, bags, clubs, balls, tees, etc. — and yet that is not really what the average golfer really **needs**. Now don't get me wrong. I am not opposed to golfers having nice equipment, and every Spring that "golf equipment fever" hits me like everyone else. In fact, this year I went through my equipment to **make sure** I didn't need something new! When I realized I had everything I needed, I was a bit sad — no excuse for new stuff this year. RATS! But you know what most golfers *really need and rarely purchase*? Golf lessons. That's right. Most golfers could spend valuable money on golf lessons, improve their game, and enjoy the sport more. But instead they will go out and buy a new driver, or a new putter, or a new set of wedges, or new irons. **Why?** Because purchasing lessons requires change, and change is difficult. So golfers keep their old, tired, worn out golf swing and buy something new in the hope that it will fix their golf game. Now this is not the point of this article. It is just the illustration.

The point of the article is that golfers are just like most people. The one thing they really need in life is **change**, and that is *the exact thing* they are most averse to! People do not like change. They don't even like to admit that they do not like change. But it is so true because change makes people feel uncomfortable. Oh now, don't miss the fact that people *love suggesting* that everyone else change! Some even spend much of their time analyzing others rather than themselves (John 7:1-4). It is easier, less painful, and seemingly fruitful. They must think, "Well, I spent the day solving the world's problems. I've identified the things everyone else needs to correct. Whew, what a productive day I've had!" But when you ask them what things they should improve in themselves, they give you a pained look of anger and resentment.

Repentance is the most difficult step in the plan of redemption, and the one most resisted by people. It also happens to be the one each of us needs most. One must repent of his sins in order to be saved initially (Acts 2:38). One must continue to identify weaknesses and sins in his own life as a Christian, and carefully weed them out (2 Cor. 13:5). And one must humbly realize that the very moment that he thinks he can "*stand*" is the time when he might actually "*fall*!" So it's back to paying attention to self.

Dear readers, summer vacation time is quickly coming to a close. It's getting near the time when we need to get ready to go back to work, go back to school, and go back to being responsible human beings. So "*examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith.*" It's a never-ending process, but sorely needed. Do you have sins that need to be repented of and forgiven? Do you need to replace bad habits with good ones? Do you need to study your Bibles more diligently, attend worship more regularly, etc.? Then **NOW** is the time to get started and make those changes, however painful they may be. Don't wait until it is too late, and don't just buy something *new* to cover up *the need for change*.

Now then, back to my online shopping for a new golf bag, . . . or **something!**

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