

The Most Difficult Test

by Wayne Goff

The most challenging test on the pro golfing circuit concludes today — the 2016 U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. Pro golfers claim that this golf course is **the most difficult, most challenging course** in the United States! Most relish the opportunity to take on this golf course because it will test their mettle in every way — *mentally, physically, emotionally, and tactically*. As a golf spectator, I generally do not like to watch the U.S. Open. The hosting course is usually set up in an extremely difficult way, and it becomes rather absurd to watch. Last year's Open was won by Jordan Spieth at Chambers' Bay Golf Course in the state of Washington. The layout and especially the rough greens were soundly criticized by everyone!

However, that got me to thinking about why we **never** hear of such things in the spiritual realm? Have you ever heard someone say, "That was the most difficult sermon I've ever heard, and I sure hope to listen to it over and over again"? Or, "That Bible class teacher is one of the most stringent, challenging teachers I've ever had — I think I'll sign up for another one of his classes!" Or better yet, "I'm looking for a church that has longer services. Three hours on Sunday is just not enough for me and my family"?

Now don't get me wrong. You are not reading from a bitter, defeated preacher. Regularly some brethren here commend my sermon, and tell me that even though the lesson might have been a bit long, the subject matter made it worthwhile. Some have even said that I could have kept going! And my father told me as a young preacher: "Son, a sermon ought to be as long as it is deep!" So I don't prepare my sermon to be long or short. I prepare it to be biblical, applicable, and complete.

Still yet, all of us might take a more serious look at ourselves spiritually (2 Cor. 13:5). How much do we love God and meditating on His Word? How long does the last sermon stick in our minds and challenge us to improve? How well do we study our Bible class

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