

## Missing Heaven?

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by Wayne Goff

Fuzzy Zoeller, pro golfer and sometimes comedian, made the following statement:

*"I've never been to heaven and, thinkin' back on my life, I probably won't get a chance to go. I guess the Masters is as close as I'm going to get."*

First of all, Mr. Zoeller, none of us are going to make it to heaven on our own merit. It's not about *deserving* to go. It's about *forgiveness*. God can forgive us of any and all sins so long as we are willing to repent of them.

The apostle Paul clearly stated in Romans 4 that our great spiritual father, Abraham, "**believed** God, and it is accounted to him for righteousness" (4:3). "*Belief*" in this passage is obedient trust in God (see Hebrews 11:8-10). None of us can expect to do better than Abraham, and so the apostle Paul went on to explain: "*Now to him who **works**, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does **not work** but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness*" (4:4-5). "*Works*" in this passage is earning one's salvation. None of us can earn salvation, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). But if we "trust and obey" then we can be saved from all our sins, our past, and our shortcomings.

Mr. Zoeller, with all due respect as a lover of golf myself, **The Masters**, as great a paradise on earth as it is, cannot compare to the glories of heaven! Rather than focusing on missing out on heaven, I would be concerned about where I'd be going if I didn't make it to heaven!

The sad truth for many human beings though, is that they do not *want* to go to heaven. They would rather enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season than to sacrifice this world's sinfulness for an eternity of righteous existence. "*Repentance*" to them is a dirty word. A change in lifestyle is easy once one is truly convicted of its necessity. The human mind has the ability and capacity to make great change if there is first a willingness to serve God.

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