

Spiritual Lessons from Golf {concluded}

by Wayne Goff

never scored “par” for eighteen holes! I’m not a real good golfer, but I do enjoy it. But some golfers become **so angry** at their poor play, that they storm off the golf course and never finish! A few have become so angry that they have thrown their clubs, bag, and balls in a lake or pond on the course and never returned! I have introduced the game of golf to a number of people, and I always tell them after the first trip out, “If you can play this game, and walk away never to play it again and still be happy, then please do!” In other words, golf is the most difficult game I’ve ever played, and I do not recommend it for the faint of heart!

So why play golf? It is a challenge. It is a competitive sport I can still play at my age. It is mental therapy for me because I can think of nothing but golf while I play. I hate to have something beat me, so I keep trying to play a round of golf even par. I love to finish what I start. I love sports in general. All that being said, golfers are a breed of people who confess to being a little “touched in the head”!

On the other hand, golf and all other sports require a good deal of mental and physical discipline. I recommend *athletic activity* of some kind for all people who can do it. You learn more about yourself doing these things, and in doing so, you can stop doing what is wrong and start doing what is right. Sports have a way of humbling the participants! Change (repentance) is a part of any game!

Was the apostle Paul a golfer? After all, he said in 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV), “...I have finished the course...”! No, golf wasn’t even invented for another fourteen centuries after Paul died for the cause of Christ. But Paul **did** finish his course, he **did** finish his race, and his inspired advice to you and me is to **“finish your course”!** “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and **not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing**” (2 Tim. 4:8). Learn to love the Lord more than you love anything else — especially golf!

You and I may never play “par” golf, but you and I can “finish the course” laid out for us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8-10), receive the prize! May God help you see the need to do just that!

Golf	Condition	Life before God
Par	Having met the standard set for a hole or course	Sinless, none are “par” for the course of life, Romans 3:23
Bogey	One over — missed the mark	Sin, falling short of the standard to be in fellowship with God, Isaiah 59:1-2
Birdie	One under — better than perfect	No one is greater than God, 1 John 3:20
Champion	The victor in any endeavor	Eternal life is only obtainable as a “gift” from God, Romans 6:23

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