

It's Easier Not To

by Wayne Goff

Well, it's confession time for me, so sit back, relax, and watch as I point the finger toward myself.

I began to play golf when I was sixteen years old in Conway, Arkansas. My Dad brought home a set of right-handed golf clubs from his preaching buddy, Paul Lusby, in Amarillo, Texas. Being a sports fiend, I took off to the local country club and began playing the game. I was terrible. I should have taken lessons. But back in the "dark ages" of the late 60's, I didn't have the money to spend on lessons and I didn't know from whom to take them. I enjoyed playing, and I should have taken lessons, **but it's easier not to.**

Today I have come a long way in my golfing. I play my natural left-handed side now, and am self-taught, having taken a few "tips" along the way, having *watched carefully* the televised golf tournaments when I was younger, and having actually read a few magazine articles and golf books. I should still have taken lessons, **but it's easier not to.**

My father quit playing golf back in the early seventies. He just didn't like golf as much as he liked hunting for quail, fishing for freshwater fish, and occasionally hunting deer. He and I did golf a few times now and then, but I realize now that it was just so we could be together. He didn't like golf so much, but he did like me. From time to time, he still asks about my golf game. In fact, the last time I was back in Russellville visiting, it dawned on my father to ask me this question: "**Are you any good at golf?**" I was taken back a bit. He had never quite put it that way. And what was I supposed to say? "Good at golf?" – You mean like Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Tom Watson, and Jack Nicklaus? No, I'm nothing like that. Those gentlemen are professionals, and they can make over a million dollars in one week's tournament! But I'm not a "duffer" either. (In golfing circles, a "duffer" is someone who is incompetent. He can take 135 strokes in one round of golf!) I guess I'd like to say that I'm slightly better than average, and my typical better scores are in the low 80's, where "par" is 72. I think I could be better if I took some lessons and practiced once in awhile, **but it's easier not to.**

Some Christians are like that. They could be better Bible students, **but it's easier not to.** (Oops! I forgot that I was supposed to be pointing the finger at me!)

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