

The Masters

by Wayne Goff

In 1934, the Augusta National Golf Club conducted its first tournament. Bobby Jones, the renowned golfer and co-architect of the golf course, played in that tournament. Eighty-four years later, the Masters is considered one of the four “majors” in golf, and the only one of the four majors to be conducted at the same course every year.

Today, with its well-manicured layout, beautiful azaleas, famously-designed course, and years of amazing history, the Masters is at its zenith. Its wealthy membership maintains the course with meticulous care. If you never cared to see a golf shot, it would still be well worth your time to walk the golf course, or watch it on TV. It is simply beautiful. And it is a dream come true for me to be able to go to this tournament and walk it one time in my life. It is indeed a “bucket list” opportunity. Lord willing, by the time you read this, I will have had a day to remember at Augusta, Georgia.

But unlike many professional golfers who seem to worship the game, I know my priorities. Golf is not on the top of my list. **“The Master”** is the Lord Jesus Christ, and without Him life would not be worth living! Jesus is frequently called **“Master”** (*epistatēs*), which means “chief, commander, master.” The disciples called Jesus by this name when giving Him the utmost respect, or when they needed Him most. Perhaps the most memorable occasion was when the disciples were in a terrible storm on the sea of Galilee, and thought they were perishing (Lk. 8:24). But when Jesus calmed the wind and the raging sea with His word, the disciples were amazed and humbled. Jesus is truly Master of heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18).

It is good to remember The Master’s word in Matthew 6:24, *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* What a privilege to attend The Masters — but what a privilege an honor to be a child of **The Master**! He is Lord of all lords; King of all kings!

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