



# Links Players

## 4 WHO AM I?: RESURRECTED WITH CHRIST

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4, NIV)*

AS A GUEST ON A COURSE I'D NEVER PLAYED BEFORE, I was already at a disadvantage. It wasn't the match I cared about, as it was only the kinda-sorta-keeping-track variety of play. But I like to know what a golf course is throwing at me, and you can't always tell the first time around.

Add to this first challenge the fact that my host was prepping for a competition and needed to play from all the way back. I don't have the clubhead speed to stand on 7,000-yard tees anymore, but I also don't carry much of a golf ego these days either, so I'm fine at the tips if I don't have a bunch of forced carries. This course was gentle enough in that way.

So where did this leave me? With modified expectations. If I missed a drive on a longer par-4, I figured I'd play the hole like a par-5 and try to wedge my way to par. That's OK every once in a while. It allows me to work on another part of my game. But you know the truth: pars and birdies are a lot more fun.

We live in a time when it is not uncommon to hear people say they will be satisfied with death. They have a bury-me-in-the-ground-and-that's-it view of dying. This philosophy says, "Live your life as best you can, as long as you can, and take death when it comes," then asks, "What more can we expect from our days on earth?"

Well, as those who know Jesus, we can answer, "A lot more!"

When the apostles looked back on the fullness of Christ, they could never separate his death from his resurrection. Yes, his death was necessary to provide atonement for our sin. But death is the enemy, the consequential result of Adam's fall, the wages of sin. In God's perfect design, it was never meant to be the end result of a life on earth. So just as with sin, Christ came to defeat it. In fact, what good would the atonement of sin be without a release from its dreadful result?

Some golfers play the back tees to "see the whole course." When we step back to see the complete identity we are given in Jesus, we must not forget that we are resurrected with him. We're not moving lifelessly toward death; we are living newly and abundantly by his power. What a hopeful expectation that is!

**Opening questions** What challenges, if any, cause you to modify your expectations on the golf course? Does it pain you or help you to make such concessions?

**READING** 1 Corinthians 15:12-22 and 15:42-44; Romans 6:8-14

**Futility and vitality (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)**  
How did Paul argue for the importance of Christ's resurrection? How important is it to you? What do you think Paul meant in writing "in Christ all will be made alive"?

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**All new (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)**  
How will our fully resurrected bodies be different from the bodies we have now? Do you recognize a difference that could be described as "life" for those on a Christ-given course toward eternity?

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**A resurrected life (Romans 6)**  
What does living as one made alive in Christ look like?

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Written by Jeff Hopper ©2019 Links Players International. An introductory video for this study is available here: <https://youtu.be/Dz38yOwdCkE>.