



Links Players

RELATING TO GOD 8: THOSE WHO PRAISE GOD

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. (Psalm 105:1, NIV)

DOES ANYONE READ A NEWSPAPER ANYMORE? I’m thinking of those days when we would say that an athlete “made headlines.” The bigger the headline, the bigger the achievement—or at least the bigger the event. In your local newspaper, golfers didn’t often get those big headlines, which were reserved for the exploits of the local university squads, win or lose, or for the big games in the NFL or the NBA. Golf’s headlines almost always came with the majors.

But even without headlines these days, we know that some golfers get top billing. On Golf Channel or ESPN, they are the lead story. When Tiger Woods wins, it’s going to get a lot of media play. Why? Because so many eyes are on the 15-time major champion.

While new media channels have made the Tiger Woods phenomenon more than what we might have seen in the past, golf audiences have always had their favorites: Bobby, Arnie, Jack, Nancy, Annika. All of these have garnered praises “above and beyond.” And in their midst, much credit has been given to others as well, like Player, Trevino, King, Irwin, Floyd, and Norman. I can’t name them all, you know, so forgive me if your favorite is missing. But by now you understand the principle: We look out for those we love. We want to see them succeed. And when they do, we celebrate and praise them.

Well, here’s a bit of news that your local paper consistently seemed to miss: God always succeeds. He is the one worthy of our worship and praise. And there is never a time when this is not so.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God declared, “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.” (Isaiah 42:8). As the great I AM, eternally existent and eternally reigning, God has no rivals. Tiger vs. the field might have been a bet you had to think about; God vs. the field is no contest.

And so one of our recurring activities as those who believe and love God is to be those who praise God. We look at who he is and we proclaim it to the world. We observe what he has done and we proclaim it to the world. Like the crowds who cheer the golfer who makes the winning putt, we praise God. But we can do this every day of the week, from the practice rounds right through Sunday’s victory!

Opening questions Do you have memories of sports headlines in the papers when you were growing up? Which athletes did you love to see there most often?

READING Hebrews 13:15-16; Psalm 100

Praising God with our words and lives (Hebrews 13)

According to this passage, how frequently should we be praising God? What do you think a “sacrifice of praise” entails?

What other kinds of sacrifice are recognized here? How do these demonstrate our praise of God, too?

Lively praise (Psalm 100)

What is the tone of this psalm? Even in these few lines, what specific reasons do we find for praising God?

What items of praise from your own life would you add to this psalm today?

Written by Jeff Hopper ©2020 Links Players International. An introductory video for this study is available here: <https://youtu.be/zL44CiCMsxI>