



Links Players

Proverbs - Lizards & Open Doors

...the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces. (Proverbs 30:28, ESV)

...pray also for us, that God may **open to us a door** for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison. (Colossians 4:3, ESV)

One thing we can say with authority about golf is that it enjoys some privileges of exclusivity. For instance, have you ever been inside the Champion's Locker Room at the Augusta National Golf Club? Unless you are one of the few who have won The Masters, I doubt it. Gaining access to this room is an earned privilege; a privilege as special as it is rare.

Another thing we can say about golf is this: Golfers play a sport on the most beautiful "stadiums" imaginable. With all due respect to Lambeau Field and AT&T Stadium, they just cannot compete with Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pine Valley G.C. or Cypress Point Club.

Golf is truly a beautiful game played on majestic sites adorned by magnificent clubhouses. I hardly know where to begin when thinking about the amazing architecture associated with certain clubhouses.

All this to say, many of the world's greatest golf courses and accompanying clubhouses are not accessible to the masses, though guests of members are cordially welcomed.

But then, there is the "lizard." If I had to bet, my hunch is that an occasional lizard has found his way into the Champions Locker Room at Augusta National. Clearly, he didn't win the Masters, but he is in there, nevertheless.

Like the lizard, most golfers don't require cultural status to tee it up with a person of notoriety. A love for the game, a modicum of skills, and some social awareness usually opens the door to play with others who one would not normally meet.

Agur, the writer of this proverb, and Paul knew something that we all too often overlook—God opens doors no one can shut, and he closes doors no one can open (Isaiah 22:22).

A lizard ends up in a king's palace. Doors are opened for Paul. If our Sovereign King wants to start a Links Fellowship, no door is locked. Remember, Jesus walked on water and through walls.

Links Players, by the favor of God, finds itself uniquely positioned in clubs across America with the privilege of telling others about Jesus Christ and the salvation he offers. Would you prayerfully consider asking the Lord if he wants you to start one at your club?

Prayer – Jesus, should I start a new Links Fellowship at my club?

READING - Colossians 4:2-6; Revelation 3:7-8; Proverbs 30:28.

OPENING QUESTIONS: What course or courses have you yet to play that seem closed to you?

1. In Colossians 4:2-6, Paul addresses the church with requests and admonitions. What is Paul asking for and why? There are many rich issues embedded in these few verses. Linger and discuss the relevance of each to our day and time.

2. In Revelation 3:7-8, John is addressing the church at Philadelphia. What does Jesus say about himself? What does he say about them? What has he done for them? How do all these things encourage us in our desires to bring kingdom influence?

3. What can we learn from the lizard? See Proverbs 30:28.
