



Links Players

The Wider Story

*All Jesus did that day was tell stories, a long storytelling afternoon.
(Matthew 13:34, MSG)*

Golf historians generally agree that Scotland is the birthplace of our beloved sport. The historical records indicate that the word “golf” first appeared in the 15th century. During the reign of James II, an act of the Scots Parliament of March 6, 1457, mentions it twice.

In 2001, Arthur Herman released his book, provocatively entitled: How the Scots Invented the Modern World. His book endeavors to give a sweeping account of Scotland’s formative, cultural impact on Western nations.

Surprisingly, he fails to mention the impact of Scottish golf on the formation of the modern world. Overlooking golf’s impact on the wider world outside Scotland might be forgivable, but, in his bias against Christianity, he also fails to mention a Scottish hero: James Orr.

While historical records don’t give any indication that Orr played golf, he did pioneer a world-impacting apologetic (a reasoned defense of the Christian faith). Orr is considered by many as the founder of Worldview Apologetics.

Orr reasoned that it makes little to no sense to argue for the atoning work of Christ on the cross and his bodily resurrection if the worldview of the listener(s) denies God’s existence, doubts the creation narrative, denies mankind’s culpability, and refuses to accept the story of a supernatural world.

In other words, the cross and resurrection only makes sense in the wider story of a Christian Worldview. So, what is that “wider story,” and why is it so important to recover it in the tumultuous early years of the 21st Century?

Long before the biblical story arrives at the cross of Christ, we learn the creation narrative: God created humanity for the two-fold purpose of relating to him in adoring worship and ruling the world under his authority.

We also learn from The Fall that something has gone terribly wrong. Humanity has revolted against its Creator. Instead, we attempt to create a world without his oversight and apart from his wise commands. Therefore, Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection is a part of the larger story of redemption.

James Orr observes: He with his whole heart believes in Jesus as the Son of God is thereby committed to much else besides. He is committed to a view of God, to a view of man, to a view of sin, to a view of redemption, to a view of the purpose of God in creation and history, to a view of human destiny, found only in Christianity. This forms...a Christian World and Life View which stands in a marked contrast with theories wrought from a purely philosophical or scientific standpoint.

Let’s remember to tell the whole story that makes sense of life!

Prayer – Jesus, empower us to tell the true story of the world in compelling ways.

READING - Luke 24: 13-27; Luke 24: 44-49; Acts 7 (optional).

OPENING QUESTIONS: When telling friends of a well-executed shot, we mention the hole, we mention the club choice, we mention the competition. We give them a story, not an isolated fragment.

1. Luke 24:13-27. When Jesus sought to explain his identity and purpose, what method did he employ? In short, what does it mean when he interprets “Moses and all the prophets?”

2. Luke 24: 44-49. Further, when Jesus continues to explain his identity and purpose to the disciples, what method did he employ? Notice, “the Scriptures” is a reference to the entirety of the Old Testament.

3. Acts 7 (optional-it’s a long chapter). When Stephen chose to give a defense of his faith in Jesus Christ, what does he do?
