



# Links Players

## A Player's Journey - God's Special Treasure

*And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness—secret riches. (Isaiah 45:3)*

A brand-new Titleist ProV1 golf ball is like a “treasure” to me. I never risk putting one into play. It is too valuable. This lost-ball phobia is quite real for me. I can't seem to make a good swing if I fear losing the treasure of a five-dollar golf ball.

Last week I had the agony of losing a brand-new ball- then the thrill of finding that same ball a few holes later when our group got way off the fairway. It felt like a great treasure when it was found.

When my lost ball was now found, I rejoiced and told my partner, “Jesus left the 99 golf balls behind to go looking for the one lost nugget. Surely the angels in heaven rejoice over finding one lost ball.”

The Bible has much to say about Treasures. By definition, a treasure is ‘hidden’. It is valuable because it is rare. The ancient and wise Job tells us all about this hidden treasure in Job 28. He concludes that it is not the rare jewels found deep in the earth but is something unseen- called “True Wisdom”.

And where does the search for this wisdom begin?

“But do people know where to find wisdom?

Where can they find understanding?

No one knows where to find it,

for it is not found among the living....

Then he saw wisdom and evaluated it.

He set it in place and examined it thoroughly.

And this is what he says to all humanity:

‘The fear of the Lord is true wisdom;

to forsake evil is real understanding.’” (Job 28:12-13, 27-28).

‘The fear of the Lord’ is a phrase that offends some people and confuses many. But remember, Job would agree that the fear of the Lord is not the end of the story! But it is the beginning. (Proverbs 1:7).

The love of Jesus Christ is the end of the story, but the beginning is a healthy respect, awe, and ‘fear’ of this Almighty Creator.

Indeed, the end of the story is not our search for God's treasure, but the search of the Almighty for His special treasure. And what is God's special treasure?

Moses starts the conversation in Deuteronomy 26:18, “The Lord has declared today that you are his people, **his own special treasure.**”

So, God Himself has found His special treasure.

**Prayer: Thank you for the special treasure of Jesus Christ's love. And thank you, God, for declaring us to be your special treasure.**

**READING** - Deuteronomy 26:18, Isaiah 45:3, Malachi 3:16-17, I Peter 2:9-10

**OPENING QUESTIONS:**

Do you collect golf memorabilia? If so, what is your most valued item and why?

1. What or who are the Treasures in your life? Friends? Spouse? God Himself?

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2. **Isaiah 45:3** says there is a treasure in the darkness. Have you found this to be true?

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3. Discuss a time when you felt sure that you were a special treasure to God

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