



Links Players

Why Links? - Jesus's Building Project

As you come to him [Jesus], a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2: 5-9, ESV)

The late Pete Dye (12/29/25-1/09/20) is known worldwide for his golf course designs. He, along with his wife, Alice, collaborated to build some of the most extraordinary golf courses in the world.

One author wrote that Pete Dye is known for designing the “world’s most terrifying tee shot, the par-3 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass.” Whatever one might say about his courses, there is no doubt they are among the most creative designs the world of golf has ever known.

Some argue that Dye’s courses are either “loved or hated.” That is, his courses leave little room for ambivalence. In today’s text, Peter argues similarly regarding Jesus Christ. Accordingly, Jesus is either a “rock of offense,” or he is the “cornerstone” upon which we build our lives. One cannot remain neutral about the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection place weighty demands on all of us. As C.S. Lewis argued, Jesus is either “a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord.” Most people know C. S. Lewis as the writer of children’s fiction (e.g., The Chronicles of Narnia). Perhaps, many are unaware that Lewis, a former atheist, was also a no-nonsense logician. The logic of his trilemma (i.e., “liar, lunatic, or Lord”) is both valid and sound.

As Lewis would argue, either Jesus knew his claims were bogus and thus he was a “liar.” Or he was self-deceived in believing himself to be God and thus was a “lunatic.” Or he was, in fact, “Lord.” The proverbial “fork-in-the-road” confronts us all—we either believe Jesus is who he said he was, or we deny it.

According to the Apostle Peter, we who come to him [Jesus] in faith are “living stones” (not railroad ties) being built into a spiritual house to “offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. We are also called to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Pete and Alice Dye built some of the most spectacular courses in the world. Golfers will enjoy them for generations to come. Jesus Christ’s building project will extend throughout eternity. Between now and his arrival, we are those called out of darkness into his marvelous light, offering him heart-adoring worship and compelling verbal witness to others that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Links Fellowships exist as “Outposts” of Christ’s kingdom at golf courses throughout America, offering heart-felt worship and viable verbal witness that Christ Jesus died and rose again for our sins according to the Scriptures.

Prayer – Jesus, grant us winsome boldness in telling others about who you are and what you’ve accomplished!

READING - 1 Peter 2: 1-12; Matthew 16: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

OPENING QUESTIONS: Who are your favorite golf course architects? What courses do you love, and why do you love them?

1. According to Peter, Jesus is either the “rock of offense,” or he is the “cornerstone.” Is there a third option? Discuss why or why not.

2. Peter uses metaphors in verses 1-12 to teach us about our lives. What are the four significant metaphors, and what do they tell us about his mission in our lives?

3. In **1st Corinthians 3: 9-15**, Paul has some important things to say about who we are as the people of God. What metaphors does he use? How are we to build? Discuss.
