



# Links Players

## Advent Fridays, 2023 - Peace

*...let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:15-17, ESV)*

To say the world of golf is “fractured” would be a gross understatement. Virtually every day, we are confronted with headlines of yet another tirade of one golfer attacking another golfer.

The grammar alone is telling: Billy “slams” Bobby; Johnny “smashes” Jimmy; Frank “bashes” Tom; on and on it goes. Sadly, peace is in short supply.

This fracturing is obviously not confined to the game of golf. Choose fidelity to any biblical issue, and you will be in an ideological war. Are we surprised? If we are, we are woefully unaware of the church’s history.

Looking at the relationship between Christians and culture throughout the last two thousand years, we quickly discover the church is attacked for its faithfulness to Christ’s commands. Please tell me we haven’t forgotten Nero and others who persecuted Christians in their stand for righteousness.

Choose pro-life; you have irreconcilable differences. Choose to stand for biblical marriage; there is no neutrality! Choose to remain faithful to the biblical view of sexuality; peace evaporates. Choose to respect our Cultural Christian heritage; you’ll find yourself in a collective war for the soul and future of America!

Please don’t misunderstand; Christians never have the liberty of acting unbecomingly toward those who despise biblical ethics. We are, at Christ’s command, to love our enemies. Remember, Christ’s willing sacrifice of himself at the hands of wicked men was a triumph. We win when we counter hate with love. We win when we counter vitriol with gracious responses.

To be clear, these issues mentioned above are not, first and foremost, political issues; they are ethical and cultural issues—that is, a way of being and living in a society.

After all, when we say, “Jesus is Lord,” we are saying, “The Prince of Peace is Lord over all things.” By this, we desire to structure every sphere of life, private and public, on biblical norms: family, economics, science, education, art, sexuality, church, politics, and the sport of kings—the game of golf.

Turning to Scripture, we discover: 1. We have peace with God through Christ (i.e., no longer enemies but friends), 2. We receive the peace of God in our souls by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and 3. We find peace with one another through Spirit-empowered forgiveness.

Additionally, we discover that for America to recover cultural peace, we need what Scotland needed in the 16th century: a revival followed by a Reformation. We need precisely what England and America needed in the late 18th century and received: another Great Awakening.

For that to happen, we must cry out to God to send a revival—an awakening of vast swaths of the American population to repent of sin and follow hard in faith after Christ Jesus in every aspect of life.

Remember, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

**Prayer: God our Father, please visit our beloved nation and world with massive outpourings of your Spirit and bring us on bended knee to the Prince of Peace.**

### READING

Proverbs 14:27-34; Psalm 11:1-3; Proverbs 21:21-22; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6.

1. How do you find peace/calm when over a shot or in competition? Do breathing techniques help? Does closing one’s eyes and picturing a positive outcome help? Discuss.

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2. According to Proverbs 14:34, where does a nation find strength and peace? According to Proverbs 21:21-22, what can we do to advance righteousness in our nation? How does 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 help us understand the word “strongholds?”

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3. Application: Give some consideration where you might address unrighteousness in our nation and then have an impact for kingdom righteousness.

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