



Links Players

Immortality - The Big Swap

...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:50-53, ESV)

There are many reasons why we have the PGA TOUR Champions. I, for one, am a big fan. I still love watching Couples, Els, Padraig, Stricker, and....

Among the many reasons we have this tour for “older” gunslingers is they can no longer compete against the “flat bellies.” Though rare, a few of them occasionally circle back and contend on the PGA Tour or in one of the Majors.

These “greats,” no matter their burning desire to contend at the highest level, eventually must come to grips with their diminishing physical capacities: Driving distance plateaus and falls off, putting abilities falter, and their nerves aren’t what they used to be. Yep! The “Old Grey Mare, she ain’t what she used to be.”

For you that are a “little long in the tooth,” you can readily identify with diminishing physical abilities. Despite your skill level at age twenty-five, you are acutely aware of accelerating attrition. Aging can be a tough reality to face.

As more than a few have sighed, “Growing old ain’t for the faint of heart.” I get a kick out of how often playing partners around my age ask for Advil before we tee off; sometimes, I get hit up again as we make the turn.

Of the many things we should admire about Scripture, one is that it doesn’t “pull any punches.” As Jesus speaks to us through the written word, he holds up the mirror of truth, lovingly confronting us with issues we would rather deny or ignore.

It is rarely, if ever, pleasant to discuss, but We Are Going to Die. Ouch! No way around it! We live between the bookends of birth and death.

How to understand this sad reality is worth probing.

If you believe in Naturalistic Evolution, then death is the last hurdle humanity will overcome. According to this theory, humanity will eventually solve the riddle of death and live forever. Good luck with that!

However, if you trust the only one who has ever come back from the grave in an immortal body, then the answer to aging and eventual death lies in the return of Christ Jesus from heaven to rescue, restore, and remake our mortal bodies with immortal ones fitted to live forever in a completely renewed cosmos where the “curse” has been abolished. Personally, I am “betting” on Jesus!

You might ask, “How does one get in on this?” The answer is as simple as it is profound—Give your life to Jesus Christ through trust and repentance. How would you know that you had genuinely made this move? Among other things, you will discover new desires and the power to obey his commands.

Prayer: Maranatha- Come, Lord Jesus!

READING: 1 Corinthians 15: 35-58.

1. How have you noticed diminishing skills in your game? What disturbs you the most: the loss of distance, shaking hands, yips, and lack of rotation. How have you managed this reality?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15: 35-58. Notice Paul’s unwavering confidence in a Christian’s future precisely because of Jesus’ bodily resurrection. Pause for some transparency—Discuss how you are dealing with aging and death.

3. Application: How might the glorious truth of immortality be used to start or continue a conversation with others who don’t know Christ Jesus?
