



# Links Players

## Humility - National Humility

*Righteousness [moral and spiritual integrity and virtuous character] exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. (Proverbs 14:34, Amplified Bible)*

Last week, I was privileged to teach at a Links Fellowship. One of the men told a funny story about playing at Royal County Down. Early in the round, he flared his shot into the gorse. He turned to his caddie and asked, "Can we find it?" The caddie responded, "If you had bacon tied around it, Lassie couldn't find it."

Later that day, I played with these men at a historic course. On number one, my nine iron left me buried under the lip of the bunker; beginning with a double was no fun. I scrambled to save par on two. From there, it was all downhill. Externally, I behaved appropriately. But internally, I was "licking my wounds."

Back home the next day, I was with my grandson on the putting green, and a gentleman I greatly respect asked me, "Who wrote last Friday's devotional?" With thinly veiled hubris and expecting adulation, I answered, "I did!" He smiled and said, "What do you know of humility?" Busted!

Sixteen hundred years ago, Augustine wrote The City of God. As he defended Christians against pagan accusations for the sack of Rome, he spelled out the human condition with the metaphor of "two cities"—The City of Man consists of men and women who love themselves. In contrast, the City of God consists of men and women who, by grace, love God. Essentially, pride is the inordinate love of self.

When we ponder our hearts, we quickly discover that we are a "mess." C. S. Lewis observes, "...the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride... Pride leads to every other vice...it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began."

The USA has enjoyed incalculable blessings for centuries. Yet, like the Babylonian, Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires, America is headed for the dustbin of history unless we humble ourselves and the Lord of

history has mercy on our nation.

By nature, I am an incurable optimist! Eschatologically (the study of last things), I am committed to the worldwide advance of Christ's kingdom by Spirit-empowered gospel proclamation before the Second Coming of Christ. And I am a patriot. I, like you, love our nation.

Yet, it doesn't take a genius to realize our nation is in severe moral decline. Let's humble ourselves before the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and petition heaven for his mercy and another Great Awakening.

Scholars have long predicted that our nation would collapse from within rather than from without. Let's prove them wrong by asking the Father to visit our country with a coast-to-coast revival of righteousness.

**Prayer: God! Have mercy!**

**READING:** Proverbs 14:34; Proverbs 16:18; Job 12: 23-25; Luke 24:44-49.

1. Recall and discuss a time when "pride went before the fall" on the course. For example, you made a string of birdies and were flying high only to finish with a double, then a triple.

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2. Discuss among yourselves the current moral condition of our culture and then discuss what needs to happen to see America return to God. This is not to be confused with political rancor. This should be a discussion about the broader culture.

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3. Application: What role can we play in hopes of a revival in America?

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