



# Links Players

## ROI: Risk-Reward

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)*

The language of “risk-reward” is a customary part of golf vernacular. The process of “risk-reward” decision-making figures prominently in every round.

We invariably face decisions throughout the course of play: Do I pitch it or chip it? Do I carry it to the flag or land it in front of the green? Do I lay up or go for it? In every case, there is “risk-reward.”

Standing on the tee box of a tree-lined hole with our minds racing through all the options can lead to indecision or resolve. Do I play this right to left or left to right; do I play three-metal or driver?

Finding yourself behind a tree 160 yards out begs the question: Do I go under the limbs, or can I flight my ball that high? Without question, there are endless factors that go into the final decision.

Am I in good form today? Do I have this shot in my repertoire? Do I have the chutzpah to pull it off? Have I rarely pulled this shot off, or am I eight-out-of-ten-lifetime on executing it flawlessly?

From a purely human perspective, life can easily strike a person as a risk-reward gamble. As in golf, so it is in life. We cannot stand on the tee box of life forever caught in the crosshairs of indecision. At some point, you must “pull the trigger.”

Every person must decide about reality: 1) Are humans the accidental outcome of an explosion billions of years ago, imprisoned in an evolutionary process, and trapped in the matrix of an indifferent and impersonal Cosmos? or 2) Are humans the craftsmanship of the personal and perfect Artisan who has created us for his perfect purposes?

There is no neutral ground here. Indecision is not an option. This life, like every round, ends. Deciding on the kind of world you live in cannot be dodged without temporal and eternal consequences.

The famous 17th-century philosopher, mathematician, and polymath Pascal, recognized for many things, including his famous “Wager,” reasons:

“If God exists, believing in God results in infinite rewards, while not believing in God results in eternal consequences. If God does not exist, believing in God results in minor losses, while not believing in God results in minor benefits. It is in a person’s best interest to believe in God.” For Pascal, that was the God who had revealed himself in Christ and Scripture.

Managing our finances is often portrayed as a “risk-reward” venture. As many have said, “We cannot out-give God.” Where we invest our time, talents, and treasures requires prayerful thought. Many Christ-honoring ministries deserve consideration for your year-end or ongoing financial investment.

We ask you to prayerfully consider investing in our Spirit-led efforts to spread the good news “as far as the curse is found.”

**Prayer: Father! Teach and lead us to invest wisely!**

**READING:** James 1:17; Proverbs 3:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

1. Have you ever invested in new equipment in hopes of significant improvement? Did that \$600.00 driver with a Fujikura shaft work? Laugh and cry around some stories!

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2. After reading these texts, what do they teach us about God, his gifts, our responsibilities, and where we are to place our trust?

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3. Application: Much of Scripture addresses the issue of our relationship to money. Privately evaluate where you are in relationship to money.

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