



Links Players

Stories Tales of Transformation

Bill Rogers

...we...with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18, ESV)

What is the most beautiful golf course in the world? The answers are usually as diverse as the number of people asked—clearly, some subjectivity is inevitable.

Ask one golfer this question, and they might say Cypress Point; ask another, and they might mention Old Head in Ireland. By exploring a little further, we quickly discover the answers are usually based on personal experience.

Sometimes, we turn to various golf magazines to define and decide what constitutes beauty. A recent article in a travel magazine listed the “Top 15 Most Beautiful Golf Courses in the World.” Their list included Adare Manor, Augusta National, Bandon Dunes, Old Head, Cypress Point, Coeur d’Alene....

If I asked a friend of mine, he might argue that Pebble Beach is the most beautiful. Of course, he once shot 29 on the front, so it’s no wonder he might think that way.

If we asked Bill Rogers what the most beautiful course in the world is, he might say The Royal St. George’s Golf Club. That’s understandable since he won the 1981 Open there by four shots over Langer and Floyd.

Looking back over our lives, most of us can recall a few moments that drastically changed how we view life. Or more specifically, remember a moment that permanently transformed our lives.

The apostle Paul could definitely say that. Once an enemy of Christ, his life would never be the same after seeing the glory of God in Jesus Christ. In our text, Paul defends the faith he once sought to destroy.

His opponents’ minds were blinded [veiled] to the glory [beauty] of God shining in the face of Christ. Paul demonstrates that when someone turns to the Lord, the veil [blindness] is removed and they are transformed by beholding the beauty of God in the person of Jesus.

There is an old adage that says, “Beauty allures, ugliness repels.” With Paul, we could add, “If the beauty is transcendent, it transforms.”

For some, there have been moments when standing on the tee becomes more than just thinking about which club to hit or noticing the slope of the

fairway or the contours of the green; the beauty of the landscape unexpectedly draws us upward.

In an instant, we are drawn upward and outward to sense the transcendence of something or someone breaking through, revealing that there is more to life than we previously realized.

One of those moments happened for me years ago when I looked out over Puget Sound from a stunningly beautiful golf course. As magnificent as that was, it pales in comparison to what Paul is talking about.

Among the many bold claims in Scripture, none is more provocative than this: Jesus Christ perfectly embodies beauty, and witnessing his beauty [glory] will radically and permanently change the direction of a person’s life.

For all the beauty we behold in Creation, Jesus Christ infinitely eclipses them all! Turn to him and be transformed.

Prayer: Lord, by your Spirit, open our eyes to see your beauty-glory!

READING: Psalm 19:1-6; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 96:6; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

1. What is the most beautiful course in the world, and why do you believe that? Have you ever experienced a transcendent moment on the course?

2. In 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, Paul defends his ministry by comparing the Old Covenant with the New Covenant. List and discuss some ways the New Covenant exceeds the Old.

3. Application: Living a life that is being transformed from “one degree of glory to another” requires beholding the glory of the Lord. Discuss practical ways to do this.
