



Links Players

Advent 2025 | Hope, A Passionate Pursuit

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:1-21, ESV)

Throughout the history of professional golf, there have been fifteen sub-60 rounds—fourteen “59’s,” and one “58” recorded in the PGA Tour’s history books.

According to multiple sources, the head of Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund (PIF) – Yasir Al Rumayyan – stated that if any LIV Golfer ever shot a 54, they would be awarded \$54 million.

When Mr. Hogan said, “The only thing a golfer needs is more daylight,” he was expressing a universally recognized sentiment—striving for excellence is one thing; achieving perfection is another.

I want to make a provocative claim, then defend it: “God demands and expects ‘moral perfection’ from us to be accepted by him.

The idea that moral perfection is the one non-negotiable demand from our Maker for acceptance with him would leave us all on the outside looking in. So, how could anyone make the case that moral perfection is the standard to get inside the ‘pearly gates?’

The Psalmist poetically asks: “Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false [idols] and does not swear deceitfully.” (Psalm 24:3-4) In short, “standing in the Holy Place” demands perfection.

This raises the most serious question of all: If God requires moral perfection and we are incapable of achieving it, where does that leave us? Answer: Either no one gets in, or God must provide the solution without compromising his just standard.

What Paul grasped in his encounter with the resurrected Lord was his need for perfect righteousness that originated outside of himself; he needed a representative to achieve it for him [and us].

He writes, “...For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God

that depends on faith....” (Philippians 3:8-9).

The good news is that what God demands, he provides! He provided his Son as our representative to achieve what we could never achieve on our own—the perfect righteousness of complete obedience to God’s commands.

If that is the case, then what prize is Paul “pressing on” to ‘make his own?’ It is not the righteousness needed to get into the kingdom; that perfect righteousness is given to him and us in exchange for our faith in Jesus Christ. What Paul is striving for in the future is the ultimate perfection of an immortal resurrected body in a recreated world.

What Paul saw for his and our future is a world cleansed of all unrighteousness. What our eyes have not yet seen is a new heaven and a new earth that awaits those who have trusted in Jesus Christ!

In this season of Advent, stir your soul to remember our great hope! Press on!

Prayer: Jesus! Please open our eyes to see what Paul saw!

READING: Psalm 24; Philippians 3:1-21.

1. As we close out 2025, what are your hopes for 2026 about your life on the course?

2. After reading these recommended texts, ponder the amazing gift of perfect righteousness given in exchange for faith in Christ, then ponder our shared future in eternity. Discuss.

3. Application – discuss among yourselves the role ‘hope’ plays in the Christian’s life.
