



Links Players

Christianity As Worldview | Mapping Reality

And because of him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Cor. 1:30-31)

With the advent of technological gadgets, printed yardage books, like persimmon drivers, are beginning to look antiquated. What was once a collector's item is almost a thing of the past.

With the ever-present reality of GPS systems, rangefinders, and watch apps, printed "maps" with hole layouts, yardages, bunker locations, lakes, creeks, and other relevant information are becoming obsolete.

We have not undertaken any wide-scale empirical research project, so we can safely assume there are still more than a few prestigious courses with printed versions for purchase.

Whether the course's layout is in a handsome book with all the pertinent data printed on beautiful card stock or presented on a screen in your cart, phone, or watch, we all need a "map" of the course in front of us.

Tour Players, of course, have their caddies arrive early, walk the course, step off yardages, and make copious notes to get the necessary intel needed to maximize their advantage. For the best of the best, yardage books are essential.

Whatever mode is employed, a map, whether on a screen or on the printed page, is a fundamentally important part of the game. You might counter by saying, "Well, I have played this course for 40 years. Who needs a map?"

Right! You do not need a map of your home course or any course you play regularly because you have a mental map of those courses etched into your brain.

You can visualize every nook and cranny, every sprawling oak and towering pine, and the contours of every green in your sleep—you have a map even if we cannot see it.

Imagine a scenario in which two players in the county have contended for the status of "best player" over many years. The Golf committee decides to settle the debate by inviting both men to play a winner-take-all competition.

One player argues that yardage books are essential; the other player suggests "playing by feel" is the best way to conquer a course.

The second player wrongly assumes they were going head-to-head on a familiar course. Turns out, they are playing a course neither had ever seen. The player with the map (yardage book) will more than likely win.

Flying blind on an unfamiliar course without a yardage book makes play unnecessarily difficult. For goodness' sake, go to your hip and buy a rangefinder or one of those hand-stitched collector's items.

Infinitely more unnecessary and eternally dangerous is flying blind through life without the ultimate "map," the Bible. The next time you stay in a Marriott, open that bedside table drawer and read the ultimate "yardage book," the map (Scripture) designed to navigate us through the toughest course of all— LIFE.

Better yet, download a Bible app onto your phone, iPad, or laptop. Whatever version of Scripture you choose—printed or virtual— having the "course design" of life with all its hazards in plain view is the only way to go about your life.

Trying to navigate life "by feel" — educated guesses, emotions, hearsay, cultural instinct, or intuition— or any approach other than what the Designer intended is like being handed the wrong yardage book on the first tee; it has no wisdom or guidance for the course you are about to play.

Worldviews are like maps! The Christian worldview is the only reliable map for this life and the life to come. Jesus is our Redeemer; he is also our Wisdom. Why would we ever try to navigate life without him?"

Are you playing the course of life with the right yardage book?

Prayer: Jesus! Open our eyes to see the wisdom of God in the pages of Holy Writ!

READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 2; Colossians 2:1-3.

1. Outside your home course or the ones you play regularly, do you use yardage books, range finders, or a watch app? If not, why?

2. Knowing Jesus as your Wisdom is essential for living a life well-lived. Based on these texts, where can wisdom be found? How crucial is the Spirit of Christ in understanding the Bible?

3. Application - Discuss among yourselves the importance of maintaining a disciplined devotional and biblical study life.



LINKSPLAYERS.COM