



LINKS PLAYERS DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Links Players

Trading In the Old for the New

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

When was the last time you took inventory of the clubs you've accumulated over the years? Some private clubs offer a trade-in program that lets you get shop credit for your old irons and woods.

Anyone who plays golf long enough knows the moment: your old clubs just aren't cutting it anymore. The driver has lost its pop, the irons feel unforgiving, and no matter how hard you try, the results stay the same.

Then you get the green light to upgrade — trading in the old set for new clubs designed to perform better. Or maybe it comes through a fitting with a professional club fitter who adjusts the lie, loft, and shaft flex specifically for your swing.

Suddenly there's renewed confidence, fresh energy, and the sense that a better game is possible... at least for a while — or until we mishit a shot and blame the club!

Our spiritual lives can feel the same way.

Are you playing life, carrying around an old "set" — past sins, shame, guilt, regret, and the constant pressure to measure up?

If so, we know we aren't experiencing the peace that passes understanding, yet we keep trying to improve our lives by effort alone: swing harder, try again, fix ourselves. But the more we rely on our own strength, the clearer it becomes that the problem isn't just our performance — it's what we're holding onto.

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus invites us into the greatest trade-in offer ever made. Jesus willingly takes our old and gives us the new. He exchanges our sin, shame, and guilt — and gives us His perfect righteousness in return.

Think about that exchange. Why would we not accept that offer? Simply hand Him what is broken, and He gives us what is perfect. We surrender our failures, and He clothes us in His victory. We turn from our own path toward Him, and He gives us a brand-new right standing before God.

When trading in clubs, you release them — and they aren't yours anymore. They are gone. You don't use them again. You let go of them.

When we come to faith in Jesus, we begin a new life in Christ. We don't grow spiritually by clinging to what Christ has already paid to remove. Yet many believers still drag their old bag around. We replay past mistakes, carry hidden shame, or live as if forgiveness were partial instead of complete.

When Jesus says we are forgiven, He means fully. When He says we are made new, He means entirely (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). The challenge for us is to live from the new identity we've been given — not striving for righteousness but living out the righteousness already received.

Today, picture yourself standing at the counter, old clubs in hand, and hear Jesus say, "I'll take those." Then watch Him place in your hands a new set — grace instead of guilt, freedom instead of shame, righteousness instead of sin.

Don't walk back onto the course carrying what you've already surrendered. Play — do life — with the best equipment given to you by the Master Fitter.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for taking my sin, shame, and guilt and giving me Your righteousness in return. Help me stop picking up what You have already removed and live with the confidence and freedom of someone made new. Amen.

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