



Links Players

QUESTIONS REDUX | HOW WILL WE ESCAPE?

...we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? (Hebrews 2:1-4, ESV)

Anyone who thinks golf is boring has never experienced the creativity, imagination, and skill required to hit a flop shot over a bunker from a tight lie to a foot from the hole, or to curve a ball around a tree from the light rough over a lake to the middle of the green.

For all the excitement that Harry Houdini created for his fans, there was nothing quite like watching Severiano Ballesteros escape from impossible lies.

With a combination of imagination, skill, and courage, Seve escaped situations others would never consider, much less attempt. Watching him was anything but boring.

Jordan Spieth is a kindred spirit when it comes to extricating his ball from a “spot of bother.” Watching Jordan navigate 18 holes has more nerve-wracking moments than any rollercoaster ride.

Golf has always enjoyed a few rare, risk-taking players who defy the odds with their uncanny ability to find their way into—and then out of—trouble.

Bubba Watson’s snap-hooked wedge from out of the woods on the tenth hole at Augusta National to win the 2012 Masters still has people shaking their heads—curving the ball 40 yards around a magnolia tree with a wedge to 15 feet is extraordinary stuff.

No one relishes finding themselves in trouble on a golf course, but most of us would agree that executing a shot to escape danger to make birdie is exhilarating.

Escaping trouble on the golf course is one thing; escaping trouble in life is an entirely different ballgame. Most of us can recall moments when we were up against it and somehow managed to dodge a bullet.

For all our abilities to escape disasters on or off the golf course, there is only one way to escape the future judgment coming from heaven’s high court.

Though it is hardly pleasant to talk about the “day of judgment,” if we are to remain faithful to the whole message of Scripture, we must. Surprisingly to many, what makes the good news so good is that the bad news is really that bad.

The author of Hebrews mentions two messages: first, the message delivered by angels at Mount Sinai, and second, the message preached by Jesus and then the apostles.

The message given to Moses at Sinai is the law of God—a law that every one of us has sadly broken. That is the bad news, and no rescue club in the world can get us out of that jam.

However, the second message is the greatest news ever heralded. It is the news of “a great salvation.” The good news of Jesus Christ, in its simplest form, is this: Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we all deserved.

Which is to say, what God required—“perfect obedience”—Jesus accomplished on behalf of those who believe. Additionally, the judgment we deserve for transgressing the commandments of God, Jesus bore at the cross in the place of believers.

You might say, “Am I to believe that God punished his own innocent Son for my crimes against the throne of heaven?” The answer is a resounding yes. You might respond, “This is too good to be true.” In truth, it is so good that it has to be true.

At this point, the question is, “How do we get in on it?” The answer: Jesus offers forgiveness and eternal life to all who repent of their sin and trust the Savior with their lives.

Turn to Jesus and live.

Prayer: Lord Jesus! Give us greater understanding of your justice that we might value your grace more appropriately!

READING: Hebrews 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-10.

NOTES


