Making an Evaluation

How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out. (Job 36:26)

During any round of golf, it usually doesn't take long for someone in the group to comment on the condition of the greens.

What are some characteristics you might hear about? The type of grass—Bermuda, Poa annua, or something else. The surface—flat or sloping. The condition—in good shape or with rough spots.

Many would argue that the single most important factor in evaluating greens is their speed, and fortunately, we have an instrument to provide that measurement.

The stimpmeter measures 36 inches in length, with a tapered, V-shaped chute for a golf ball to roll down. The standard practice is to lay the stimpmeter on flat ground, place a ball in a notch 30 inches from the tapered end, then slowly raise it until the ball rolls down the chute and across the green.

This is repeated three times, and the average of the three rolls is computed. Then the direction is reversed, with the starting point being the average length of the three previous rolls; this step considers the impact of grain and slope.

The averages from both directions are added together, and the total is divided by two. The resulting number is the speed of the green. Average courses are around nine, but major championships run much faster, often reaching as high as thirteen to fifteen.

If you are on a course with that kind of speed and have a downhill putt, you'd better try hitting it with your shadow!

Let's move from evaluating greens to attempting to evaluate God. What characteristics should we consider if we are trying to appraise our Creator, God Almighty?

Let's look at what the Bible has to say. We find that God is love (1 John 4:8). God is holy (Isaiah 6:3). God is righteous (Psalm 145:17). God is omnipotent, all-powerful (Jeremiah 32:17). God is omnipresent, in all places and always (Psalm 139:7–8).

God is omniscient, knowing everything (Psalm 147:5). God is immutable, unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God is eternal (Psalm 90:2). And fortunately for us, God is merciful (Exodus 34:6). I could go on, but for brevity, let's stop there.

It is truly astounding to consider that we have a God who created everything and who embodies all the above qualities. And even more amazing is the fact that He created us in His image and that He is a personal God to each one of us.

He is a God who invites us to be part of His family and gives us the privilege of addressing Him as "Father." And He is a God whose love for us is so great that He was willing to sacrifice His one and only Son for us.

How can we evaluate all of this? How can our finite minds comprehend and understand the wonder of it all? We can't. But then again, the point is not trying to comprehensively understand God. The point is to be thankful and to praise and worship Him that he has condescended and revealed himself to us.

Prayer: How great You are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like You, and the wonder of Your majesty is beyond our comprehension. We worship You and praise You for who You are. Amen.

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JD Bown
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