

# LINKS PLAYERS

DAILY DEVOTIONAL FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY FOR DECEMBER 7, 2012

## SLIDING INTO THE TEMPORAL

*I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10, NIV)*

**A**RE YOU WITH ME? That is, are you one of those golfers who from time to time lose all perspective on the golf course?

You don't even have to have a temper. You might just fall into whining—that's more my style. And with every little complaint I find myself sliding into the temporal. I give up what I know to be true overall for what I see to be true right in front of me: My swing stinks. Or I get all the bad breaks. Or I'll probably never make a putt again.

We are exceptional at forgetting all that we have learned about God:

- that "he so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son"
- that his Son Jesus "endured the cross, scorning its shame"
- that when we confess our sins "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"
- that he has gone to prepare a place for us and that he "will come back to take [us] to be with [him]."

Is that so hard to remember?

Consider today's bit of Isaiah 61. I can tell you unequivocally that when I am upset over another in a long line of sloppy bogeys and doubles, I am not for a moment remembering that the great God of all creation and existence has "clothed me in garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness." And that is just plain sad, because I can imagine no more beautiful stamp of God's love personally directed at me.

Maybe what I need, what we all need, is a tangible way of reminding ourselves day by day that our most comfortable place—home, office, course, or club—is simply not our home. Get creative, and institute such a reminder today!

## Opening questions: Important reminders

What are some ways you've taken to reminding yourself of the key appointments in your schedule? Can you use these techniques—or are there others—to allow you to think regularly on the truly important matters of your life?

## The wonderful work of God

*Read Isaiah 61, the first verses of which Jesus applied to himself in the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4). What lines of promise do you see as especially meaningful to you personally?*

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How would being perpetually aware of these lines make a difference in the way you function daily, at work and at play?

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## Our work in return

*Read Psalm 119:11, James 1:22 and 2 Peter 1:3-8. How do these passages ignite you to walk with the Lord in thought and in deed? How might you do this best?*

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