

THREADS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, LESSON 7: ONE GOD?

“Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the one true God; whoever takes an oath in the land will swear by the one true God.” (Isaiah 65:16, NIV)

AT LAST WEEK’S FRYS.COM OPEN, Links Player Derek Ernst was featured in a PGA Tour video making birdie on the thirteenth hole during his second round. The caption introducing the video read: “Derek Ernst plays the par-4 thirteenth hole perfectly from tee to green to card a birdie.” The hole is a dogleg right and course reporter Roger Maltbie spoke just before Ernst started taking his driver back: “Looking for a little left to right here.” But Ernst sent a towering hook up and over the trees on the right, and the ball came down on the left side of the fairway. Shocked, Maltbie exclaimed, “Oh wow!” Ernst went on to hit a short approach to about eight feet and hole the putt for birdie—despite playing the hole in the exact opposite way that Maltbie suggested the hole should be attacked.

So when it comes to golf, just what is perfection? Is it playing the hole as it is designed, or recording a birdie on your scorecard?

In golf, a hundred routes reach the same destination. While some are preferable in the mind of a good player, just about any one of them can produce a positive result.

But can the same be said for the journey to eternity? Is there more than one God who can get us there?

The Scripture is clear in both testaments that the reason God calls us to a singularity in our worship is not because he wants our affections above other gods, but because he alone can deliver what those other gods cannot.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God defined himself as the one true God. “Your blessings and your curses will hold,” he was saying, “because they are affirmed by the one true God, the only one with authority to affirm them.” And because God was speaking, the understanding was this: “I am that one.” If this is true, then all Scripture’s promises are carried on that same authoritative plane. The one true God alone can deliver eternity.

Yes, our culture struggles with this idea. People prefer that the spiritual landscape be like a golf course, with many avenues to the same destination. They want any number of “perfects.” Scripture, though, allows only for one. He alone is the true God. He alone deserves our worship.

Opening questions What is the craziest birdie or par you can ever remember making? How did you overcome a “perfect route” to write down a “perfect score?”

READING 2 Kings 19:9-19; Mark 2:1-12; Romans 16:25-27

Hezekiah’s prayer (2 Kings 19)

What honor did Hezekiah give to God in his prayer? How did this establish the basis for his significant request?

Jesus and the lame man (Mark 2)

What did the teachers say God alone could do? How did Jesus use one key act to prove his ability to do what God alone could do? What did this mean in terms of Jesus’ connection with God?

Paul’s praise (Romans 16)

What did Paul’s last lines to the Romans say about God’s person and work?

Written by Jeff Hopper ©2014 Links Players International. A 5-minute video accompanies today’s study at <http://youtu.be/YueOLunNv5Y>