

ever missed that standard you are disqualified. But God has provided a way for you to be qualified.

God became a man who lived without sinning, but who died for sin as a substitute for those sinners who put their trust in Him. Jesus Christ made the way for us to be qualified for heaven. *[Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.* (1Peter 2:24). *God... made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* (2Corinthians 5:21).

Can you get into heaven by your own goodness? You have a better chance of hitting a thousand consecutive holes in one. There is only one way you can be admitted to heaven. Jesus said it,

I am the way the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6). *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1John 1:9). What are you waiting for?



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Perfect Golf



The object of golf is to move the little white ball down the course and into a hole in the ground in as few strokes as possible. There are eighteen holes. Each hole is different, from about 100 yards to over 500 yards, up-hill or down-hill, straight or dog-legs to the left or right. Any hole may have an assortment of hazards to get around or over on the way to the hole - lakes, sand traps, hills, trees and rocks.

Golfers enjoy the exquisite impossibility of the task. No matter how well we do, we might have done better - or worse. Most of us are happy with some shots and unhappy with others.

What if your life depended on playing a perfect game - eighteen holes in one? Impossible you say? But this is exactly like the task you face if you expect to get into heaven by being good enough to please God.

God is infinite and perfect. In speaking of His goodness, the Bible says, *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.* (1John 1:5). God's perfect goodness and separation from anything evil is called "holiness." If you want to be accepted by God you must measure up to His perfect holiness. God says, *"...be holy; for I am holy."* (Leviticus 11:44). The Bible says, *Pursue ... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:* (Hebrews 12:14).

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Is such perfection possible? Many people have hit a hole in one. Some people have hit several. A few people have hit more than one in a single round. Has anyone ever made 18 holes in one in every round they ever played?

Only one man has ever lived a completely sinless life. Everyone else has sinned, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* (Romans 3:23). For all of us sinners, *...the wages of sin is death...* (Romans 6:23).

"No way! This isn't even like golf," you say. "Nobody expects you to get 18 holes in one. Nobody can do that. Par golf would be great for most of us!"

What if you only had to play as well as the best player in the world? Would that make you happy?

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What if you only had to be the best in your clubhouse? What if you only had to make par every time you played?

Many people really do expect entrance to heaven to be like golf, but they mean golf like most people play it. We use par golf as a reference point, but we really play against our own average game and use our handicap to compare our play to other people. Even then, we forgive ourselves freely, take a mulligan here, a free drop there, and a gimme whenever we can.

Some people think that if they are happy with their level of goodness God should be happy with it too. They evidently believe that God has lower standards for heaven than the PGA has for a Master's Tournament!

God's standard is holiness - perfect righteousness. If you have

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