



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

June 5, 2022

Play It Where It Lies **(Gary Ogden)**

Before Tiger Woods, there was Bobby Jones. A generation ago, he was the best golfer ever to play the game. Some contend there will never be anyone to match his feats in golf. At the prime of his life and his game, Jones was stricken with a crippling disease that eventually took his life. When he could no longer play the game he had mastered like no other, he was asked how he felt about it. His reply, "I have to play it where it lies."

You have to have some knowledge of the rules of golf to fully appreciate his answer. When you hit a golf ball, where it lands is the spot from which you must hit your next shot. For instance, if you are on the tee and you wind up and with a mighty swing only send it 10 yards down the fairway, that is the spot from which you must hit your second shot.

To circumvent this rule, many golfers (aka "hackers") use a

"mulligan," whereby you get to take another shot without counting it. It's kind of a gentleman's agreement to cheat.

If your ball happens to land in the rough (that's the high grass, weeds, and trees that line the fairway), you must hit it from the rough. You're not supposed to pick it up and place it neatly in the fairway; you have to "hit it where it lies."



Bobby Jones reminds us that life sometimes hands us some "rough" times. It would be nice if you could "hit it in the fairway" every time, but that doesn't happen, even in golf. The best golfers have learned how to hit it well under "rough" conditions, and that separates the men from the boys.

As we live, we learn that there will be fair weather days and foul. There will be good times and bad, heart joy and heartbreak. Just about the time you think you're at your peak and nothing can go wrong, the ground can fall out from under you.

How Jones handled his disappointing and disabling disease



"THOSE WHO ARE WELL HAVE NO NEED OF A PHYSICIAN, BUT THOSE WHO ARE SICK, BUT GO AND LEARN WHAT THIS MEANS: 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE.' FOR I DID NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS, TO REPENTANCE."
(MATTHEW 9:12-13)

speaks volumes about his character. I do not know what kind of spiritual background he had, but he sure learned something about how to graciously handle adversity.

Did not Job, that marvelous character from the Bible, teach us the same lesson? Talk about your adversity, Job excels them all! Yet, he did not do, as his wife advised him to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9). Though he struggled with the questions that plague us all when adversity strikes (he didn't understand why it was all happening), he ultimately rebounded to even greater faith and prosperity. He chose to praise God and live.

Back to the golf analogy. One of the greatest differences between the professional and amateur is what they can do when they find themselves in adverse conditions. The pro can take a poor shot that has landed in the most terrible lie imaginable and hit a shot that defies description that lands on the green. The amateur just whacks around, takes his 7 on a par 3, or

The devil's cleverest wife is to make men believe that he does not exist.

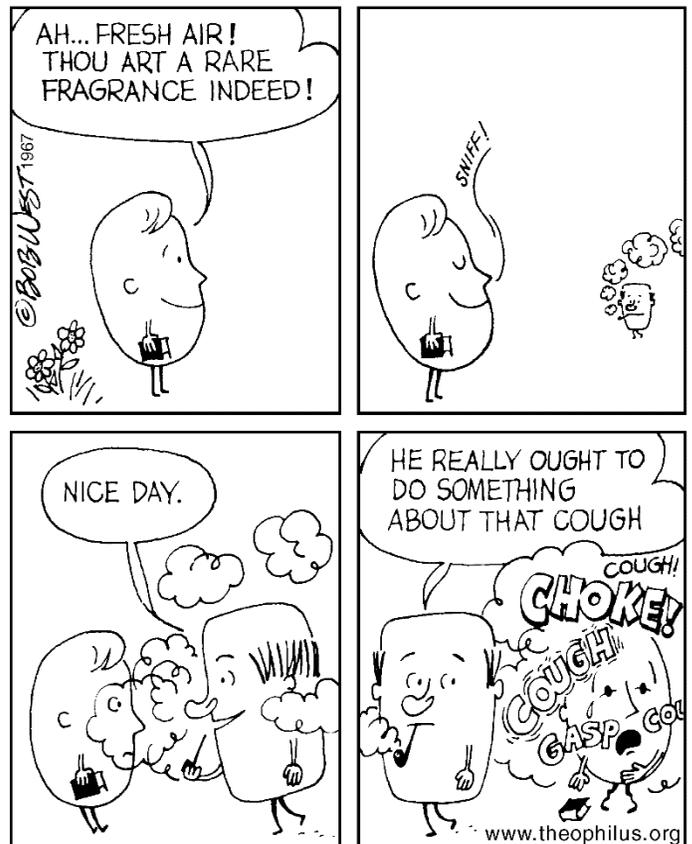
(Gerald C. Treacy, *The Devil!* 1952)

may even pick up his ball and go home. He might get so aggravated as to cuss, wrap a club around a tree, or throw it into the water. He has not learned to deal with adversity.

Too many times we throw our hands up in despair when the best practice is to raise them in prayer. Paul and Silas teach us that from a Philippian jail. They had been beaten severely and thrown under the jail. Rather than being filled with despair, the air was filled with "praying and singing hymns unto God" (Acts 16:25). The other prisoners heard them, and so must we. The next time you're in the middle of some of the worst "rough" imaginable, let the air be filled with prayers and hymns to God.



Just as the amateur golfer will rarely be able to work himself out of "impossible" lies, we will find ourselves in "impossible" situations in life. In such cases, God is the Professional, and we're simply going to have to leave it in His very capable hands. When we are tempted to give up in despair, we must let Him "make the shot." Thing is, in His providence, He may decide to let us "tough it out" a little longer than we desire. That's when faith has to kick in.



God let Abraham take several days to journey to the mountain upon which he was to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22). God didn't let him off the hook until the very last moment. There's no use trying to figure out God's timing on anything, especially how long adversity will last or how many things will pile up at one time. Just about the time you think you've got about all you can possibly handle, another difficulty comes roaring in. Whoever says, "Troubles come in threes," is wrong. Sometimes they come in sevens and tens.

The golfer who makes his living from the game has to learn to live with adversity. He has to handle it under pressure packed situations. If he doesn't, he loses not only his composure but also a lot of money. Those of us who "make our living" being a Christian must learn to handle adversity, too. Since our Lord is not going to put a protective bubble around us and keep us from all difficulty, we simply must learn to put our faith and trust in Him.

Frequently, we may find ourselves having gone as far as we can go, having done all that we can do, having said all that we can say, and cried all that we can cry. Then we have to "take it to the Lord and leave it there" as the old song urges. Peter put it this way: "casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Just prior to that he said, "Therefore

humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you at the proper time" (v. 6).

When your hand shakes with fear, uncertainty, and weakness, put it in the Hand of Almighty God, who in His own good time and His good way, will lift you up. It's the only way to live, really live. Whatever our reality is, rough or smooth, let us learn to "play it where it lies."

God's Recipe (Vance Havner)

As a little boy I enjoyed watching my mother make bread or cake. When she assembled the ingredients, they did not look too appetizing. Who wants to eat flour or baking powder? But when she had mixed everything in proper proportions and put them in the oven we awaited the outcome with

joy. Sometimes the happenings in our lives are not enjoyable when they come separately one by one. But when God has completed the recipe and put it through the baking, we have "Romans 8:28 cake" and the taste is good, even though some of the ingredients at one time made us weep.



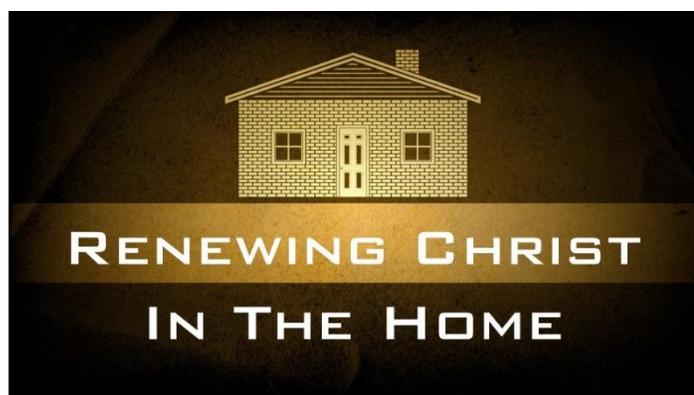
The Brooksville Summer Series

July – September

"What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm
(with exception of 1st Wednesday)

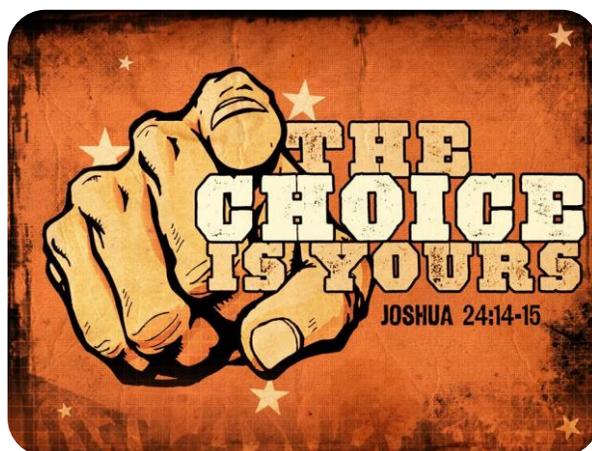
Theme For June



- ✓ To talk a lot and say nothing is like climbing a tree to catch fish.
- ✓ Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting a bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian.

Cross Of Christ (A. W. Tozer)

To be crucified means, first, the man on the cross is facing only one direction; second, he is not going back; and third, he has no further plans of his own.



Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

- ✠ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida
- ✠ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri
- ✠ The saints in Nicaragua

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