

You Can't Be A Professional Golfer and Pray 1 Chron. 4:10 at the Same Time (Preparation)  
John 14:1-3; 1John 3:1-3

Jesus is a person of promise. He is preparing a place for you and will return for you. Have we forgotten that He is coming again? Are we prepared for His return?

Are we longing for it? I trust we are.

What is your place and position on the team? Professional athletes only play golf in the off-season. It's not a team sport.

As the church of Jesus Christ we are a team and there is no off-season. Peter and Judas started out the same. Both were called to the same team, and they both betrayed Jesus, but their outcomes were different. Judas chose a rope; Peter chose repentance. It is human nature to focus on the faithful, on the elite, on the superstar. Jesus focused on the betrayer, the one who needed to be restored to relationship **Mark 16:7, Mark 2:17**. Peter went from loser to leader. **Acts 1:15-22**

Many people don't want relationships, but that is why we are here, to be in relationship. God Himself is in relationship- three in one. They each have a position to play on the team.

Caring, sharing, preparing needs to be reversed. We are looking for the evidence before the work, the test before the training. Are we prepared to share so that others will know that we care? An athlete plays his positions well because he is prepared.

Students prepare to graduate from university, college, etc., are we prepared to graduate from earth at the trumpet call? There is a cry going up for the Holy Spirit to move; yet we don't want to prepare for that to happen, we just want God to do it. Any member of a team who expects to win without preparation is soon off the team. Why do we in the church have the attitude that we don't have to be a team player if it's going to interfere with our plans? Today is the day to be counted, to serve the Lord, to be on the team. There needs to be preparation for the Lord to move. **John 2:5; Luke 9:14b** A marriage falls apart if both parties are not on the same team.

Half of our church family does not have a regular place of ministry commitment.

Some of us have teams outside the church, and each one gets a piece of us, but not all have equal size pieces. They are not all of equal importance. Some will get larger pieces of our life, our time, and our energy. How would God look at our priorities? Do any of the "outside" teams have a higher ranking for us than His team? It shouldn't, we may have sports teams, or service club teams, which are temporary, but we are all on God's forever team. Many of us place ourselves above the team; our comfort, our prestige takes priority. What took priority for Jesus? He came to earth for the benefit of the team. If you allowed God to make your team shirt, are you confident it would come back with 'TEAM' as the biggest word or would 'ME' be the biggest?

Part of our backwards thinking is that if we give people positions they will become a team player. When Judas was replaced it had to be by someone who had been on the team from the beginning. What is your position, what part could you play? Are you on the team, this team, or are you a free lancer? Are you committed? In order to experience the person of the Holy Spirit we need to find our place on the team and operate there. A stage production has people willing to play second fiddle just in case they might get to step in and lead someday. We have had to cancel ministries because no one was willing to step in and lead. Where are the team players? Eternity hangs in the balance for so many people. If God has a position for you on the team wouldn't you want to play it? We want miracles to happen so let's do whatever He says in order to prepare so we can share so that people will know that we care.