

A Ringer on the Team

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Recently, I had the opportunity to play in a golf tournament. I have played in this tournament each of the past three years. The first year two years, my team came in first place in our division. However, it was the division for the worst golfers. In essence, we were the best of the worst. Last year, we were in fourth place in the next group up. This year, we took best place overall.

I have to admit, the reason my team did so much better was not because of an increase in my golf skill level. In fact, I really haven't improved at all. The difference was one single member on the team, Lindsay Opie. Lindsay was our ringer.

If you don't know what a ringer is, it is generally someone who possesses such a skill level so as to insure victory. That was Lindsay. She is very athletic and is a very accomplished golfer. She played competitively in college. Having her on our team all but assured us of victory. That is not to say that the other members of the team did not contribute. Each person made good shots, but certainly, Lindsay was the best player we had on the team.

It's good to have someone who can make sure you make it to the winner's circle. It would be like having amateurs play basketball with Michael Jordan. Chances are, you are going to win. I realize that playing with Lindsay didn't necessarily assure us of victory, but it did drastically increase our chances. In reality, we won by one single stroke.

Would you like to have a ringer to guarantee success in life? Most of us would. We want to know that at the end, we have done our best, but that we were assured of victory in the end. Just like in the golf tournament, it didn't mean that each person didn't have to do their best; it just meant that if someone needed help, there was someone there who could pull up the slack and help us to carry on.

In life, the greatest ringer we could possibly have is one who ensures spiritual victory. Unfortunately, there is a spiritual force that is trying hard to bring about our spiritual defeat. God, however, has made provision for us so that we can be assured of ultimate victory. In fact, if you read the Bible, it tells us clearly that the final outcome has already been determined. If we are on God's team, we are assured of victory and all of those who have chosen not to be on His team are assured of defeat.

If you want to know that at the end of your life you can be guaranteed to be a victor, chose to be part of God's team. He has even placed a ringer on the team in the person of His son. He has promised that if we will freely join His side, He will assure us of ultimate victory.

Does it seem fair to play on a team that has already been chosen to win? On the other hand, doesn't it seem foolish to choose not to play on the winning side? If you have been told what the final outcome will be and you are given a choice as to which side you will be on, why would you choose not to be on God's side?

God wants you to be with Him when the time comes. Choose to win. Choose to stand with the One who will assure you of victory.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.