



# THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

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

---

May 15, 2022

## The Rules of Golf (Ed Harrell)

In August, I worked for a week as a marshall at the PGA Championship Golf Tournament at the Shoal Creek Country Club in Birmingham. Among other things, a marshall controls the crowds and helps the players locate their balls in the rough.

It was lots of fun—for me, that is, not for the players. Those who watched will remember that the course was so hard, and the rough was so deep, that the players stayed in a state of frustration bordering on rage. I have studied pentecostal religion for twenty-five years, but I heard more speaking in tongues during that week at Shoal Creek than in all my years of research.

The thing that most impressed me during the week was the fastidious attention given to playing by the rules. A player would not touch a ball unless he was in clear

agreement with his playing partners that he was following the rules. If there was any doubt, rules officials were located on every hole to tell the player his options.

For instance, if a player hit his ball into Shoal Creek, as quite a few did, he took a penalty stroke and dropped his ball. But where he dropped was a matter of careful, and sometimes slightly contentious, discussion with his fellow players and the rules official.

Like it or not, in the end, he put his ball exactly where the official pointed.

You might have guessed that as I watched these negotiations, my mind ran to the spiritual applications. I wonder why it is that people are so skeptical about the need to do exactly what God instructs when we accept that kind of conformity in golf—and football, driving a car, reporting our income taxes, etc., etc. Golfers know the rules. When they don't, they consult with others to be sure they



are following them. That surely would be a good idea for Christians.

The reason golfers are so careful about the rules is because of the consequences of disobedience. Ignorance is no excuse, and good intentions get you nowhere, so the players are students of the game and they consult and consider seriously before doing anything questionable. The application is obvious.

Golf, someone might say, sounds like a terribly tedious and legalistic game, filled with a terror of doing wrong. No one really understands this game. Its technicalities lead to endless bickering and dispute.

Not really. I watched for a week and saw only about a dozen rulings made by the officials. Most of the rules of golf are quite clear, and they are routinely followed by the players. On those rare occasions when one encountered a hard ruling, he was careful. But those occasions did not cause people to question that when you swing at the ball, it counts a stroke, and when the ball goes into the 18th hole, you are finished for the day.

So it is with Christianity. Most of what is right and wrong in the sight of God, such as the "works of the flesh," is "evident." When we arrive at difficult places, where we are dealing with things "hard to be understood," we need to be careful

and to consult. But don't use those controversial and knotty problems as an excuse for throwing away the rule book.



## About Your Attendance (Dee Bowman)

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend all the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage which pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want, and when you are finished, it will still say the same thing: a person who is able yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at

the services. Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, and rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in good fruit.



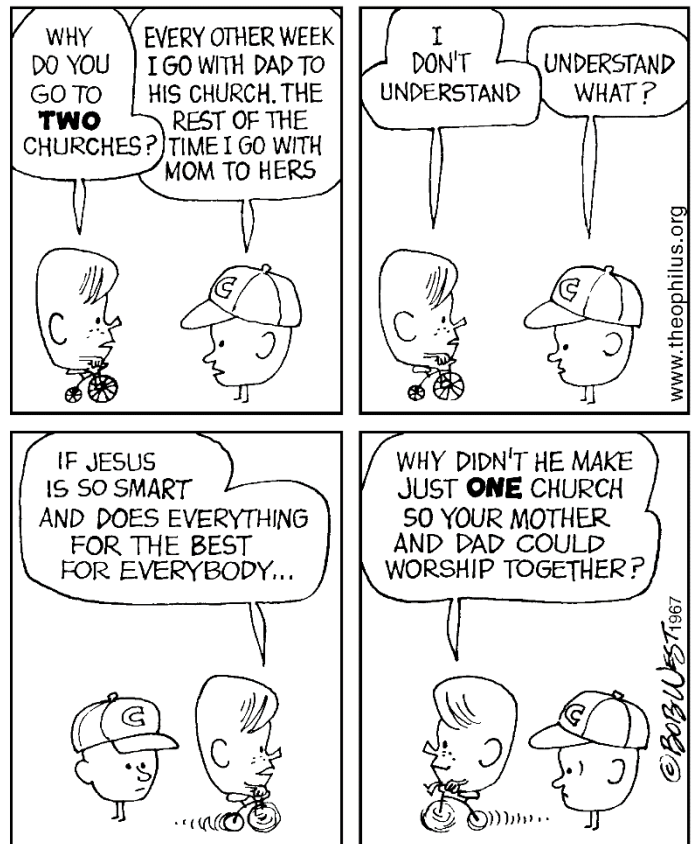
## Death

On the way home from church a little boy asked his mother, “Is it true, mommy, that we are made of dust?” “Yes, darling.” “And do we go back to dust again when we die?” “Yes.” “Well, mommy, when I said my prayers last night and looked under my bed, I found someone who is either coming or going.”

- ⊕ It was the Almighty who decreed that men and women must cover their nakedness by wearing proper and modest clothing. No amount of rationalizing can change God's will.
- ⊕ Modesty is not only an ornament but also a guard to virtue.
- ⊕ Modesty is the conscience of the body.

## THEOPHILUS

*The Author of Division?*



## Giving Her Right Hand (Paul R. Blake)

There is a statue in one of the old cathedrals of England that is called “The Faithful Woman.” She is attractive and complete, except that the statue is missing the right hand. It was carved that way for the following reason: During the Crusades, a knight was taken captive by the Moslem Saladin. The knight begged for his life, claiming that he had a wife in England who loved him dearly. Saladin commented that she would soon forget him and marry another.

But on second thought, the cruel chieftain offered to set the man free if the lady in question would send her right hand as token of her love for the captive.

When word was sent to this lady in England, she immediately



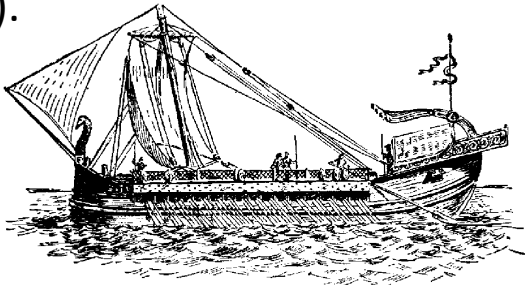


## Ancient Thoughts On Abortion

cut off her right hand and sent it to Saladin. Her husband the knight was forthwith returned to her in England.

What would you give for the life of the one you love? Perhaps more to the point, what you give for the Lord? It is easy to glibly say, "I would give my life!" But far more difficult than dying for the Lord is living for Him daily in all places and at all times.

"Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart" (Proverbs 3:3).



Ancient Ship

1. If the damsel being ashamed of the people shall destroy the fruit in her womb, the sin is on both the father and herself; the murder is on both the father and herself; both the father and herself shall pay the penalty for willful murder. (*Vendidad, 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.*)
2. A woman convicted of abortion is an infanticide. (*Flavius Josephus, Against Apion, c. 93 A.D.*)
3. We say that those women who use drugs to bring on abortion commit murder and will have to give an account to God for the abortion. (*Athenagoras of Athens, Apologia, c. 177 A.D.*)
4. It is a capital crime to destroy an embryo in the womb. (*Ishamel, Talmud: Sanhedrin, 57b. c. 500 A.D.*)
5. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. (*Moses; 1405 B.C. Deuteronomy 5:17-18*)

### Brooksville Church of Christ

604 W. Fort Dade Avenue – P. O. Box 751 – Brooksville, Florida 34605  
352-796-9803 / Brooksvillechurch@gmail.com / www.Brooksvillecoc.com

#### 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

Contact Kent Heaton (352-283-3889) [heatonkent@bellsouth.net](mailto:heatonkent@bellsouth.net)