

Dear

Contemporary Comments

Subscriber:



Thank you for faithfully reading and using Contemporary Comments-- which uses a story from our current news to illustrate a theme for Bible topics--as a resource for your personal use, and for your small Sabbath school groups.

We are now shifting this resource to be more. We will be rebranding Contemporary Comments as Sharing Scripture, which will still contain the narrative you've come to appreciate--but now, with reflection questions (all free of charge)!

Soon, you'll see the name change and the rebranding for the weekly release of this newsletter.

If you appreciate using Contemporary Comments as a resource, and know others who may be interested, share these email newsletters with a friend. If you have any questions regarding our rebranding or Contemporary Comments in general, please call us at 800.272.4664 or email us at 2724664@gmail.com.

Paul Richardson
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Contemporary Comments

"The Sealed People of God"

February 9, 2019

Texts: Revelation 7; 2 Peter 3:9-14; Deuteronomy 8:11-17; Revelation 14:4-5, 12; Revelation 17:5; Romans 3:19-24

"I can do this; they love me." Amy Bockerstette kept telling herself those words as she stepped into the sand trap to try to save par on the 16th hole in Scottsdale, Arizona last week. There are typically huge ovations at the Phoenix Open, but none was as impactful as the one created by this inspirational young lady before the tournament even started. Amy, a Special Olympics golfer, showed she has a great sand game. During a practice round, Gary Woodland, the event's defending champ, chose Bockerstette from the crowd to play Scottsdale's par-3 16th. In front of thousands of fans with the cameras rolling, the Phoenix resident expertly chipped the ball out of the bunker and onto the green. Her long putt saved par for the hole. Woodland nicely summed up how the millions of people who have already seen the video clip felt at his pre-tournament press conference. "I told her she was an inspiration to all of us and we can

all learn from her," Woodland said. "She was dealt with some serious issues and she's overcome them and she is phenomenal. She was so sweet, she was so excited and happy and that's something that we can all learn: When things aren't going our way we can definitely look back at her. And I told her she was a hero and to keep doing what she's doing because we're all going to be following her."

Bockerstette is actually an accomplished golfer. She qualified for the state tournament as a junior and last May signed a college letter of intent to play at Paradise Valley Community College, becoming the first person with Down syndrome to do either. Her exhibition at Scottsdale is a highlight reel that neither she, Woodland, nor anyone in attendance that day will ever forget. [1]

What a blessing it is to be chosen. This week's lesson looks at a special group of people—those who are sealed by the Holy Spirit. In Revelation chapter 7 we are introduced to the 144,000. Bible students have long debated the makeup and the qualifications of this group. Is this a literal number? If so, what chance is there for me to become one of such a select group? Is this a figurative number, describing a certain type of people? Then what must I do to qualify for salvation?

Lest we become bogged down in the debates, Tuesday's lesson reveals the most important qualification: "The only claim of the redeemed to salvation... is the righteousness of Christ, which is given to them by grace." No one is sealed for salvation, except they have already been chosen by God, and have accepted God's invitation by claiming the magnificent sacrifice of Christ. What a blessing it is to be chosen, and then to follow the Lamb of God wherever He leads.

~cb

[1] <https://sports.yahoo.com/special-olympics-golfer-goes-viral-151846658.html>

About Us

Since 1988, the Center for Creative Ministry has been serving local church leaders and individuals around the world. Formerly known as the publishers of ABBA Newsletter and the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, we have now broadened our generational/ministry focus to include our children. The Center for Creative Ministry took on its new name on June 1, 1996.

The Center for Creative Ministry, formerly Baby Boomer Ministries, is a privately funded and managed para-church ministry fully recognized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. We are dedicated to supporting the local church in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting.