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# PASTOR'S *Perspective*

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Pastor

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*... we, too, are called by our relationship with Jesus Christ and our faith to endure-- to hold out until the end.*

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I spent last Sunday afternoon like many other Atlantans and golf enthusiasts watching the Tour Championship Tournament broadcast from Atlanta's Eastlake Golf Club. Eastlake is a storied and historic golf course from where so much Atlanta history has been made. It was at Eastlake that the great Bobby Jones, one of the most revered names in golf, retired at age 28 and played his last formal rounds of golf. It was at Eastlake that Atlanta's sporting and business elite celebrated many a formal social or business event. It was the place of "monied" interests. Some of Atlanta's most far reaching and

influential deals were sealed at Eastlake. In the 50's and 60's it was the place to socially "hob nob" and network. However, by the time of the 70's and 80's Eastlake had fallen into disrepair and shame taking with it much of the neighborhood around it. In the mid to late 90's along came Tom Cousins and his foundation bearing the same name to the club's rescue. The Foundation raised the necessary money, garnered the necessary government support, and set about redesigning the course and with it the surrounding neighborhood. What had fallen from its once gloriously gilded state was now on its way to restoration. Though blight, sprawl, devalued housing stock all once covered the area, the course and the neighborhood had endured.

Last Sunday two things happened on this course. Phil Mickleson won the Tour Championship Tournament and took home a hefty purse for his prowess in the tournament. The other guy in the hunt was Tiger Woods. He finished second in the tournament also winning a "healthy chunk of change" but he managed to cap another undertaking. He won the Fedex Cup which is a prize of ten million dollars given to the player who during the season is the most consistent player. Thirty players were eligible to compete for this

prize but only one won. That was Tiger Woods. It should be noted that the prize again was for consistency or another word that implies the same thing, endurance! Tiger proved that through wins and losses, personal challenges and obstacles beyond his control he was able to stay focused and consistent. In other words he endured and it paid off big time!

Like Tiger we, too, are called by our relationship with Jesus Christ and our faith to endure-- to hold out until the end. Through winning and loosing, ups and downs we are not to quit. Yet we do. We get frustrated too easily and walk away. We are inclined to shrug our shoulders and give up. In doing this we never know what could have been. Our challenge is to endure until the end. Paul told Timothy to "endure hardships" and in the end he would overcome. Just as Paul encouraged Timothy we too must never give up but endure until the end. We remember the words of the writer, the race is not given to the swift but to those who hold out (endure) unto the end. Is your faith strong enough to keep you enduring?



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