

## Trust Jesus as Your Sweeper

Every Winter Olympics, people are intrigued by the Curling events. It is a unique sport with many analogies that apply to our everyday lives. One player slides a heavy granite “stone” down the “sheet” of ice, giving it a slight twist as it is released. The twist causes the stone to curl as it travels down the ice, but its path is straightened out by one or more “sweepers.” The sweepers travel next to the stone, scraping and cleaning the ice with long brushes. Their



work lubricates the ice by forming a thin sheet of water on its surface, controlling the pace of the stone. Their brooms clear away small granular ice pebbles in the stone’s path. If they were not cleared, those ice pebbles would keep the stone on a curling path. Because of the intervention of the sweepers, the stones can be maneuvered to avoid obstacles in their path and straightened to land in just the right spot, the target called “the house.” The sweeper prepares the way for the

stone to “the house.”

Could you imagine what your life would be like if you had a sweeper traveling with you, straightening your path to keep you from heading off target? That is exactly what happens for a follower of Jesus. Jesus prepares the way for us. Our lives are full of twists and turns, as well as obstacles to avoid. Without Jesus to straighten our path, life’s trajectory would take us where we don’t want to go. *In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps (Proverbs 16:9).* Without Jesus, there is no way we can reach God’s house on our own.

In curling, opponents’ stones are deliberately placed to block your path. Satan does this, too. Satan does not want you to live a righteous life, and he sets obstacles to prevent our access to the Lord and our desired heavenly home. *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).* Jesus guides the path so that we can either knock the obstacles out of the way or avoid them altogether. Follow His lead.



*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).* Let Jesus be your sweeper. It is a sure win that will lead you to God’s house in the end.

**Question:** When have you recognized that Jesus has changed your direction in life?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. You walk beside us, guiding us through the twists and turns of this life, and leading us home for the life to come. Clear away anything in our lives that keeps us from being in the House of the Lord, forever. Amen.