This example shows why the game is never over until it is over! Many chess players, if faced with White's position, would have resigned earlier in this game rather than play it out to the end of being checkmated.

Being checkmated seems to be a psychological blow to many people, so rather than be beaten by an opponent; they give up or give in.

Whether you lose by checkmate or lose by resigning, you have still lost and the score is still the same –

 You get ZERO points.

Black looks like he has everything and White looks like a pitiful soul; but in reality, White is blessed and Black is the one who is about to lose it all.

Look at situations and see the positive!

 *A man's life consists not in the abundance of the things that he has.*

 Luke 12:15

**Note:** There is a difference between playing a friendly game **(Skittles)** and a tournament game of chess. When you are playing a friendly game, it is not good sportsmanship to continue to play and drag the game out when you have a losing position. A wise player knows when he has been beat and accepts the fact. He should not hope for a stalemate or a ‘sneaky’ way out of the problem. You should know when to call the game off and move on to another.

How could White have gotten into such a lost position? White has lost everything except one Pawn. She has nothing left. Black seems to have everything going for him. In terms of material things, White is bankrupt and Black appears very successful. How many times do we look at what we have (or what we don’t have?) and compare it to someone else? Do we look at the size of their car, their house, the kind of clothes they wear, their job, or any other outward appearance of what the world calls success?

Is appearing successful the same as being successful?

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?* Mark 8:36

**"QUITTERS NEVER WIN AND WINNERS NEVER QUIT"**

 Football Coach, Vince Lombardi

It is certain you cannot win if you are not in the game.

However, you must not allow yourself to be fooled, mislead, or deceived by appearances.

The “Saving” move.

Even though White appears totally lost, she is still in the game.

In fact, given that it is White's move, White can win with one simple move!

 **Pawn - h5 checkmate**. (P-h5 #)

Jesus wants us to win the game. Everyday we battle opponents and sometimes Satan makes us think it would be better if we would just give up. We go through life attacking problems every day but never seem able to win. No matter how hard we work, we cannot seem to get that promotion. We don't seem to ever have enough money. The car is always breaking down. The house needs repairing. The kids are fighting, and according to Murphy's Law, "*if anything can go wrong, it will and if everything appears fine, then it is not!"*

If you have never made the move to win the game and get the prize of eternal life, there is a prayer on the next page you can say and claim the gift God wants us all to have.

There is nothing magical about the words in the prayer – Reciting the words is not what is important. What is important is that you want to change and know you cannot do it allow. You need God’s help. He is there, but you have to surrender yourself to Him before He can continue to refine you.**Ask Jesus now for the gift:**

*Dear Lord, Jesus, I recognize I am a sinner and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). I will never be good enough to come to you God, but you came to me while I was still a sinner (Romans 5:8). Forgive me of my sins. No matter how well I think I am playing the game of life, I can never be good enough - For by Grace I am saved by Faith and not by the things I do. (Ephesians 2:8-9). There are ways that may seem right by man, but in the end lead to death (Proverbs 14:12). I cannot hide or cover myself up. I cannot earn my way into heaven by doing good things. I accept Jesus Christ as my savior. I believe He died on the cross and purchased a place in heaven for me. I believe He paid the penalty for my sins and was buried and arose and conquered death - and it is this victory that I claim in the name above all names, the Name of Jesus, I know repent and look to you as my Savior and Lord. AMEN.*

If you just prayed the prayer above (or something like it) for the first time, you need to call a church or a friend and tell them as soon as you can.

When you accept Jesus as your Savior, you also make him the Lord of your life.

You can know for sure you will never lose the game (the game of eternal life).

 *For whoever believes and calls on my name shall be saved.*

 Romans 10:9

How wonderful it is to know God loves you and me so much He sent His Son.

People have been asking the question for 2000+ years. Why did Jesus have to die?

We don’t have to know “Why” something works before we trust in it. For example, most people turn on a light each morning or drive a car without knowing or understanding everything necessary for the creation and transmission of electricity or how an engine in the car works.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.* John 3: 16-18

Who Is Your Opponent?

 Who or What is beating you?

Are the problems and issues you face in your daily life keeping you from living a fulfilling life? Are you satisfied with your life as it is right now? There are so many people who are letting the “things” of this life get in the way of knowing God and eternal life. Some are working hard at a job chasing money and the things it can buy and have “no time” for God. Some people have a problem with drugs or alcohol that cloud their mind and distort their thinking. There are some who have a problem with pornography or sex. Lying, stealing, or unwise spending of money are other problems that keep people from God. It doesn't matter how big or small you think your sin is, any sin keeps you from knowing God. However the good news is **no sin is too great that it cannot be forgiven by God**, but you first have to ask him for forgiveness.

When the game can be so easily won with the full force of God behind you, it is hard to imagine why man can not turn and accept. He has already purchased a place in heaven by His death on the cross and resurrection.

All you have to do is place your faith in Jesus and claim the gift God has for you.

We all follow different paths to come to know Jesus as Lord. The roads you have traveled and the choices you have made makes no difference on the new future you are about to have. You may have tried to walk the road yourself, but it is so much better when you have a guide who knows where the “Best” parts are.

Whenever Satan tries to remind you of your past sins, you can remind him of your glorious and eternal future.

**Pray to God for his gift of grace, his mercy and his love; to forgive you of your sins;**

**to give you knowledge, strength,**

 **and assurance**

 **to stay in and finish the game.**