

Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

May 15, 2022

Winning Last Place

We live in a society that is sports crazy. We love football and fishing, racing and wrestling, soccer and softball - - not to mention baseball, basketball and golf. Nearly all of us have had the experience of cheering for our team or favorite player to win,



whether the contest was professional, college, high school or just the youth league team that our child or grandchild played on. And many of us have participated in sports ourselves. We've personally experienced "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

From a spiritual perspective, sports are not necessarily a bad thing. According to the Bible, sports teach us important lessons about disciplining ourselves when striving for a goal (1 Corinthians 9:24-27), playing by the rules (2 Timothy 2:5), and running with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). Obviously, we can allow sports to become a bad thing if we place too much importance on them or allow them to crowd out spiritual concerns.

But sports can also impact us negatively in other ways. They can train us to be too competitive, self-seeking, and ambitious -- too concerned with winning at all costs.

In most sports competitions, everyone wants first place. But there are times in the life of every Christian when he should seek last place. In Mark 9:35, Jesus told the twelve apostles, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees because "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues" (Matthew 23:6). He told His disciples, "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place . . ." (Luke 14:10).

The Bible reveals that we should be striving to win last place in our relationships with others!

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Philippians 2:3).

". . . Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."" (1 Peter 5:5).

". . . Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." (Romans 12:16).



Here are some practical suggestions for winning last place. The next time that you disagree with a brother in an area of judgment or opinion, insist that your brother get his way. The next time that your wife or husband neglects to do a chore that merely benefits you, do it yourself. The next time they are looking for a volunteer at work to do some menial task, volunteer! Win last place!

By Steve Klein

A Man May Go To Heaven –

Without health – Without wealth – Without fame – Without a great name – Without learning – Without big earnings – Without culture – Without friends – Without a thousand other things. But he can never go to heaven WITHOUT CHRIST!

The Joy of Learning

Learning has always been one of my great joys. I don't know who taught me to love learning. My parents, I suppose. I don't ever re-



member feeling anything but affection for it. Treasure Island for the first time one summer. Suddenly the woods and the creeks and the island, in the middle of the Tennessee River to which we sometimes canoed, were full of pirates and buried treasure. I learned later that the island had been home to some Indians—which was just as great—and we spent many a day hunting arrowheads, building forts, and scouting for game or enemy strongholds.



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But of all the learning that I've pursued, none rivals the joy of learning the story of the Bible. I had not known much of the Bible story until I was in the third grade. I remember hearing my Bible class teacher, Louise Horton, tell about John the Baptist eating locusts and wild honey and it sounded so good I would have eaten a grasshopper.

Read the Bible. Every day. Fall in love with it. Read it and talk about it. Know it so well, that you can tell its stories in your own words. Learn to quote it. If you don't ache through the day until you've had a daily dose, then you're not reading your Bible like you ought. Pick it up and read. Meditate. Contemplate. Cogitate. Luxuriate. Know the joy of learning the best kind of information. Make it a habit!

Jason Moore

Order of Worship May 15, 2022

Song Leader—AM	Derek Steen
Song Leader—PM	Michael Young
Lord's Table	Gary Barber
Sermon—AM	Devin Barber
Sermon—PM	Devin Barber

Pray for our nation and the Ukrainian war to come to an end NOW! Also, continue prayers for those that we've been asked to pray for, and for the free course of the gospel. *1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.

Jacksonville, FL 32220

Meeting times of the church

Sunday

09:00 am Bible Classes

10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday

7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

www.mariettacoc.com

Hebrews 10:24-25