



# Pointes to Ponder

*2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Anyone missing sporting events about now? Have you thought about the reality that you are currently participating on a team? Participation on God's team should be just as dedicated and sacrificial as playing a team sport. When considering team sports, let's think of 3 areas of our lives as Christians that compare with 3 areas of a sport.

## 1. Giving ourselves as a team member.

To become a member of the team, we need to be chosen by the coach, and of course, the coach is God. We are elected to be members of His team, (Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.) just as we are chosen to play on any athletic team. Being on God's team means recognizing that there are others on the team with whom we should fellowship and work.

## 2. Playing as team members

Playing as team members, we must follow the rules (Psalm 119:11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.). If we don't know the rules of the game, we will violate a rule that will result in a penalty against the team. Therefore it is important that we study and obey the rules in order to be successful (Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.).

It is also important to know and play our positions on the team. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 speaks of Christians as members of a body. A passer in football is of no use to the team if there is no receiver. The running back cannot be successful if there is no offensive line. We must all do our parts for the team to be successful.

## 3. Keeping our eyes focused on and headed toward the goal

Finally, our duties on the team are to keep heading toward the goal (Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.). In soccer, if we were to kick the ball into the opponent's goal, they gain the point. So, in today's "game" we ask, "What is the goal?" FAITHFULNESS! Be a positive witness during this time when the opponent is gloom and doom. Encourage the discouraged. Show kindness. Rejoice in the Lord!

Pastor Phil