



"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing." (Galatians 2:20-21)

## **PRE-SEASON TRAINING SESSIONS 5 & 6: THE GALATIAN CHALLENGE (I.E. READ THE BOOK/LETTER!)**

As we concluded week 3 with a hearty "Happy Birthday" song to Grace Hodgdon, I was reminded of just how DIFFERENT the HCYA Hurricanes program is from any other I've been involved with. Yes, we expect players to work hard; to be their best and give their best. And yes...We want (and strive) to win at all times – but not at all costs. More important than results are:

- Providing an environment for players and families to enjoy a season of life which is positive, uplifting and encouraging
- Developing long, meaningful, authentic relationships because unlike the game, friendships last a lifetime

So...Enjoy the journey and embrace the privilege (and responsibility) of being a part of the HCYA Hurricanes Soccer Family!

### **Winning is everything...Right?**

*Man tries to balance his good works against his sins and have enough on the plus side to be saved. Every other religion says "do." Christianity says "done." (J. Vernon McGee)*

In professional soccer, performance, winning, success and achievement is everything! Expected revenues for teams promoted to the English Premier League from the Championship for example, amounts to billions of dollars from TV rights, marketing, sponsorships etc. And while we love a "rags to riches" story, this "performance" based mentality has sadly

found its way into Christian circles; a belief that a person has to be considered worthy before he/she is accepted by God. Paul wrote to the Galatian Christians because they were being duped. False teachers were proclaiming that he had failed to present the full gospel, contending that they had to become Jewish first before being saved. Clearly, this is adding to the gospel of grace, and is still a common misconception of Christianity today. Many errantly believe they have to become good enough – try harder, improve...become a better Christian. Thankfully, faith in Christ's birth, death and resurrection is sufficient for salvation! As Scripture confirms, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9)



### **Faith acronyms – Which one (if any) is your favorite?**

- Fantastic adventures in trusting Him
- Fully anticipating it to happen
- Forever always I trust Him
- Forwarding all issues to heaven
- Forsaking all I trust Him
- Forwarding all insecurities to Him
- Full assurance in the heart
- Find assurance in trusting Him
- For anything I trust Him
- For anything impossible trust Him



### **What the Bible says about faith**

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Heb. 11:1)

See you next week!

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