



“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”- 1 Timothy 4:8

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE (OR TWO)?

As another week passed by and drew us closer to the annual HCYA Hurricanes banquet (February 24), we took time to pause and give ourselves two challenges. Neither one is a mandatory requirement, but if taken seriously, both will make an impression on our hearts and help shape our memories of the 2017/18 season...

Challenge #1 – Can we follow facts instead of fantasy and fiction?

In other words, can we allow our thinking to be based on the truth of God’s Word rather than our emotional state of mind? We’ve all done it – we’ve all confused reality with error. Think of the time you jumped out of your seat at the movie theatre when the villain showed up on the screen. Or perhaps it was the time when a giant shark suddenly, without warning looked you in the eye and your heart skipped a beat! The movie “Jaws” gives takes us on an emotional roller coaster as we wrestle with the reality of sitting in our comfy seat, with the fiction of being attacked by a man-eating mammal! Truth sets you free; error puts you in bondage. Truth comes from God and His Word and collides with the lies of Satan. Think of just two examples:

“It’s not what you think you are, but what you think, you are.”

- The enemy says worry about everything. God says “Be anxious for nothing” (Philippians 4:6)
- The enemy says you will not be happy until you get (fill in the blank.) God says “Be content whatever the circumstances” (Philippians 4:11)

So the challenge is to fill our minds with the truth of God’s Word rather than feelings which wreak havoc with our emotions. Feelings change, but Scripture is timeless. Paul tells us in Romans 12:2 “to be transformed by the renewing of your mind” and in Philippians 4:8, he actually spells out the very thoughts that should consume our minds. Will you accept the challenge...?



Challenge #2 – Can we finish well?

We’ve continually emphasized the fact that when it comes to studying the Bible, context is king. In other words:

- Always interpret Scripture with Scripture
- Always aim to discern the author’s intended meaning

But for the sake of goal-setting for the final few weeks of the season, I’ve chosen four words from 1 Corinthians 1:8 to motivate us to not only run our race to completion, but also to run it with excellence. Are you ready for the newest hashtag for HCYA Hurricanes? Here it is: #strongtotheend. Just four words – fourteen letters (I dare you to count!) – which, if memorized and implemented, will guard and guide us to be strong...

- To the end of each drill. No cutting corners or going through the motions
- To the end of each practice. From the first minute to the last. All-out effort
- To the end of each half. No clock-watching to “earn” a rest
- To the end of each game. Positive in attitude and action, regardless of the score
- To the end of the season. No regrets. No quitting. No “what if’s” or “if only’s”. Will you accept the challenge...?



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“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13