



"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

THE CLOCK IS TICKING!

With just 3 sessions remaining (weather make-ups), we're starting to get that "where did the time go" feeling. We've labored long and hard, yet it seems like just yesterday we "circled up" for prayer to begin our season as Hurricane players, parents and coaches. It's been quite a journey, filled with all the thrills and spills that accompany youth sports. But there's still games to play and vital lessons to learn, so let's enjoy the moment and make it our goal to finish STRONG. TO. THE. END!

LIVING BY THE BOOK: "DO YOU SEE THAT UR UC?" (YOU'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS ONE! 😊)

As we continued our look at what it means to live in Christian freedom, I opened Thursday morning's session with some bizarre statements. I'm sure all players (and coaches) thought I'd finally lost it! Their puzzled expressions morphed into uncomfortable shuffling of feet, as I churned out the following:

- I'm a father, you see / I'm a husband, you see / I'm a son, you see / I'm a soccer coach, you see / I'm a Christian, you see
- And then I turned the tables. You're a son and daughter, you see / you're a soccer player, you see / you're a student, you see / if you've given your life to Jesus, you're a Christian, you see...

After our opening prayer (and with heads spinning), I dismissed players to their respective groups, knowing that all would be revealed during the end of session devotion time!

As 8.50 am rolled around and after further (annoying) emphasis to "pick up any cones you see / goals you see / trash you see" the question, "what on earth is he talking about?" was finally answered. You see, the answer was always there! It was just a matter of perspective. I wasn't ending my sentences with "You see", but rather with two letters: "U" and "C". Now it was beginning to make sense. U.C. stands for **UNDER CONSTRUCTION!** I'm a coach...UNDER CONSTRUCTION. I'm a Christian. UNDER CONSTRUCTION. I'm a father, son, husband...UNDER CONSTRUCTION. Maybe I labored the point too much, but I felt it was important to let the players know that they too are UNDER CONSTRUCTION. In other words, they are not the finished product, and neither are their teammates, their friends...even their parents! We are all a work in progress, and because of that, we must not only recognize our own susceptibility to sin (and repent), but also be willing to extend grace to those who sin against us. Not until we come face to face with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will we be like Him – perfect in every way – without sin, spot or blemish! But until then:

1. May our attitude be one of restoration rather than condemnation when relationships become strained. **Be humble.**
2. Let's remember that all of us are capable of committing any sin mentioned in the Bible, given the right circumstances. **Be vigilant.**
3. God desires for us to "grow up" in our Christian faith. He has not finished with us yet, and He will complete the work He started in conforming us to the image of His Son. John writes, "Now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). **Be assured.**
4. Embrace and be encouraged by Paul's words in Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." **Be thankful.**

Jim Spence

Head Coach - HCYA Hurricanes www.HCYASoccer.com

Founder - Sports Quest www.SportsQuestTraining.com / 832.593.7777

