



“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

TRAINING, TRAVEL AND TIME OFF!

After a terrific morning of practice on Tuesday, training came to an abrupt halt on Thursday as torrential rain once again made the fields unplayable. Still, there was much to be thankful for as the Hurricanes enjoyed a successful week “on the road” as our season got into full swing. So it’s with eager anticipation that we look forward to the highs and lows of competition; the life lessons along the way; the camaraderie and fellowship, and the sheer joy of representing our teams with gratitude, humility, integrity and excellence.

DEVOTIONAL THEME: DIVISION – *“The people were divided because of Jesus” (John 7:44)*

When the U.S. Men’s National Team failed to qualify for World Cup 2018 in Russia for the first time in 32 years, the inquests and the lynch parties began. Opinions were divided amongst players, coaches, fans and within the upper echelons of U.S. Soccer as to the reasons why. U.S. player Geoff Cameron spoke about his anger, embarrassment, shame, even depression after not progressing to the Finals, but insisted that the problems ran deeper than just one game. *“Under former coach Jürgen Klinsmann, if you were 18 to 24 years old, and you were one of the best and brightest players in the US, and you were still playing in MLS, Jürgen saw that as a wasted opportunity. Not just for yourself and your career, but also for your country. Our best young players need to be playing in the top European leagues.”* Other people in the game blame the “pay-to-play culture”, making soccer inaccessible to many, while yet others point to the coaching certification process, or to organizational arrogance on the part of U.S. Soccer, stating that numerous promising players with U.S. eligibility have chosen to play for other countries, a symptom, they argue, of years of U.S. soccer ignoring Latino players.



Divided opinion. “I’m right. – you’re wrong.” Hey, maybe everybody’s wrong! The truth is, not everyone is gonna agree with your “take” on things. There will always be differences of opinion. In fact, we see this played out many times in the Bible, especially when it comes to answering the question: “Who is Jesus?” In the Gospel of John, chapters 7 and 8, here’s what people said about Him • His own brothers did not believe He was God • He is a good man • He deceives the people • They were amazed at His learning • They were astonished at His miracles • He was demon possessed • He is not the Christ • Many in the crowd put their faith in Him • Surely this man is the prophet • He is the Christ • How can the Christ come from Galilee? • His testimony was not valid • He was a Samaritan and demon-possessed • The Jews picked up stones to stone Him



There are some things in life which will always cause division. Some involve trivial matters, while others have more serious and far-reaching implications. Opinions are based on what people think to be true. They have a believe and they stick to it, oftentimes when the real truth is standing in front of their face. Such is the case with Jesus Christ both in His day and in the present age. His life will always divide opinion. So let’s ask the question: Who do YOU say Jesus is?

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

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Sports Quest:
“Sharing biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage
next generation leaders through soccer”

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