

"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

ATTITUDE IS THE DIFFERENCE BEWTEEN AN ORDEAL AND AN ADVENTURE!

With games and practices coming thick and fast, the season is well and truly underway! And already, we've seen Homeschool Soccer in all its glory – everything from wet field conditions, referee errors, no referees, goals which are too small, lightening, frogs, mudbugs, outstanding individual performances as well as inexplicable individual mistakes, overachieving and underachieving teams, mean-spirited opponents and gracious hosts. THIS IS HOMESCHOOL SOCCER and...IT IS AWESOME! What a platform we have to develop Christ-like character, build next generation leaders and live out our faith on the fields. Hurricanes players (and parents)...May our focus always be "others-centered" and may we consistently and intentionally adopt a "ministry mindset" regardless of the circumstances surrounding us. And let's constantly be reminding ourselves...This is what we do for fun, so let's enjoy the journey and embrace the adventure!

DEVOTIONAL THEME: SECURITY – "Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound..."

It seems that no matter how hard we try – what protective measures we put in place – nothing is ever safe and secure. Think of all the things that get stolen everyday: money, cars, jewelry, stationary – even a person's identity! Security cameras, protected passwords, bolts, locks and chains have all proven fallible at one point or another. It's little wonder then, that we lack confidence in keeping anything entirely secure. Unfortunately, this mindset can even run over into our spiritual life, in

particular when it relates to our eternal security.

Many struggle with the concept of God's unmerited favor, freely extended to every person, regardless of his or her background – good, bad or ugly. Maybe we've blown it so badly at times (in word, deed or thought) that we feel God could no longer accept us, least of all love us or even like us! If so, we need to redirect our attention to what God has done for us – through His Son, Jesus Christ – and not what we can (or cannot) do for Him by our own efforts or self-will.

We are secure – eternally secure – the instant we say "yes" to His "no strings attached" gift of salvation. Nothing is required, except to admit our need for His forgiveness and our hopelessness to save ourselves from the penalty of sin. And while as a Christian, we will never be sinless in this life, our daily walk of obedience to God and His

Word will equip and empower us to sin less! Ephesians 2:10 puts it this way, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We cannot save ourselves – that's God's doing – but once saved (and always saved), we can produce good works to bring glory to God and draw others to Him in the process. So, the next time the enemy prowls at your door with the condemnation that "God doesn't love you anymore", slap him in the face with this incredibly powerful and reassuring Scripture about your eternal

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destiny: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

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