



“The Lord is my strength and my shield” (Psalm 28:7)

PRE-SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 3

With Tropical Storm Beta putting a halt to Tuesday’s practice, we were eager to get back on the field on Thursday to complete week 3 of pre-season training. And while the playing conditions weren’t perfect (we received a LOT of rain), it was a reminder of how blessed we are to have access to a facility that didn’t close us down to “protect” its hallowed turf. The training environment had a kind of “Sandlot” atmosphere to it – kids simply enjoying being kids with all the mud, slipping and sliding and fun that goes with it. Only one week remains until we move locations to the immaculate turf surface of the Almeyda Soccer Complex for the start of regular season practices and games. So let’s make the most of our final hoorah at the idyllic, quaint and “homely” practice site of North Oaks Baptist Church.

In spite of Tuesday’s cancellation, here are the 2 devotionals/challenges we had planned for the week:

CHALLENGE 1 – RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT! Hard to read in some places? Of course! Difficult to understand without context? No doubt. God’s Word for us today? Absolutely yes!” It is critical to study our Bibles with an appreciation that the Old Testament is integral to our Christian worldview. While some of the laws and ceremonies were instituted for a specific people – God’s chosen nation of Israel, we must not make the mistake of dismissing the commands of the Old Testament as “outdated” or irrelevant to us today. The Ten Commandments, for example, remain the perfect standard of righteous living, even though it is impossible for us to keep them! Why? Because we are ALL sinners, we’ve all fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)! All of us – except Jesus: God in the flesh who came to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). It was Jesus, in fact, who stated in Matthew 5:17 that, “I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to fulfill them”. The Ten Commandments were summarized by Jesus in Luke 10:27 to, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” The command to love and the emphasis on relationships (Man’s relationship with God, and man’s relationship with man) are timeless. If we could ever fully embrace the love of God for us, and the personal relationship He wants with us, perhaps we’d view life through a different lens. Preacher and bestselling author, Max Lucado puts it this way, “In His commands to ‘do this’ and ‘don’t do that,’ God wisely and clearly spelled out what love looks like. You have an incredibly caring God!” So, let’s not view our Creator as a cosmic killjoy, but rather as a loving Father “cheering us on” to live with passion and purpose...For His glory!



CHALLENGE 2 – REST! The Fourth Commandment is often viewed as the most difficult to keep. “Keeping the Sabbath holy” doesn’t come naturally to most of us. We are doers, movers and shakers, and the thought of taking a “time out” from our busy routines to relax, unwind, refresh and worship just doesn’t bode well with our never ending “to do” list! In the book of Psalms, we come across an interesting word: “Selah”. The idea is to pause and reflect, if only for a short while. It’s almost as if God is saying, “Breathe. Calm down. Stop worrying, cast your cares on me. I’ve got this”. In the midst of the stresses and strains of 2020, surely we’d do well to heed the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Go for it! Obey and enjoy God’s gift of rest. You’ll be better for it, and most likely, so will those around you!

See you soon!

Jim Spence

Head Coach - HCYA Hurricanes www.HCYASoccer.com

Founder - Sports Quest www.SQSoccer.com / 832.593.7777

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)