



SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 1

Our first week of regular season training was a blast! The playing surface was outstanding, the weather not too hot, and the Hurricanes worked hard to implement several key concepts related to our theme: “Defensive Play”. A huge shoot-out too to the coaches for making the sessions fun as well as educational. At the close of each practice, a short message was shared to both encourage and challenge this awesome group of athletes...

TUESDAY – YOU ARE ACCEPTED! Fitting in or being out of favor. These are really the only two choices we have as individuals. We can walk, talk and look like everyone else and no one will notice, or we can be different (good or bad), and find ourselves excluded from just about every social interaction possible. Of course, many are comfortable being the “odd one out”, but for others, it can have a devastating effect on their self-confidence and feeling of self-worth. Let’s face it, we all want to be accepted – it’s part of our human nature. The problems come when we feel rejected, unaccepted or even unacceptable.

For the non-Christian, this can be debilitating and depressing. It can easily cause anger and resentment. And it can lead to finding “acceptance” in all the wrong places or with the wrong people. Even the Christian can fall into this trap unless they turn to their Savior for comfort and peace in their time(s) of trouble. The Bible tells us that the nature of God, is love. That’s the very essence of who He is. He doesn’t see your failures or your sins, your quirks or your qualifications. Instead, He sees you as His beloved creation, made in the image of God and purposed for His glory. Perhaps most staggering of all is that God loved you even before you gave your life to Him! Romans 5:8 says, “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. That is, as enemies of God, His love still prevailed. Imagine then, how much He loves you once you enter into relationship with Him through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ! We all need to hear and heed this message: The Christian’s identity is based not on their performance, their physical appearance or their popularity. And neither are they defined by their past or the opinions of others. The believer’s true value comes from being “in Christ”. They belong to Him, and He belongs to them for now and eternity. Please grasp this monumental truth...YOU ARE ENOUGH! YOU ARE ACCEPTED!



THURSDAY – THE BIBLE: TRUE OR FALSE? Space doesn’t allow a full run down of our discussion regarding the trustworthiness of Scripture (fulfilled prophecy, eye-witness accounts of Jesus’s post resurrection appearances etc.). However, in summary, we presented the Bible as the absolute, perfect, inerrant Word of God. We dismissed the notion that the Bible is a collection of made up stories or fairy tales, and we rejected the idea that we are allowed to “cherry pick” what we choose to believe. Instead, we should accept, by faith, ALL of God’s Word. Jonah being swallowed by a whale (and surviving) is no more or less of a miracle than a dead man rising from the tomb!



Still, we must each decide for ourselves what we believe about the Bible. Does it tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? If so, we must rely on God’s Word to teach, challenge and equip us to live in a world where the very notion of truth is ever changing. If not, take your chance. Choose to disregard the tender mercies of God, His plans for your life, His wisdom on all matters under the sun. Put aside the claims of Jesus to be the only way to heaven (John 14:6) and that at His Name, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

The Bible: Truth or a lie? The decision is yours!

See you on Tuesday!

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)