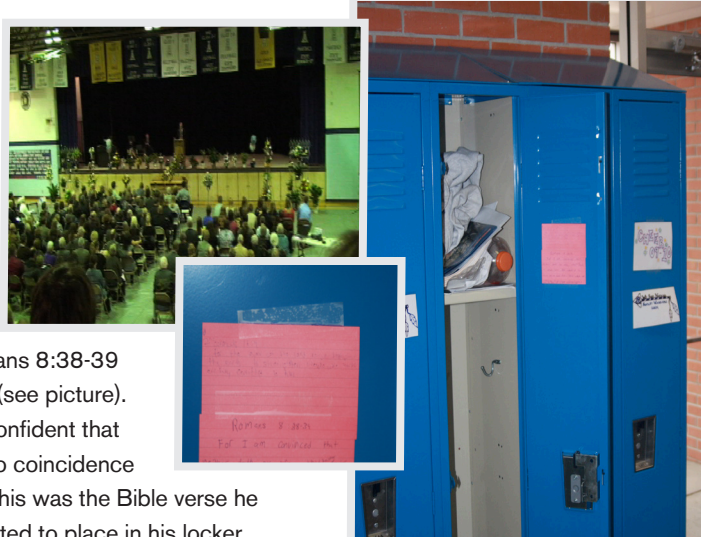


Life and Death

Travis Slingsby on the Gospel

Early on October 22nd, 15-year-old Travis Slingsby was killed in a car accident while driving to Ansley High School. The accident was caused by a snow-slickened highway that made Travis lose control of his car and collide with an oncoming truck. Travis had been very involved with FCA.

Clay and Erin Mankin were very close to Travis as Clay coached him last year in Ansley and also worked with the FCA huddle. This year, Clay is teaching and coaching at Nebraska Christian Schools and Erin continues to serve with FCA in Central Nebraska. Clay had the privilege of speaking at his funeral to a gym packed with hundreds of friends and family. Clay read a Bible verse that Travis put in his locker to prepare for the upcoming football game with Loomis on Friday night. The sign had



Romans 8:38-39 on it (see picture). I'm confident that it's no coincidence that this was the Bible verse he selected to place in his locker.

During Travis' funeral, Clay told the audience, "The thing I will remember most of Travis is his faith in Jesus Christ. I know that he would want his faith in Christ to be told today. This is evident in the Bible verse he put in his locker the night before his accident." After reading Romans 8:38-39, Clay said, "He knew that apart from Christ he was dead in his sins and deserved God's punishment and wrath. Romans 5:8 teaches us that God demonstrates His own love for us because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Though we didn't deserve it, Jesus took the punishment that we deserved on the cross when he died. On the third day he rose again, having conquered death and sin. Those who repent of their sins and put their faith in Jesus will be saved. I'm confident that is what Travis would want you to hear today."

Just as we can only love God because He first loved us, we can only hold on to God because He holds on to us. There is nothing anywhere at any time that shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Our salvation was secured by God's decree from eternity past and will be held secure by Christ's love through all future time and throughout all eternity.

WARM-UP

1. Watch the internet videos. Go to www.youtube.com and search for "Travis Slingsby on the Gospel!"

WORKOUT

1. What was the last funeral you attended? What was it like?
2. Why do most people only think about death at a funeral? What lessons should people learn from a funeral?
3. How do you defend the resurrection of Jesus Christ to an unbeliever?
4. Why is our faith in vain if Jesus did not raise from the dead?
5. What is it about the resurrection that gives you hope?
6. Read Luke 24:1-7. Discuss the importance of the empty tomb and the presence of angels. What does the presence of these two things mean? How can we sometimes look for "the living amongst the dead"?

WRAP-UP

This week, memorize... "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8:38-39 (ESV)

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the sacrifice your son paid on the cross to pay the price for my sins so that I might live again.

GOSPEL FOCUS

"The essence of the gospel is that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures - died the substitute for us criminals, rose the representative of us pardoned sinners - died that our sins might die, and lives again that our souls may live." – C.H. Spurgeon

Gordon Thiessen is the founder of Cross Training Publishing and serves as the Director of Training and Resources for the Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is author of 12 books for Christian athletes and coaches that can be found at www.crosstrainingpublishing.com. Visit www.nebraskafca.org for more lessons