

Bucket Talk – A Scholarship

Bible Verses

1 Peter 1:16 Be holy because I am holy.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

A Free Ride

The desire of every high school athlete is to achieve a full scholarship to college. As I was speaking to a local baseball team the other day, I asked them to imagine having the opportunity to receive a full scholarship to the college of their choice. The first step in the process would be to try out. Then, in order to actually be awarded the scholarship, they would need to meet the following standards:

1. Every "at bat" must be a home run.
2. Every ball hit to them on defense must be fielded cleanly.
3. Every throw they make must be on line.
4. Every pitch they throw must be a strike.

Now, if they were able to achieve every one of those four standards, then they would receive their scholarship. When I asked them if they could achieve that set of standards, "No" was the unanimous answer.

Of course not...no one is perfect!

Well, God has set the same standard for each of us in order to take our place with Him in Heaven. He says, "Be holy because I am holy." But the Apostle Paul says in Romans 3:23 that we aren't holy...that we are all sinners. Just as we would fall short if a full college scholarship required perfection, we fall short of Heaven because perfection is required. And perfection...as we all know is not possible for us.

So, how do schools offer scholarships? A free ride for the athlete costs something from somebody. There is no free lunch...Somebody has to pay! God knew we could not be perfect but He wanted us to be with Him. So somebody had to pay. That somebody was Jesus. He has paid for every mistake we have made in the past and for every mistake that we will make in the future. He was beaten, spit on, booed, nailed to a cross and humiliated in order for you and I to receive a full scholarship to Heaven. Oh yea...he paid.



But, the scholarship offer doesn't guarantee you a full ride. First, you have to accept the offer. Jesus isn't offering you a 4-year deal; He is offering you a 4-ever deal! Your scholarship...your "free ride" into heaven is on the table. All you have to do to accept it is admit that you are NOT perfect and that you need help...someone to save you. And the only person who can do that is the One who IS perfect...Jesus Christ.

Will you accept your "Free Ride" into heaven and a life that never ends? Just ask Jesus to be your Savior....today. It is absolutely the most important decision that anyone could ever make.