

Bucket Talk – The Prize

Why do we compete?

What do we seek?

Week 9

A Trophy? A Medal? Money? Fame? Advancement? Scholarship?

In today's highly competitive world of Baseball, Softball and sports in general, we see athletes from all levels of play - Recreational, Travel, High School, College and Professional - start to build their entire lives around their game. They eat, breathe and live specifically to achieve their own personal athletic goals. In our daily headlines we read about professional athletes (the role models of many of our youth) who go to extreme measures that include cheating (steroids, corked bats, etc) just to achieve their own personal athletic goals and to get their "Prize". Often, it consumes so much of their mind that they don't focus on anything else.

But then something unexpected happens. An injury, advancing age, finding out that they are not quite "good enough" to get to the next level of play or whatever else. The sport that had occupied so much of their time and energy is gone and they are left with nothing. Complete emptiness. It is at this point that many athletes realize that they need something more - something that can't be found in a trophy, medal or a scholarship. Something that will last forever.



God often brings us to that point so we recognize that things of this world are temporary. That includes Baseball, Softball and all other sports. Regardless of what level of play the athlete achieves, it WILL end sooner or later. Nothing will last forever - except the "prize" of eternal life that can be found through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Bible Verse

1 Corinthians 9: 24-25 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that won't last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Some Questions for your Athletes

- 1) Think back to a time when you achieved an athletic goal or were successful in a game. How long did the joy of that achievement last?
- 2) How would you react if baseball or softball were taken away from you today?
- 3) What do you focus on and devote most of your time to?

Team Prayer

God, help us keep our focus on the BIG prize, the eternal prize. Let us all keep you as our number one priority and guide us to compete as your warriors and for YOUR Glory, not our own. In Jesus name, Amen