

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
October 22, 2017

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Sunday Morning 10-22-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/299749>

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[Image]

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If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life and baseball are full of fresh starts. Every batter will strike out and every player will make an error from time to time. Keep swinging. Keep trying. Never; never; never; ever give up!"

PREVIOUS LESSONS FROM THE BALL DIAMOND:

The BASES stay the same but the levels of play change, as we grow older.

You SCORE only when you cross Home Plate and the umpire calls you "Safe."

You cannot score at Home Plate until you TOUCH First, Second, and Third Bases.

The ORDER of the bases matters; and it is COUNTER clockwise.

If you skip a base, you will be called, "OUT."

Home Plate - POWER AND PURPOSE (found only in Jesus)

First Base - PERSONAL INTEGRITY (shaped by surrendering to King Jesus)

Second Base - PEOPLE (treating others with love and dignity instead of dominating them)

Third Base - PERFORMANCE (living and working for your Creator)

Home Plate - SCORE (when Jesus' love motives and shapes all I do)

Every batter will STRIKE out. KEEP SWINGING.

Baseball is full of FRESH starts. NEVER; NEVER; NEVER; EVER GIVE UP!

A FINAL LESSON FROM THE BALL DIAMOND:

There are only two teams in a ballgame.

The same is true in life. There are only two teams -Jesus' Team and the Rebels' Team.

Ephesians 1:17-23 NIV

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in

order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.  
<http://bible.com/111/eph.1.17-23.NIV>

Ephesians 3:14-21 NIV

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

<http://bible.com/111/eph.3.14-21.NIV>

Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

<http://bible.com/111/eph.6.10-18.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

When you join Jesus' team, the Holy Spirit fights for you, beside you, and through you.