

The Coaching Field . . . Our Mission Field

n/a

Ready:

Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but freely, according to God's will; not for the money but eagerly; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:2-4

Set

Competition is an obvious part of the coaching life, resulting in either winning or losing. But God's Word reminds us not to get so caught up in the results that we forget to take care of the flock—the athletes—who have been put under our watch.

Of course, we all want to win. Yet if we forget that we're really working toward an imperishable crown (as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:25), then we've lost sight of why we're coaching in the first place. In other words, just as we live our lives to please the Good Shepherd, so too should we coach our players with the same goal. In the process, we'll serve as examples to the sheep.

The Lord has given us our "mission field," and He cares more about how we take care of the people He has entrusted to us than He does about our win-loss record. This is why Peter provides us with guidelines from the verses above on how to serve our athletes. We are to guide the flock (team) not by coercion or constraint, but willingly; not dishonorably, motivated by the advantages and profits, but eagerly and cheerfully; not with intimidation, but by being an example to them. And when the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, appears again, we will win the unfading crown of glory!

This is our hope. Until then, God is able to help us accomplish our goal every day, through not only our words but also our actions, as He cares for our players through us!

Go

1. Does your coaching style reflect the shepherding characteristics described by Peter?
2. What creative ways could you care for your athletes and thereby please Christ?
3. When you honestly assess your motives, do you seek advantages and profits, or do you work eagerly and cheerfully? Does this area of your coaching need adjusting?

Workout

Isaiah 40:11

John 10:11-15
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Overtime

Lord, may our focus, our top priority, for our athletes be based on the things above, the eternal purpose: Your glory! In Christ's name, amen.

Bible Reference:

1 Peter 5



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