

But for those who long for His appearing, the Lord's return will be a day of realized hope and victory. "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation...and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross" (Colossians 1:15,20). Everything we have is from God through Christ, and everything we need God provides through Christ—including our biggest need, forgiveness of sin. We no longer have to fear being separated from God. "For by that one offering He forever made perfect those who are being made holy" (Hebrews 10:14). In other words, once we put our trust in Christ we're automatically on the winning team.

6. Even though God already sees His team as perfect, we still have to work hard to be made holy (Hebrews 10:14). It's on the playing field of life that God molds our character and conditions our endurance to be like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. For you, how is Christ the greatest MVP of all time?

Name three ways you want to be more like Christ, the Champion of our faith.

In response, list three specific ways you will begin living into this desire today?

"Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering...You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!"

(Hebrews 10:32, 34b, 35)

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 14: Isaiah 15:1-18:7, Galatians 1:1-24, Psalm 58:1-11, Proverbs 23:12
Sept. 15: Isaiah 19:1-21:17, Galatians 2:1-16, Psalm 59:1-17, Proverbs 23:13-14
Sept. 16: Isaiah 22:1-24:23, Galatians 2:17-3:9, Psalm 60:1-12, Proverbs 23:15-16
Sept. 17: Isaiah 25:1-28:13, Galatians 3:10-22, Psalm 61:1-8, Proverbs 23:17-18
Sept. 18: Isaiah 28:14-30:11, Galatians 3:23-4:31, Psalm 62:1-12, Prov. 23:19-21
Sept. 19: Isaiah 30:12-33:9, Galatians 5:1-12, Psalm 63:1-11, Proverbs 23:22
Sept. 20: Isaiah 33:10-36:22, Galatians 5:13-26, Psalm 64:1-10, Proverbs 23:23

Get In The Game

Text: Hebrews 10:19-26

The Plain Truth

Jesus removed the _____ between God and us so He could remove the _____ of _____ from our lives.

1. _____ - Incarnational and Inspirational Worship of Christ
2. _____ - Life Groups help us remove the _____ from our life.

September 13 & 14, 2014

Get In The Game

Life Group Lesson • Week of September 14

There's nothing quite like American football—from kids' teams, to local high schools, to college games, to NFL. The season kicks off each fall with fans coming out to support their team in hopes that the long hours of hot summer practice pay off. Anticipation for all heightens as marching bands lead in a percussive war cadence and cheerleaders rally the energy of spectators. Such excitement! And it continues right up through the end of the year with an array of tournaments and bowl games. What does it mean to *Get in the Game*? Whether you're playing, coaching, or supporting—your role is vital when it comes to your team winning.

1. Think of the team you love and support, and the many components that factor in to make a winning team. Describe how all roles are vital when it comes to a winning team, and perhaps even a winning season.

How are devoted fans and supporters important to the team?

Christ calls us to be on His team. Through His death and resurrection, "Jesus opened a new and life-giving way" so that we can be ready to participate full-on in a life of faith. Christ alone makes us fit to "run with endurance the race God has set before us" (Hebrews 12:1b). So when it comes to your purpose, your team, your season—whether you win or lose—it's important to never give up. "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm...Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near" (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Read Hebrews 10:19-36

(View Teaching on DVD or Internet)

The Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle was inaccessible. Only the high priest was allowed to enter, and then only once a year after he had first made atonement for himself. But now believers can enter the Most Holy Place by Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross. Jesus is both Great High Priest and spotless Lamb of God.

2. Sin separates us from God. How are we reconnected to God according to Hebrews 10:19?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:18-20. Consider and discuss how Christ has become your champion as you answer the following questions:

Who paid the ransom? (v18a)

What were we saved from? (v18b)

What was the ransom? (v19)

When was the ransom chosen? (v20)

4. To score a touch down, a running back must hold the ball tightly until he crosses the end zone. According to Hebrews 10:23, to what are we to "hold tightly without wavering"?

Because "God can be trusted to keep His promise" we must hold on to the hope we have in Christ and *refuse* to give up at all cost. Christ gave everything and so must we! Whether we win or lose (according to this world's definition), the life of faith is about holding on to a living hope even when the scoreboard tells us we're behind.

5. Whether you are coaching, playing on the field, or cheering from the stands, when is it especially important to encourage the team?

According to Hebrews 10:24 we are to "think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." When is it especially important to encourage the team (fellow believers) according to Hebrew 10:25?

The writer of Hebrews says that the day of Christ's return is drawing near. Jesus Himself said that "there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth" on the day of His appearing (see Matthew 24:30). It will be a day of dread and sorrow for those who have spent their lives renouncing His truth, refusing His grace, and rejecting His love. "Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume His enemies" (Hebrews 10:26-27).