# Get Your Head in the Game

Those are words you might hear a coach say on the sideline of an important game. Actually, they might be some of the milder words you would hear. Of course, the message behind these words is that this is an important game, and you need to focus your attention on the right thing if our team is going to be victorious.

If we might be permitted to use the term with respect to our Lord, our "Coach" has said something similar to us. In Colossians 3:1, 2, the apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." In other words, get your heads in the game!

Coaches of all kinds of sports are concerned that their players remain focused and not become distracted. They don't like other things competing for the attention of the players. Some coaches impose curfews and other rules to try and keep control of the minds and attention of the team.

In the case of the church, our Lord has told us to focus on what is important and not be distracted. It takes discipline to "keep seeing the things above." Just like it takes discipline and practice for a ball player to keep in shape and be able to perform on the gridiron or court or diamond, the Christian must train himself or herself in order to fight the good fight. The apostle Paul also makes reference to some sporting events such as "the games," "running," and "boxing" (1 Corinthians 9:24-26). However, Paul was comparing competition with living the faithful Christian life by showing the need to focus, to train. Paul says, "Run in such a way that you may win" (1 Corinthians 9:24). That means, "get your head in the game."

Returning to Colossians 3, Paul notes the reason for seeking the things above. That is where Christ is! He is our Lord, He is our Hope and Salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:9). This is where we need our focus to be. He is the Author of our playbook (John 8:31, 32; Romans 10:17).

When I played football and our team traveled to play another school, our coach assigned our seating on the bus so that we sat with a teammate who played next to us. We were given a playbook with all the plays we would run in that game. In those days, our "playbook" consisted of mimeographed sheets, stapled together. Remember the old "Ditto" machines? We were expected to know that playbook and when the quarterback called those plays, we had to run them without taking time to look at the book. Our heads had to be in the game, or we had no chance of winning. I wonder how many games we would have won if we had been as familiar with our playbook as we are with the Lord's. That alone convinces me that I need to do some more study; that I need to get my head in the game, if I intend to "run in such a way as to win."

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