THE TEAM

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt 28:19-20 (KJV)

One is throwing dirt in the air and letting it fall all in her hair. There is another who is just looking at the stars. Another one is just sitting in the grass picking little stems and playing with them. One has lost a shoe. There is a player who is not to be found, oh wait a minute he is in the restroom. This one is hungry, that one is thirsty; another doesn’t want to play anymore. That is a description of the team that just took the field, the “T Ball” team.

Two of the players were my grandchildren and I am as proud as I can be of them but I would not want to be their coach. Who can keep up with them? They will never know how much enjoyment they provide for their parents and grandparents. I have been impressed with how much they have learned since the start of the season. They have really improved.

As I watched these teams playing each other, I felt for the coaches and the umpire trying to maintain some sort of order on the field, I thought that maybe that is what God thinks as he looks down on the Christian Church today trying to carry out the Great Commission. Often our mind is everywhere but on the task that has been given us by God. I am sure that he sees some of us looking at many things that are not good and wholesome. He is observing while we are entertaining our pet sins that we have hidden from everyone else. Just as one of the little “T Ballers” is standing in their place with their hat pulled over their face looking at the inside of their cap and the ball goes rolling past them, we are missing opportunity after opportunity to advance the gospel. Surely God is watching us and saying “What in the world is he (or she) doing?”

It will take a while for these children to grasp the team concept. Playing their position and trusting everyone else to be in their place goes a long way in team sports. Right now they are more of a team when it comes to getting ice cream after the game. As a church we need to remember that God has given each of us unique abilities to carry out his commission. You and I are not the same. He has called us to fill our position when it comes to reaching the world for Christ, we are to recognize our calling and do our part. I have noticed that the men who mow our grass are usually very organized. They can unload three mowers, each knowing the section they will be cutting and in just a short time they have the task completed. The ladies can get in the kitchen and have the church meal on the bar and ready in short order. Each seems like a well-oiled machine. Yet when it comes to carrying out the Great Commission we do not have very good direction. Much of that falls on me. God help me. God help us to grow in grace and become more focused on the great task that is ours, to reach the world for Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram