

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, **TannerSt.com** to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider: Galatians 5:19-24

Needed News

Dolline Fain is not doing well. She is not eating and has lost weight. She does not recognize anyone who has visited recently. She is not speaking much at all. The family is very concerned and asks for our continued prayers on her behalf.

We had a few sick folks during the past week, but they are all feeling much better.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson will be travelling to Alabama the first of this week. They plan to return for Wednesday night services and should have a few extras with them. Others may be travelling with the coming holidays also. Let's keep one another in mind during this travel season.

The new year is just a few weeks away. Many folks look for Bible reading plans as they approach the new year. Dan has several different types of plans available if you are interested. You might consider something as simple as following your old plan but read a different translation. No matter your method, continuing to read Scripture on a regular basis help keep your mind on spiritual things. Study, pray, and grow in the Lord. Heaven is our reward.

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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Going for the Gold

Joseph Lachausse

Do you watch the Olympics? Even if you don't, you know the general premise of it. These champions strive to go for the gold and truly impress us. As Christians, we have to go for the gold! We're striving for Heaven and it is described in the book of Revelation as a city of gold (**Revelation 21:8,21**). What is necessary if we are going to be a child of God and win the gold?

First, we need to have desire. The athletes of the Olympic Games have a strong desire and they are going for the gold. Our burning and consuming desire must be Heaven! One can only go to Heaven when he has a strong desire to go! Paul talks about this strong desire in **Philippians 1:23**. Paul says, *"But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;"*. In **Hebrews 11:16**, we read, *"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them"*. We should desire the sincere milk of the word as Peter tells in **1Peter 2:2**. The Hebrew writer tells us in **Hebrews 6:19**, *"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil"*. Our desire to go to Heaven is to be our anchor and we should never waver.

Second, we need to have a strong commitment. Commitment is essential to the athletes of the Olympic

Games. Our commitment to God and our Lord Jesus Christ must be real. In **1Timothy 1:12**, Paul tells Timothy, *"For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know when whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day"*. We see this commitment in the early Christians in **Acts 2:42,46; 4:32** and **8:4**. We have to be committed! Nothing else will substitute for it!

Third, there has to be involvement. The athletes of the Olympic Games are involved. As God's children, we must be involved as we go for the gold! We sing, "There is much to do, there is work on every hand; Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be, What wilt Thou, O Master? Here am I, send me." Also, "Oh, things we may do, you and I, you and I; Oh, the love we can give if we try; Just a word or a song as we're passing along, They will count in the great by and by." There have been some that were so involved that they had to give their lives. In **Philippians 2:30**, Paul tells us about a brother named Epaphroditus that nearly lost his life. He says, *"because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me"*. We must be *"constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father"* (**1Thessalonians 1:3**). As we go for the gold, we must be involved and stay involved!

Fourth, there has to be sacrifice. Athletes of the Olympic Games know what sacrifice is. They buffet their bodies daily and put themselves through intense training. As we go for the gold, we have to make sacrifices as well. Paul tells us in **Philippians 2:17**, *"But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I*

rejoice and share my joy with you all." He also tells us in **Romans 12:1**, *"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."* In **1Corinthians 9:25-27**, *"Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."* We must deny ourselves many things as we continue to strive for the gold.

Finally, we must have endurance. Athletes of the Olympics know about endurance all too well. As Christians, we must endure to the end. James tells us in **James 5:11**, *"We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."* Paul tells us in **2Timothy 2:3**, *"Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."* In **Mark 13:13** the scripture says, *"You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."*

As we go for the gold, may we strive diligently so as to be able to hear these words from **Matthew 25:21**, *"Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."*

(Joseph is a preacher trainee in Southeast Texas. Part of his training is to write several articles each month. It is good to see young men take up the battle. Though the article may be simple it is much needed. Reach for Heaven. DLH)