

by Dave Nelson

## *Everyone Likes to Win* Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship

Everyone likes to win at something... few ever learn to find *joy* in losing.

I coach our 7 & 8 year old team *Philippines* soccer team. We don't keep score. For the first half of the season, my players would ask, 'What's the score?' My answer, 'I don't know... we don't keep score in this league.' Now, my players don't even bother to ask me about the score. Nevertheless, most still try to keep up with the score, as do many of our fans.



Sir Winston Churchill  
"Victory at all costs"  
V Sign for Victory

*Why does everyone keep score, even when official league policy says, 'we don't keep score?'* Here are a few possible answers. Everyone likes to win, everyone has the hope of winning, and keeping score helps us measure progress toward that goal. No matter who you are - you like to win at something. Whether it's cards, computer games, sports, political elections, investments, job interviews, academic achievement or even war - winning is important to us. Why is that?

There are many possible answers - *'Winning makes me feel good.'* *'I like to be the best - or at least affiliated with the best.'* *'If they win, I'll win the pool at the office.'* *'This country might go down the tubes if the right politicians don't get elected.'* *'If I get this job, we'll be set for life.'* *'If my grades are good enough, I might get some scholarship money... or get accepted to this or that school.'* *'If we don't win this war, our way of life is over.'*

Of course, not all winning is the same. For your team to lose *The World Series* or your golfer to lose *The Masters* does not affect your life as much as losing out on that plumb job opportunity, missing out on scholarship money, losing in the stock market, or losing a war.

*Why do we like to win?* In part, when we win, good things come our way - good feelings, sense of achievement and importance, money, opportunity, education, respect, a good husband or wife, joy, prosperity - winning brings good. Another part of why we like to win - it's part of our design. God is a winner and likes to win. Victory and prosperity, good and delight are His milieu. Since we're created in His image - that's part of our image bearing; we also like victory, prosperity, good and delight.



Meet the Nelsons  
L-R: Gideon, Dave, Isaiah,  
Laureen, Lydia & Micah

As mentioned - not all winning is the same. What is the most ultimate contest in life? It's not Game Boy, PS2, who wins the *Super Bowl*, what college you attend, position at work, who becomes president, or even who wins this war or that war.

*The most important contest any of us face is where we will spend eternity when we die!!*

Here is God's perspective on this *ultimate, ultimate* issue:

*... the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed... then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory... Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ... thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:52-57 (selected)

How did Jesus Christ secure this victory? Before He died, Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies..."* (John 11:25); and then, *Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.* (1 John 3:16)

Jesus Christ found joy in losing that we might find joy in the *victory He secured.*  
*Do you trust Him?*

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

Middle & High School

#### Wednesday Nights

Open Gym, Dining Out, etc.  
6:30 - 8:00pm

#### Middle School Retreat

Ridgehaven, Brevard N.C.  
May 16th - 18th

### Children's Ministry

Summer Schedule will be available at the Finale

### Summer Sports Camp

Daily, June 9th - 13th  
9:00am - 12:15pm  
Ages 6 - 12

Soccer  
Basketball  
Cheerleading

Registration Deadline  
May 15th

## A Mother's Prayers

Turning Point Ministries

With Dr. David Jeremiah

Someone once said, "It's not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it!"

That's especially true for mothers torn between work and home. Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir put it this way: "At work, you think of the children you have left at home. At home, you think of the work you've left unfinished. Such a struggle is unleashed within yourself. Your heart is rent."

*Happy Mother's Day*

But Christian mothers have a secret weapon--prayer; and the "patron saint" of praying mothers is the biblical hero named Hannah. In half of all the verses about her in 1 Samuel, she is praying; and her prayers produced one of the greatest heroes of the Bible, her son Samuel.

You can pray for your children when you're at work. You can pray for them when they're at school. Your prayers can pursue them to college, to Iraq or Afghanistan, or to the far corners of the world. Your prayers can mold, shape, protect, recover, and enrich them. And in praying, you can trust the Lord with their welfare and remain hopeful for their success.

In an age of "Hannah Montana," it's time to rediscover the original Hannah and to emulate her example.



*E.M. Bounds*

*Praying Samuels  
come from  
praying Hannahs...  
Praying Leaders  
come from  
praying homes.*

## Soccer News

Saturday, May 24th

### Finale Schedule

<b>Division I</b>	9:30 - 11am
<b>Division II</b>	1:30 - 3pm
<b>Division III</b>	1:30 - 3pm

Come Prepared for FUN!

Our season Finale is 2 weeks away on **Saturday, May 24th**. Make sure you bring you camera for the trophy & team verse presentation. We're excited to announce that our own Pastoral Intern, Timothy Barton, will be our guest speaker.



Special thanks to  
Kristy Mize for photos!

## Free Soccer Clinic

A free soccer clinic led by the Charlotte Eagles players is being held from 6-8pm at Martha Rivers Park in Gastonia on **Thursday June 12th**. The clinic is designed for children ages 6-14.

During the clinic, parents are invited to attend a presentation about sports injury prevention given by orthopedic physicians and physical therapists. For more info & to register visit [www.caromont.humanmotioninstitute.org](http://www.caromont.humanmotioninstitute.org).



Charlotte Eagle Mascot

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

*Beginning June 1st*

6:30 Family Worship

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

Team Rosters

Game Schedule