

USA! USA! USA!

Is anyone else out there excited about the Olympics? I know I am. I love it all but what I really love is how events like the Olympics unifies our country. You will see and hear Georgia Bulldog fans and Georgia Tech fans chanting together, USA! USA! USA! You can hear Michigan fans and Ohio State fans doing the same. The same is true for all rivals. We even cheer for athletes who go to other schools that in any other setting we might boo. I don't know about you but after watching two political conventions highlight how divided we are as a country it is good to have something we can be united behind.

These next few weeks our athletes will be competing for medals. While we value those medals they are after all simply metal. Some of the athletes might parlay a gold into real gold in terms of advertising. Most Olympians will be forgotten as soon as football season kicks off a few days after the closing ceremony. For all the pageantry, the agony of defeat and the thrill of victory the Olympics will be gone and mostly forgotten about. In the end what happens in Rio will not ultimately change the world.

While I love sports and see the value it has it none the less is a temporal thing. The fastest grow old and slow down. The strongest lose that strength over time no matter what they do. The best athletes go back to real life and real problems. Did you know the Bible talks about this? I Corinthians 9:24 – 25 says...

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

That passage reminds us that the things of life are temporal. As Christians we work to build the eternal Kingdom of God that lasts. When you give here you are helping us build that Kingdom. Gold medals, gold dollars and certainly paper dollars will not last. Yet your gift today helps us build that which lasts forever. So give generously knowing you are helping build an eternal everlasting Kingdom!