

World Cup Mania!

Anyone out there a World Cup fan? That response is about typical for an American congregation! Since the US did make it into the round of 16 there was more interest but that has died down since they lost. Typically Americans don't get too excited about the World Cup. For the rest of the world just imagine combining the passion of a World Series, Super Bowl, NBA Finals, the Stanley Cup into one bowl and you have a small glimpse of the passion the world has about this event.

While we here in America show mild interest in the World Cup the rest of the world goes crazy. Millions and millions of dollars will be spent from gambling on who will win to parties for watching the big event. Yet ten years from now most will not remember who won. Most of you don't know who won the last World Cup. It was Spain by the way, I looked it up on Google!

Lest we be too critical of the world's soccer mania we here are no better when it comes to our passion for sports. How much do you think is spent on sports in America? Billions. Again, even the most rabid of us can't remember who won a few years after the event. All that work, emotion and passion over a silver cup or trophy. What difference does it really make if your team wins or not?

The Apostle Paul used sports metaphors often in Scripture. In one passage in I Corinthians he talks about how athletes train hard to win in competition for a crown that will not last. He then talks about how we strive for a crown that will last forever. I don't know about you but I want to make an impact beyond just the present.

Every week we take up an offering which helps us fund all the various mission and ministry initiatives we do here. Your gift matters! Giving faithfully and generously through this local church allows you to make a long term investment. It helps us all strive for a crown that will not perish and does last forever, the crown of changed lives for Jesus!

So as our ushers come forward to take up the offering let's give a gift that will last past this week's World Cup making an investment into Eternity!