

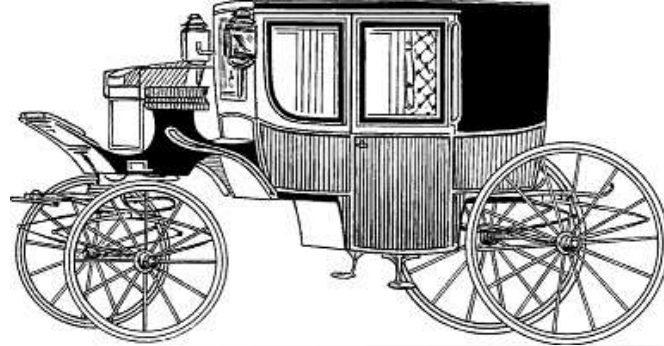


Having God for Your Coach

John 15:1-8

The Game of Life

What is a Coach?



- A large four wheeled horse drawn carriage
(a railroad passenger car, a bus to tour the city, a two door passenger car, a class of air transportation at a lower fare)
- One who instructs or trains, to direct, instruct, to train intensively by instruction and demonstration
(a person who assists others in reaching their goals)

Duties of the Head Coach

- Assembling, training and directing his team, establishes policies, sets direction and coordinates group effort
- God calls his team into being through preaching the gospel, assembles outstanding coaching staff (elders, teachers, preachers, parents, brethren)

1 Peter 5:1-4

2 Timothy 4:2

Proverbs 22:6

Galatians 6:1-2

Qualities of a Great Coach

- Smart (mentally sharp, understanding the game)
- Engaged, fully focused on developing his players
- Experienced, with proven time, knowledge
- Energetic, proactively planning every detail
- Composed, certain of victory, not falling apart
- Caring, considerate, personal interest in each player
- Challenging each to reach beyond present level

God's Qualifications to Lead You

- Smart (mentally sharp, understanding life)
 - Isaiah 55:8-9 For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
⁹ “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

God's Qualifications to Lead You

- Engaged, fully focused on his players
 - Psalm 139:1-4 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

God's Qualifications to Lead You

- Experienced, with proven time, knowledge
 - Psalm 90:1-2 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.

God's Qualifications to Lead You

- Energetic, planning every detail
 - Ephesians 1:18-20 that you may know what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*

God's Qualifications to Lead You

- Composed, certain of victory, not falling apart
 - Psalm 62:5-6 My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation *is* from Him.⁶ He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *He is* my defense; I shall not be moved.

God's Qualifications to Lead You

- Caring, with personal interest in each person
 - Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden on the LORD,
And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the
righteous to be moved.
- Challenging each to reach beyond present level
 - John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and My Father is the
vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear
fruit He ^[a]takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit
He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

The Joy of Playing for the Lord

- Choosing your team is a big decision..
(both God and Satan are recruiting you)
 - Which one truly cares for me?
 - Which one can I trust to help me?
- Abundant life begins with deciding the Lord's team
 - There is only one perfect coach – in the end those who side with Him will enjoy the greatest victory!



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