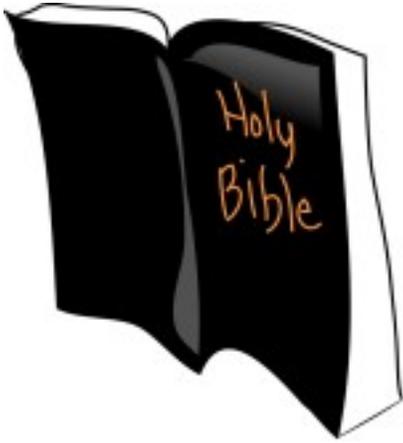


KEEP THE BIG PICTURE



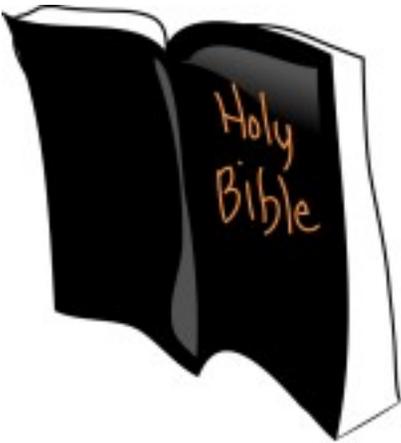
Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. - James 1:2-4

Sports can teach us lot of valuable life lessons. Sometimes we buy into the idea that if we will do all the right things, we are guaranteed immediate success. The problem is that sometimes this is true. The outcome matches the execution and the goal.

However, in sports, as well as in life, success is not always guaranteed. For instance, if you bring a smothering perfectionism to the golf course, you will probably leave with a higher handicap and a lousy disposition, because your game will never meet your expectations.

You can make the perfect golf swing and end up in a divot or sand bunker, or kick the perfect penalty and the goalkeeper tips it over the bar; analogies are limitless. So what do we do when the outcome is bad?

KEEP THE BIG PICTURE



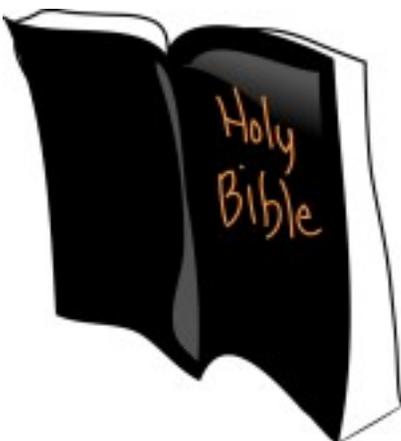
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We must accept that in sports, as in life, outcomes don't end the way we always hope. Jesus came to be Saviour of the world.

He was a perfect human being without sin. He did all the right things.

But the result was death on the cross because a short-term positive outcome was not God's plan for the situation. He had a bigger picture in mind. You and I need to keep the big picture in mind when short-term outcomes don't turn out well.

The Bible calls this perseverance. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

Prayer: Thank the Lord for His plan to ultimately bring you to a perfect end.

Scriptural Reading: James 1:1-6

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CUT--HERE

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