



March 12, 2018

## Sport God's Way

***“But now, since you know God, or rather have become known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and bankrupt elemental forces? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again?”***  
***(Galatians 4:9)***

Coaches are called to coach beyond the skills and strategies of the game (1<sup>st</sup> Dimension). A 3Dimensional Coach understands and harnesses the power of the coaching platform to coach the mind (2<sup>nd</sup> Dimension) and transform the heart (3<sup>rd</sup> Dimension).

As we read Galatians 4, we learn that the Galatian people were formerly pagans, but through Paul's preaching, joyfully received the truth of the gospel and experience the great freedom of being sealed by the Holy Spirit as adopted children of God. However, it seems that after Paul left, false teachers began to lead them back into what he describes as a state of spiritual slavery. They had once again adopted their old ways, a system of spirituality that was weak and worthless.

Galatia sounds a lot like the performance based culture of sports we experience. Sport played the way God intended can be the catalysts for internal transformation. It can guide both us and our athlete's on a spiritual journey to finding purpose and knowing the living God.

Sport can also lead coaches and athletes away from the freedom offered by Christ and instead turn them back to the idols of their heart. When this happens a coach fails to lead in all three dimensions and succumbs to the pressure of the “scoreboard.”

Let's choose to be different and focus on the living God and how sport was intended to be played.

**Question(s):** Have you contemplated the implications of being an adopted child of God? What idols do you still harbor in your heart?

**Challenge:** Read Galatians 4. Stop seeking identity, approval or satisfaction in anything other than the love of God.

**Prayer:** Lord I praise you for reconciling me to yourself through the price of your beloved son's blood shed on the cross for me. Lord Jesus, help me to remember daily that my salvation comes through my faith in your death and resurrection.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball