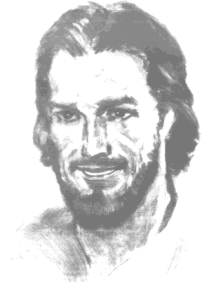


# St. Matthew's/Hope VBS/Soccer Camp

MONDAY, JUNE 15 through THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2009

## OPENING GUIDANCE



### Devotions for VBS/Soccer Camp 2009

This week we are attending a Vacation Bible School Soccer Camp where we will be learning what God's Word tells us about how we attain our goal. That goal of course is to be in Heaven with our Lord and Savior and with all the believers that are already in Heaven.

As children and adults we are taught from an early age that if we want something, we need to earn it. So when the Apostle Paul tells the Galatians that they are being foolish for trying to earn a place in heaven we might be confused.

Let's just look at the two very different parts of our lives being discussed. When our parents tell us we have to earn a new bike, or maybe clean our rooms before we get that cookie treat, that is in the worldly part of our lives. If we try to use that same idea when we talk about our spiritual goal we find we can never do enough good things to offset the things we do wrong.

When we try to do something we never seem to be able to get it perfect. We try and try but it seems something always comes up that causes us to make a mistake. Paul asks in Galatians 3:3, "are you so foolish?" We would be foolish if we thought for even a moment we can meet God's standard for our behavior, "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect" Matt.5:48. We all sin in many ways each day, sins we know about and sins we don't. Sins we commit and sins we do, by not doing something we should have. We are sinners, "for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God." Rom. 3:23.

This week we will learn how salvation is a gift of God, not anything we can attain on our own.

Parents please take the time to review the material sent home with your campers, it will be a gift for all of you.