

Reflection #10 - Keep Running the Race

Incredibly, though Liverpool won the Premier League title last week, I resisted the urge to even mention them in my sermon for this week, so instead I will mention it in my reflection - please note, non-football fans can still read this!

Liverpool have won in record breaking time, with 7 games left to play, and could surpass many different records as they play their final games. Of course Liverpool can now have two attitudes towards this:

1. They can relax and rest on their laurels - everything is sorted, it is done and dusted now, so let's just relax and not care.
2. They can say, yes we have won, but let's make this the best victory ever, and show even after the victory that we remain the best team out there.



Jurgen Klopp, the manager of Liverpool Football Club, after securing the title said, *'We are champions, but on the pitch we will behave like we have never won anything before.'*

I believe this completely based on the way Liverpool have played and the team that they have become under Jurgen. He has turned the entire club around.

And these same choices are there for Christians too, in the way we live out our faith. Because, as Christians, we believe that Jesus in his death and resurrection secured our eternal salvation - with the victory over, sin, death, and the Devil - and he has won this long before the end of time. With this in mind we can choose to rest on our eternal laurels, bought out of the pain and sacrifice that Jesus went through for us, or we can be hungry to push and see that God is recognised as the victor for as many people as possible.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us in chapter 12v1-3

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

How can we do anything but continue to run for God, to continue sharing the love that we have found in Him with others? How can we not want to keep going to show that though we know His victory is secure we want to be seen to live it out now enjoying every moment, until the day when we finally receive our crown? And like Liverpool keep fighting because they look to their manager, so we keep running looking at Jesus who is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.