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I grew up playing sports. I loved playing football, basketball, baseball, and any other sport which involved hitting, throwing, catching, tossing, or watching a ball. The one basic and fundamental advice that came with playing all of them was: keep your eye on the ball. It seemed like such an elementary thing to do I wondered why my dad and my coaches were always repeating that same thing no matter what level I was playing at. “Keep your eye on the ball” was their way of highlighting that one needs to keep their attention focused on that which is important, that which matters.

In our Lord’s church, it is the same. There is the one thing that matters most because all other things flow from it and are given their meaning by it. And that is Christ crucified and risen from the dead. The Holy Spirit who came at Pentecost and now comes to you, grants you faith to keep your eyes on Jesus because He is important. He matters. Keep your eye on the ball. Keep your eye on Jesus.

We are tempted fix our eyes on other things and that is the devil’s goal - to have us consumed with staring constantly at what is happening in the world and having nothing but despair or hopelessness or worry. He wants your eyes off of Jesus who has overcome the world for you. Because seeing what Jesus has done and continues to do for you brings joy.

Baptisms are happening. Forgiveness in Christ is being proclaimed. Saints are being fed bread from heaven. Jesus lives and abides with you. The church will not fall. The gates of hell cannot overcome it. These are things to keep your eye on because these things are Jesus at work. These are Him bringing life and joy. Keep your eye on the ball. Keep your eye on Jesus. Heaven is your home. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping my tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. We cry, “Lord, help us!” and He is quick to save, drawing our eyes back to Him and the gifts He desires to give us.

Some men came to Phillip and said, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Let this be our prayer also. That our Lord would keep our eye on the ball, on Jesus crucified and risen, that we may all rejoice together in the full forgiveness of our sins and the joy which accompanies the blessed life in Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



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