

Learning From Losing?

“Did I win?”... “Who had the fastest time?”... “Can I go first?”... “That’s not fair!”

These phrases abound whenever games of any size or significance are played anywhere. Losing, Winning or ‘other’ can *all* be a great learning tool, but sadly many have adopted one of *two extreme ideas* regarding any kind of competing. ‘Winning is not *everything*, it is the *only* thing’, misses the benefit of learning from losing. ‘*Everyone* gets a trophy’, removes *any* need for improvement and discourages effort and growth. Both extremes place **no value** on all the *other* results of participation including *Second* (“The *best loser*”) and *Second to Last*.

Win or Lose; Live or Die; Right or Wrong; Love or Hate: These polar *opposites* are the focus of almost every movie, yet familiarity can actually cause *less* wise thinking than *more*. Definitions of Winning and Losing are the *most* misunderstood. “*Be a winner NOT a Loser!*” This statement holds much power to motivate or discourage, but is it accurate? Was Lance Armstrong a winner when he cheated? Was Chris Farley a winner or loser? He had money and fame which are associated with *winning*, yet he overdosed and died *alone*. Accurate defining of winning and losing is *connected firmly* to living and dying, because it is hard to be a winner where **no** games exist! If *Eternal Living* is the ultimate *winning* then *Eternal Dying* must be the ultimate *losing*. “Either / Or” statements are the most logical and eye-opening!

Gravestones of those *claiming* they could beat death, silently assert that they were **wrong**.

The solid *proof* of Jesus’ claims of being the only way to win eternally are found in many written, eye witness accounts. (No Hearsay Here!) Jesus was *witnessed* soundly defeating Sickness with Healing, Hate with Love, Sin with Grace, Death with Resurrection and in the most compassionate and powerful action of all: *Our Losing with His Victorious Winning!*

Friend, there are only **two options** as we each experience *unavoidable* losses in some way. *Learn* from Losing, or *DON’T!!*. Insanity is described as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. Are **you** learning from losing by counting losses as *wins* as they teach you daily about your complete inability to live *any part* of your life without Jesus?

Much evidence supports His ability to provide *eternal* winning. The simplest ‘proof’ is best. If Jesus is *unable* to deliver the promised *win*, the loss of unbelief in His competitors, is bad. **But**, if Jesus **is** able and **right**, it is **impossible** to imagine a worse loss than Hell!! Proven, inspired scriptures warn *more* about endless “weeping, gnashing of teeth, darkness, pain, and non-stop regret” than even the winning of Heaven! (Hell was *never* designed for man!)

The Apostle Paul learned from His losing and said, “The things that were *gain* to me, I have counted as loss (garbage), so that I might gain Christ.” The sad, everyday reality is many sacrifice much to gain ‘success’ on this **fading** earth, yet **never** learn to be wise and *prepare* for a certain as set cement, palatial or putrid eternity. Once we die, our chances are **gone!**

A prayer of Learning from Losing! “Lord Jesus Christ, *forgive me* for trying to win *by myself* with fluff that fades. By faith in your winning sacrifice, I want eternal victory and to help others get the same”!