

Lesson Notes:

### **Don't be a wasted scholarship.**

When I was a young man in college we had a player with outstanding potential. He (his nick name was Moose) had been an outstanding fullback in high school with great balance, strength, and speed. Moose was selected All-Ohio in high school and when he came to the University the coaching staff had high hopes that he would significantly contribute to the success of our team. Early in his college career Moose showed great promise. He could always be counted on to get you those short tough yards needed for a first down. Unfortunately, Moose struggled with his weight and conditioning and by his senior year he had been moved from fullback to the offensive line.

While Moose still contributed to the team's success as an offensive tackle and special team's player he never fulfilled the dreams that the coaching staff had for him as a significant contributor to the team's success. Had Moose been able to maintain his weight and conditioning he could have easily become one of the best running backs in the history of the University and the Conference.

In an effort to motivate Moose the coaches would tell him that they had "wasted a scholarship" on him. While Moose was not a wasted scholarship he never fulfilled the purpose and the dreams that the coaching staff envisioned for him.

When we recognize the "truth" of Jesus Christ and give our lives to him God puts us on "scholarship for his team". As members of Christ's team we all have a purpose. Our ability to fulfill that purpose is limited only by our willingness for hard work, self sacrifice and service. My prayer is that I will never be a "wasted scholarship for Our Lord Jesus Christ".

### **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **You were saved for a purpose** – In **2 Timothy 1:9** Paul tells the believers in Ephesus that they have been saved for a purpose and he encourages them to seek to fulfill the purpose that God has preordained for them. In **Romans 8:28** the apostle Paul tells us that all things work together for those called according to his purpose. Notice that we are called according to "his purpose" and not "our purpose".
- 2) **God's purpose for us requires service** – Jesus tells us in **Matthew 22:36-37** that the greatest commandment is to love our Lord with all our heart, all of our soul and with all our mind. The logical consequence of this is to serve him.
- 3) **God has a different purpose and plan for each individual** – Paul tells us in **Romans 12:6-8** that we have different gifts and we are to use them accordingly.

- 4) **Don't bury your talents.** – In **Matthew 25:14-30** we see the parable of the servants with the talents. The servant which buried his talent was sent to Hades. Don't bury your talents but use them to serve and glorify God.
- 5) **God wants us to be content in his service** – King Solomon tells us in **Ecclesiastes 3:13** that God wants us to enjoy our service to him. This is not meant that our service to him will be easy. It means that it is our God's desire that our service to him is fulfilling to each of us.
- 6) **Give it the "Ole College Try"** – In **2 Chronicles 31:21** we see that Hezekiah, one of the first leaders in the nation of Israel poured his whole heart into his work. Whatever our service to God we need to give him our "best effort".
- 7) **Be a Leader** - Paul tells us in **Romans 12:1-2** that it is our obligation to present ourselves as living sacrifices to our Lord as our reasonable service.
- 8) **Stand fast in the Lord** – Finally in **Philippians 4:1** Paul encourages us to stand fast in the Lord and not to succumb to the evils of this world.