

28 September 2017

Sportsmanship

(Message on 34th Athletic Meet Opening Ceremony)

Good morning, teachers and students. On this occasion of the 34th Athletic Meet of Pentecostal Lam Hon Kwong School, I would like to share with you some encouraging words.

For the two days of Athletic Meet, our school has organized a number of sports events for you to join and enjoy. There are field events, track events, cheering team competition, inter-society invitation relay, inter-sports team invitation relay, inter-house captain relay and healthy kilometre. Through participation in the above sports events, we hope that all of you will learn the actual meaning of sport. In fact, **“SPORT” stands for five words. “S” stands for “sincere”, “P” stands for “professional”, “O” stands for “obedient”, “R” stands for “respectful”, and “T” stands for “target-oriented”.** Let me explain these five words one by one.

Firstly, **“S” stands for “sincere”.** Sport is an activity that you do for pleasure and that needs physical effort or skill. Sport is usually done in a special area and according to fixed rules and regulations. Being a sportsman, you should be sincere towards the fixed rules and regulations. “Sincere” simply means “honest”. A sportsman should be sincere and honest towards the rules. He will only do the right thing at the right time. He will not tell lies.

Secondly, **“P” stands for “professional”.** A sportsman should be professional. “Professional” means “well-trained and extremely skilled in a job or sport that needs special training or skill”. Being a sportsman, you should work hard and train hard so that you can master the skill of the sport that you participate in.

Thirdly, **“O” stands for “obedient”.** As mentioned before, all sport events have fixed rules and regulations. Being a good sportsman, you should try your best to follow the fixed rules and regulations. You should

obey and do what you are told or expected to do. Once you fail to follow the rules or the so-called marking scheme, you will lose the game.

Fourthly, **“R” stands for “respectful”**. “Respectful” means “showing respect to others, be polite towards and care for somebody that you think is important”. Being a good sportsman, you should respect others. In fact, sportsmanship refers to fair, generous and polite behavior, especially when playing a sport or game.

Finally, **“T” stands for “target-oriented”**. “Target-oriented” means “moving with a clear direction, goal and objective, aiming at achieving a certain goal”. Being a good sportsman, you should have a clear target and objective. You should know where you are now and where you want to go. Of course, you should also know how to get there. Boys and girls, I sincerely hope that through participation in the sport events of the 34th Athletic Meet, you really learn the real meaning of sport and become sincere, professional, obedient, respectful and target-oriented.

As Apostle Paul says in the Bible Second Timothy Chapter 2 Verse 5, “If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules” (人若在場上比武、非按規矩、就不能得冠冕。) In other words, as a good sportsman, if you want to win in the sports ground, you should play according to the rules. Then what are the rules? The rules are: being sincere, professional, obedient, respectful and target-oriented.

Last but not least, may I wish you great success and enjoyment in these two days! Thank you very much.