



**"I have fought
the good fight"**

2 Timothy 4:7

Game Over

Read: Luke 21:5-19

Last week after Alpha I got home in time to watch the Cubs beat the Indians in game seven of the World Series. I am not a big baseball fan, but I must admit that it was rather exciting. Sports have a way of captivating us and igniting our emotions. That is because there is something at stake.

In this week's gospel Jesus talks about the end of time. In other words, at some point the game will be over. I think that part of the reason why our faith isn't all that exciting at times is because we don't believe there is something at stake. Make no mistake about it, our lives will end at some point and the game will be over. How we played the game will dictate if we have gained the ultimate prize: eternal life.

Playing the game according to the rules may cost us. People may dislike the calls we make. They may grumble about the position we play. They may just hate the game in general. Others may try to create their own game or manipulate the rules, but Jesus warns us not "to follow them" (Luke 21:8). We must remember that the game is not ours. Jesus is the officiate and it is he who invites us to play. At the end of the day he will be the one to award the winners their crown.

St. Paul tells us, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). The clock is ticking, the final out is just a few pitches away, and this world has an expiration date. That is what makes the game exciting. There is an end and a prize to be won or lost. The good news is that we have a champion in Jesus Christ, and that if we continue to follow him, no matter what the cost, we are guaranteed to be victorious.