

## WHAT IT TAKES TO BE GOD'S BEST

by

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For a number of years I have wanted to write a short exposé or declaration of what it requires to be your best. I have taught it hundreds of times in many different ways. I will now capsulize the truth for you.

Vince Lombardi, for many years the outstanding football coach of the Green Bay Packers, defined in an address, "What It Takes to Be No. 1" in football, the statement "You've got to pay the price...."

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all-the-time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.

"There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my game and that is first place.... There is a second place bowl game, but it is a game for losers played by losers. It is and always has been an American zeal to be first in anything we do and to win and to win and to win.

"Every time a football player goes out to ply his trade he's got to play from the ground up—from the soles of his feet right up to his head. Every inch of him has to play. Some guys play with their heads. That's O.K. You've got to be smart to be No. 1 in any business. But more important, you've got to play with your heart—with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, he's never going to come off the field second.

"Running a football team is no different from running any other kind of organization—an army, a political party, a business. The principles are the same. The object is to win."

Football is a pastime, a sport. if such dedication and commitment for success are required in a pastime sport, what about the requirements for a far greater game, the game of life?

From the poem, "What is The Way Corps?", an adaptation from "The Spirit of the Everlasting Boy," by Henry Van Dyke, first given at the opening of the Corps year, 1970, verse two states:

"Not spacious pleasure courts  
or lofty temple of athletic fame  
where devotees of sports  
mistake a pastime  
for life's highest game."

And now

### WHAT IT TAKES TO BE GOD'S BEST

First, you have to have it to be God's best—heart and head.

Secondly, believing the accuracy and integrity of God's Word is not a once in a while action, but a second by second, a minute by minute, an hour by hour, a day by day, a week by week, a year by year action. You believe all the time.

Believing and only believing means the more than abundant life. Unfortunately, unbelief works also, but that is for those who will to be losers.

There is no place and nothing like a second-rate—partial believer. That's a loser. There is only one place in The Way's ministry of the Word of Life, and that is to be victorious, to win, to be more than a conqueror.

For the most part, "Christianity" so called is a loser, coached by losers. Almost everybody calls himself some kind of "Christian" if it's to his election advantage, business, social, etc., etc., etc., advantage.

That's why I talk about believers rather than Christians, because the word "Christian" has become so muddled and contaminated that it is appropriately called a "building Churchianity for losers."

True Christianity means "Christ-in," a household of believers. A team—not a building—but the Word over the world. The talking stage is over—the action is imminent. We, The Way believers, have to get involved with all we are or ever hope to be—body, soul, and spirit. You must have heart and head to be God's best. You must "sell out" completely to God and His Word.

I know that a believer's finest hour, his greatest fulfillment of himself to all he holds and knows is true from God's Word, is that moment when he has given his all, "worked out" his heart and head in behalf of the integrity and accuracy of God's Word—and he closes his day, lying down to sleep—totally expended and exhausted, but thankful—victorious.

That's what it takes to be No. 1's Best.

YOU'VE GOT TO PAY THE PRICE.