



"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

June 16, 2019

BECAUSE GOD MADE ME FOR CHINA

Introduction

"Without the slightest doubt, Eric Liddell was the greatest athlete Scotland ever produced – by his influence, his example and his capabilities."¹

Going For The Gold

He refused to run even though the hopes of the British team and indeed Scotland believed he was their hope of winning an Olympic gold medal.

Liddell was asked why he was so willing to give up everything the Olympics now offered him. "Because I believe God made me for China," he always replied."²

Going For The Real Gold

Eric Liddell never saw his own wife and daughters in this world again. After writing a letter to Florence from his bed in the infirmary, he said to his friend and colleague "It's full surrender" and slipped into a coma. Suffering with a brain tumor, he died in 1945.

Receiving the Crown of Life

¹ Magnusson, Sally, The Flying Scotsman, Quartet Books Ltd, London, England 1981, Page 41.

² Hamilton, Duncan. For the Glory (pp. 124-125). Random House of Canada. Kindle Edition.

And while all Scotland mourned, Heaven rejoiced. _____

Contemporary Application

- A. Prior to the 1924 Olympics, Liddell's trainer slipped him a note that read: "He who honors Him, He (God) will honor."
- B. In a sermon Liddell preached, he said, "Each one comes to the cross-roads at some period of his life and must make his decision for or against His Master."
- C. When he chose God's work over athletic glory, he said, "A fellow's life counts for far more at this than the other."
- D. His life's ambition is stated as, "I believe God made me for a purpose, for China; but he also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure . . . it's just not fun, to win is to honor Him." He was able to do "all things for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31); and
- E. His final words encapsulated his life, "It's full surrender" – "absolute surrender to the will of God."

Jesus said, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"* (Matthew 16:24–26, ESV)

Surrender means following Christ (Matthew 16:24a). Surrender means thinking of others first (Philippians 2:3-7). Surrender means killing sin by the Spirit (Romans 8:12-14). Surrender means finding your life (Matthew 16: 25b).

Reading List

- 1. Hamilton, Duncan. For the Glory, Random House of Canada. Kindle Edition.
- 2. Magnusson, Sally, The Flying Scotsman, Quartet Books Ltd, London, England 1981

Online Articles

- 1. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/for-the-glory/>
- 2. <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/eric-liddell-4272.php>
- 3. <https://www.christianity.com/church/eric-liddell-greater-than-gold-11634861.html>
- 4. <https://www.scotsman.com/200voices/sporting-legends/6-things-know-legendary-athlete-eric-liddell/>

YouTube

- 1. The Story of Eric Liddell <https://youtu.be/eqHEYnNSZeA>
 - 2. Chariots of Fire <https://youtu.be/KEtD0ybH7ns> \$4.99 CAD
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