Messenger Article PPP for September 2016

***Ride… Crash… Repeat.***

Many of you know that I’m a bicycling enthusiast. In addition to spending time outdoors enjoying the beauty of God’s creation while getting some exercise, another thing that I love about cycling is that it is such a clear metaphor for living. Paul uses a sports analogy to describe life in 1 Corinthians 9:24 & 24. Here is paraphrase of what he says:

*Don’t you realize that everyone in a race competes, but only one person gets the first prize? So race to win! 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I race with purpose…*

The world recently looked on as athletes competed in the Games of the XXXI Olympiad, the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics. We all tuned in to our favorite sports and found inspiration in the athletic performances we witnessed. Of course I watched the Men’s and Women’s (Bicycling) Road Races. Parts of the course were mountainous with treacherous descents where many people crashed. But almost as many got back on there bicycles and finished the race. They raced with purpose. They raced to win. For professional cyclist accidents are a part of the job description. They crash, it is not a matter of ‘if’, but ‘when’. Then they recover, they heal, and they ride again. Greg Van Avermaet of Belgium won the gold medal in the men’s race at this Olympics. He did this in spite of a serious crash in a race just this Spring that resulted in a broken collarbone. But he recovered, he healed, and he rode on again to win. For me the parallel is clear, and the Olympic spirit is not too different from the Christian spirit. We fall, we recover ,we get back in the ‘race of life’ once more and we race to win- we live with purpose. Blessings!

Pastor Peter