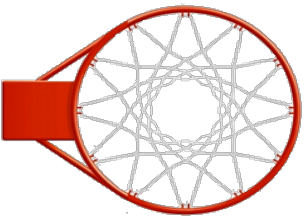


***LOWERING THE***

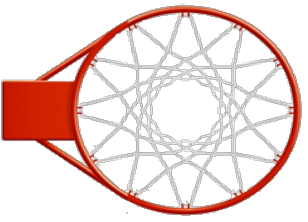
**GOAL**





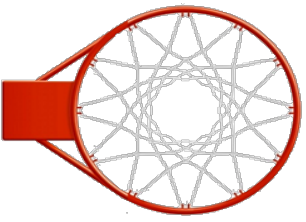
# THE PLAYER

- **A Young Man Wanting to Play Basketball**
  - *Tried out; discovered weaknesses/strengths*
  - *Made the team; a starter!*
  - *His weakness: fast-break lay-ups*
- **He Needed to Practice**
  - *His Weakness Was the Lay-ups*
  - *He Knew It; Determined to Improve*
  - *Practice Would Determine Success on Court*



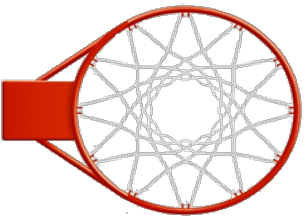
# THE PLAYER

- **He Was Told What He Must Do**
  - *The Coach Pointed Out Areas to Work On*
  - *The Coach Showed Him How to Improve*
  - *The Coach Told Him to Work on Weekends*
- **He Practices**
  - *Determined To Improve & Rid Weaknesses*
  - *Practices For Hours w/o Breaks*
  - *Tries It From Every Angle, Speed, Distance*



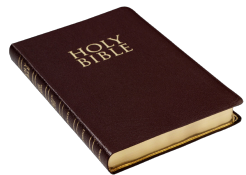
# THE PLAYER

- **He Doesn't Have Much Success, Though**
  - *No Matter What He Does, No Improvement*
  - *He Gets Frustrated, Makes It Worse*
  - *He Wonders If It Is Worth the Effort*
- **He Lowers the Goal!**
  - *His Solution To His Failures*
  - *A Changed Goal Height Reduced His Effort*
  - *He Gave Up On The Right Way to Practice*



# THE PLAYER

- **He Starts Making the Lay-ups**
  - ***He Makes Shots That He Missed Before***
  - ***His Confidence Increases, Practices More***
  - ***Lay-ups Are Easier, and Less Effort Required***



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **Must Desire To Be On Christ's Side**

- *For or Against; No Neutral*

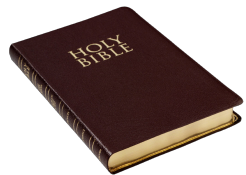
**MATTHEW 12:30**

- *Cannot Serve Two Masters*

**MATTHEW 6:24**

- *Must Choose the Lord*

**JOSH. 24:15; EXOD. 32:26**



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **Must Do What Is Required**

- *Not Just ‘Lord, Lord’*

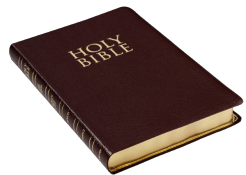
**MATTHEW 7:21**

- *Christ Is Savior to Those Who Obey*

**HEBREWS 5:9**

- *A Requirement From the Beginning*

**EXOD. 19:5; ACTS 5:29**



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **We Have Been Told What To Do**

- *The Words of Jesus*

**JOHN 12:47, 48**

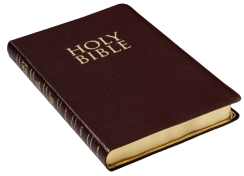
- *The Instructions of the Apostles*

**JOHN 12:50; 13:20; MATT. 28:19, 20**

- *Must Be Willing to Obey*

**ACTS 22:10**





# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **We Must Then Practice Our Faith**
  - ***More Than Just Hearing***

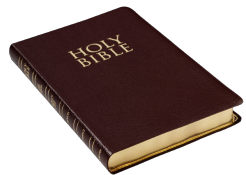
**JOHN 6:68; MATTHEW 7:26, 27; JAS. 1:22**

- ***More Than Just Believing***

**LUKE 4:41**

- ***Love Shown By Action, Not Just Words***

**1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN 3:17, 18; JOHN 14:15**



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **We Will Have Setbacks**

- *Persecutions Will Be There*

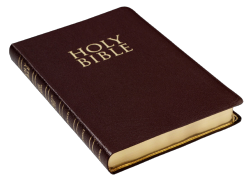
**2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 3:12**

- *We Will Occasionally Stumble*

**1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN 1:8, 10**

- *We Will Be Rejected By Many*

**LUKE 10:16**



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **Some Will 'Lower the Goal'**

- *Failing to Study And Be Diligent*

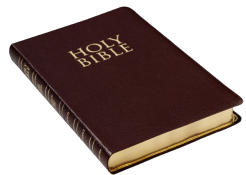
**2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 2:15**

- *Failing to Teach the Lost*

**MATT. 28:19, 20; 2<sup>ND</sup> TIM. 2:24-26**

- *Failing to Participate*

**HEBREWS 10:24, 25**



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **Some Will ‘Lower the Goal’**
  - *Desiring Teachers Who Please Them*

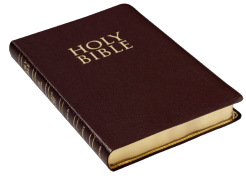
**2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 2:3, 4**

- *Desiring ‘Another Gospel’*

**GALATIANS 1:6-9; JOHN 12:42, 43**

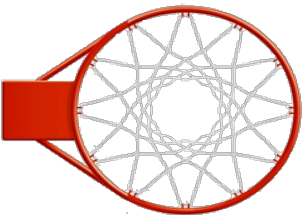
- *Giving Up On The Truth*

**1<sup>ST</sup> TIM. 4:3; HEB. 3:13**



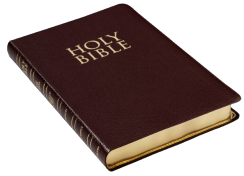
# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **They Will Have Apparent ‘Successes’**
  - *Attract Large Numbers*
  - *Pleases Many People*
  - *Create Councils, Synods, Conventions*
  - *Stray Further & Call It ‘Progress’*
  - *Seen As ‘Leaders’ by the World; Praised*
  - *Ridicule Truth & True Unity*



# THE REALITY:

- **The Young Man Who Wanted to Play**
  - ***Has Practiced Incorrectly***
  - ***Will Have Short-Changed Himself***
  - ***On the Real Court, the Goal Didn't Change***
  - ***Lowering the Goal Gave False Confidence***
  - ***What Worked Then Would Not in the Game***
  - ***His 'Solution' Was No Solution!***



# The One Who Would Be A Christian

- **Must Practice As God Demands**

**MATTHEW 7:21-23**

- **Our Goal Does Not Change**

**MAL. 3:6; HEB. 13:8, 9; 1<sup>ST</sup> PET. 1:23;  
PHLP. 3:14**

- **Striving Is Required**

**LUKE 13:24**

- **Our Life Here: A Preview of Eternity!**

