

The Media

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From the Pastor's Desk...

I was visiting with someone the other day in a counseling setting who said, "Why does everything always happen to me?" That person was not talking about being overwhelmed by good stuff. My guess is that all of us have said that at some time or another. We have a tendency to think that we are the only people who have ever failed, the only people who have ever been hurt, the only people who have experienced loss. The truth of the matter is that trouble is a big part of being human. Everybody strikes out sometimes. Everybody gets hurt sometimes. We need to keep our perspective about life and not cave in when life sends us unexpected curves.

Football is barely over, but I'm already thinking baseball. We are told that the great baseball player Babe Ruth had one of the greatest attitudes on life's ups and downs. We remember that he was baseball's greatest home run hitter for so many years. We forget that he also led the major leagues in strikeouts until just a few years ago. Grantland Rice once interviewed Babe Ruth.

"Babe," he asked, "what do you do when you get into a batting slump?" Babe replied: "I just keep goin' up there and keep swinging at 'em. I know the old law of averages will hold good for me the same as it does for anybody else, if I keep havin' my healthy swings. If I strike out two or three times in a game or fail to get a hit for a week, why should I worry? Let the pitchers worry! They're the guys who're gonna suffer later on."

I like that. Hang in there and keep swinging. The law of averages will start working for you. Everybody has slumps, but that doesn't mean that the game is over.

If you are convinced there is no hope for you, then probably there is not. If you are convinced that you are a failure, that you life is worthless, that you will never amount to anything...then you will probably live up to...or down to...your expectations. People usually do. If, on the other hand, you believe that God is with you...that you are God's child and that, therefore, all things are possible by God's grace, then good things are going to happen in your life.

"But this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:13b-14

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bill