

# Need a good coach?

League football is tough.

Look at the on-field aggression, the stamina, the determination to win.

And there's only one word for their training. It's rugged.

Of course fans expect this. They want their team to go from strength to strength. Yet this is only a game - what about real life?

Do we accept that life's hard knocks are meant to make us emotionally and physically tough?

Could it be that our heavenly Father permits his children to struggle in order to make them strong?

Here's what the apostle Paul tells fellow-Christians: "We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5.34 (NIV).

The apostle sounds like a modern football coach!

And do injuries discourage football players? Never! Fans just know their players will tough it out.

Yet in real life how often do we ourselves want the soft option? How often do we resent it when God allows grim trials to overtake us?

Since we take for granted that no football team is without a coach, let's recognise a great privilege which is ours. We have none other than Jesus, God's Son, to coach us in every trial that life throws at us. Are we grateful?

## **GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF**

If we could hear Jesus praying for us in the next room, we would have no fear. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for us.

**Ken Packer**