

September 26, 2021

# Citizens of God's Household

**Philippians 3:2-21; Ephesians 2:19-22**

The show Ted Lasso on Apple TV+ features an American football coach sent to England to coach soccer...which he knows nothing about. The comedy stars Jason Sudeikis as the unflappable Coach Lasso. Throughout the first two seasons, Coach Lasso has a hard time learning the ropes and fitting in with his new team, both on the field and off. He responds to every negative situation with an eternally positive attitude and folksy Americana witticisms: "I feel like I just fell out of the lucky tree, hit every branch on the way down, and ended up in a pool of cash and Sour Patch Kids."<sup>1</sup>

However, the Richmond Greyhounds under Coach Lasso's direction have trouble winning games. As the coach creates a more positive environment in the locker room, it doesn't always translate to goals on the pitch. He makes it clear over and over, though, that wins are not his goal. His goal is for the players (and his friends) to be better people than they were yesterday: "For me, success is not about the wins and losses. It's about helping these young fellas be the best versions of themselves on and off the field."<sup>1</sup>

This week's Focal Passages are all about leaving the past behind and focusing on our present and our future. Perhaps the verse that Ted Lasso would relate to most is this one: "It's not that I...have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose" (Philippians 3:12). We might not have been perfect today, but God is forgiving. We are blessed with more chances to get back on the pitch and give it another go.

1. Do you know anyone like Coach Lasso who is an eternal optimist? What can you learn from him or her?
2. When you get discouraged about your mistakes, what do you do to move forward?
3. How can you strive to be more perfect (complete) in Christ this week?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://everydaypower.com/ted-lasso-quotes/>