



Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

“NBA Greatness”

Thursday January 24, 2018

Verse for the week: 2 Timothy 2:15a (NLT) “Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval.”

I grew up in Indiana and basketball was huge. It seemed as though every house had a basketball goal. I was never any good at basketball so I never played on a team, but I watched a ton of games. The closest I got to being on a team was being the basketball manager in 8th grade. How exciting was that? It wasn't a glamorous job but it got me out of having to take cotillion. Even though I never played on a team I did learn a lot about basketball, and later they even let me be the coach for my son's Upward basketball team.

I learned that in basketball you need to be committed and have a drive for excelling. In my lifetime, Michael Jordan was a basketball player who has been known for his commitment and drive. During his 15 years of playing professional basketball, he, along with his team, won 6 championships. When people would ask him how many championship rings he had he would always hold up one more finger than the ones he had actually won. Why? Because he had a drive and a commitment to win one more, and wasn't going to give up. The apostle Paul had the same attitude when he wrote, **“...There is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.”** **Philippians 3:13a-14 (NCV)** It's easy in this life to give up. But instead of looking for the way out we need to have that drive and commitment to pursue more. The top areas we need to be driven in and committed to are **1.** Our relationship with God **2.** Our relationship with our spouse, **3.** Our relationship with our children. Everything else follows! If we are not committed to the **right things** in this life, we will not succeed.

Question to ponder: Where do you need to re-establish your priorities and begin being committed to excelling?

Interesting note: “The number of championships won by NBA superstars is often used as a measurement of their greatness. Boston Celtics center Bill Russell holds the record for the most NBA championships won with 11 titles during his 13-year playing career. He won his first championship with the Boston Celtics in his rookie year.” Wikipedia