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RIGHTEOUSNESS

D.B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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Argument about the Olympic Games continues; everyone wants politics and sport to be separate, just like politics and religion should be separate. Each have its own sphere and each must be based on what is right and just, but totalitarian states bring everything within the orbit of politics. For example Hitler tried to make religion serve his concept of the German race and of course he did the same with the Olympic Games in Berlin. Russia is more expert in this and certainly she treats sport as part of politics. Supremacy in sport is taken by the Russians to prove supremacy of their political system and that is why they spend vast sums of money in training their athletes. It is a form of political propaganda. If one country mixes up sport and politics it is not really possible for other countries to unscramble them, especially when that country is a leading country and is to be host of the next Olympics.

Though everybody in Australia and the free world like sport and politics to be separate, no one ought to wish that sport and righteousness should be separate. Is it right to play games with a country that is acting oppressively, not only to another country like Afghanistan, but also to its own citizens, banishing anyone who criticises the government in its treatment of human rights? The sense of right is written in the heart of all of us. This only makes sense if there is a standard of righteousness beyond ourselves to which we should conform. It is hard to act in accordance with a sense of right unless you believe in God and His law and His assessment and judgement at the end. Otherwise when it comes to the crunch we will

supress our sense of right in order to do the thing that we want, which normally means the thing which gives us pleasure. This is our problem in Australia; we have lost a vital belief in God and His judgement and eternity with heaven and hell. We spend our time hoping to get more money in the immediate future. We need to return to God and His values, to recognise that our life is not for this world only, and that how we behave now has consequence for us beyond this life. The fact that we are forgetting these things, does not alter their reality but it does make it difficult for our inbuilt sense of what is right to be strong enough to effect our actions. A money oriented, pleasure oriented life or society will find it difficult to stand up for what it knows to be right when the crunch comes. So each one of us should seek God now. We will find Him if we seek Him because this is His promise and with God we will find it easier to do the right thing.

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