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For more information or help, please contact:

To:

Please send me more details on finding a personal relationship with God

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# The CRUCIAL CONVERSION

## Crucial Conversion

*Rugby of the highest quality ...both teams evenly matched ...everyone giving their all in the struggle for victory.*

*With the noise, the colour and the tension, the atmosphere is electric.*

*Suddenly, in the dying seconds, there's a try... and the scores are level. There's just time for the decisive kick to be taken...*

*Yet in less dramatic style there's another struggle which involves each one of us, and where much more hangs on the outcome of a 'crucial conversion'...*



## The Game Plan

Just as strategy is vital to the success of any team, so each of us must learn how to handle the challenges of life. But despite our drive, determination and 'tactical awareness', we fail to fulfil God's plan for our lives when we choose to ignore or reject His right to order our daily living...

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way...*

Isaiah 53:6

**We may feel we can tackle most things in our own strength, but a right relationship with God can be found only through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says...**

*I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 14:6

**Our real problem is the kind of people we are... no matter how hard we try...**

## The Fitness Test

Team selection is always based on form and fitness, but it doesn't work that way with God! In His sight we're all 'non-starters'...

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity... hatred... jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition... envy; drunkenness.*  
Galatians 5:19-21

And this includes even the best of us...

*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*  
Romans 3:23

...leading to everlasting defeat...

*...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...*  
Hebrews 9:27



But  
thankfully  
God has  
already  
tackled  
this  
on our  
behalf...

## The Penalty Taker

In any rugby match it would be very unusual for a substitute to turn defeat into victory by becoming a vital penalty-taker, but the Lord Jesus Christ became our substitute on the wooden Cross of Calvary...

*...at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*  
Romans 5:6

He took the penalty we deserve because of our rebellion against God...

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*  
1 Peter 3:18

But this alone doesn't put us 'right' with Him...

## The Crucial Conversion

One successful conversion can secure victory, and in the same way it can secure our everlasting future... when we turn away from all we know to be wrong...

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.*  
1 Peter 2:24

...and receive forgiveness by asking Christ Jesus into our lives to become our Saviour and Lord...

*...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*  
John 1:12

## The Promise of Victory

Rugby is certainly not for the fainthearted... and neither is the Christian Life! The level of dedication required of a top class player is extremely high, but from those who would be His true followers the Lord Jesus asks total commitment...

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.*

Luke 9:23-24

Of course this would be far beyond us in our own strength. Yet all that was won, through His death and resurrection, can be ours as a free gift... beginning with a completely new start in life...

*...if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

## The Crunching Challenge

So when it comes to the 'crunch', the challenge facing us all is our need for a 'crucial conversion'...

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

*Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

John 3:18

This decision  
will determine  
the final  
result.

But the next step  
is yours!

*...it is time  
to seek the  
LORD.*

Hosea 10:12

