

## The Final Word

There are some soccer coaches who are overbearing, sometimes to their team and often to the referees. They are “controlling” individuals, wanting everything their way. At some point in a tough match they are going to object to a call. As a referee we can see them coming at us. Their face is red and the veins seem to be popping out of their neck. They walk or sometimes run towards you with a pronounced “Barney Fife” gait. They raise their voice loud enough for everyone to hear, hoping to incite others to get on the official. As an official we try to ignore them, but they persist until they know they have your attention. As a referee you calmly acknowledge them, but they persist in making their point, time and time again. At some point you politely tell them you have “had enough” and you warn them you are ready to show them a card (a practice allowed in high school soccer) or ask them to leave the field. Invariably, even after hearing your warning they make *one more* comment. They want to get the last word in.



Life throws lots of ugly things our way. We experience ups and downs with plenty of sorrows that create sleepless nights. Evil takes its best shot at us, testing the strength of our faith. Just like the soccer coach who won't stop badgering the official, the devil keeps challenging us, again and again. The devil seeks to bring us to the breaking point in hopes that we will give in. It is a lifelong battle. Sometimes it wears us down.

Eventually, however, the final whistle blows and the game of life is over. The devil is silenced and we are about to receive the “last word.” Instead of it being one more barb it is a loving word from the Savior, himself. Jesus has the final word – not in anger, but in love. His word comes to us because of the cross. In His time on earth Jesus resisted all the badgering from the devil, but because He lived on earth, He understands what we have gone through in our lives. But, Jesus did much more. He suffered and died on the cross, taking our sins with Him. He rose from the dead, defeating Satan and paving the way for us to also receive eternal life. Jesus helps us overcome anything life has thrown against us because He died for our sins and rose from the dead. The popular Christian song, “The Cross Has The Final Word,” assures us Jesus traded death for eternal life.

When the game of life is over it will all be worth it.

As a referee I wear a patch on my uniform. Essentially, the patch is worn over my heart. The patch says I am certified to officiate the game of soccer, in spite of ranting and raving coaches. In your life the name of Jesus is imbedded on your heart, giving you the strength to endure what life throws your way. There is nothing greater than the name of Jesus. Endure and overcome what Satan throws in your path because you know that the cross has the final word. The ranting and raving soccer coach's last word did nothing to change the outcome of the game. Jesus' last word changed everything!

### Lyrics to "The Cross Has The Final Word"

The cross has the final word; The cross has the final word  
 Sorrow may come in the darkest night; But the cross has the final word  
 There's nothing stronger, Nothing higher; There's nothing greater than the name of Jesus  
 All the honor, All the power, All the glory to the name of Jesus  
 The cross has the final word; The cross has the final word  
 Evil may put up its strongest fight, But the cross has the final word

There's nothing stronger, Nothing higher, Nothing greater than the name of Jesus  
 All glory & honor is Yours; All glory & honor is Yours  
 The cross has the final word; The cross has the final word  
 He traded death for eternal life; The cross has the final word  
 Oh, the cross has the final word; The cross has the final word  
 The Savior has come with the morning light; The cross has the final word