

# Baseball Team Devotion- The Screwball

## Scripture Lesson: Romans 7:15-25

The Screwball is a pitch that does just the opposite of a usual breaking ball. (This pitch should only be thrown at an advanced age when the arm has reached maturity.) Instead of a breaking pitch from a right handed pitcher breaking towards a left-handed batter, the ball will break away from the left-handed batter. Perhaps the most famous screwball pitcher of all time was a pitcher who pitched for the then New York Giants, Hall of Famer Carl Hubbell. In the 1934 All-Star Game, Hubbell accomplished an amazing feat of pitching. The first two batters reached base and up came Babe Ruth. Hubbell proceeded to end the first by striking out Hall of Famers, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Jimmy Foxx. Hubbell continued the strike out barrage in the second by striking out Hall of Famers Al Simmons and Joe Cronin. Five Hall of Fame hitters all struck out in a row, Hubbell's screwball was the key pitch. The screwball does just the opposite and it is difficult to hit.

In our Scripture lesson today, the Apostle Paul is struggling. He doesn't understand what he is doing, for what he wants to do he doesn't do and what he does not want to do he does. He seems to be doing just the opposite. Paul realizes a very important fact of life. Sin causes us to do what we should not be doing and to leave undone the things we should be about doing. There is only one cure for opposite living and it is found in verse 25. "Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord." Paul goes on in Chapter 8 to say there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. When life throws us a screwball, when we seem to be doing the things we should not be doing and fail to do the things we know we should be doing, the only way to get a hit in life is to give our all to Christ. He forgives us our sins and gives us the inner strength through the Holy Spirit to battle against the forces of evil. Satan is all throwing us screwballs, trying to get us to do the opposite. But with Christ on our side, no matter how good Satan's screwball is (even better than Hubbell's), we will get a hit every time. Saying yes to Christ gives us the power to defeat evil and to live the life we want to live for Him. Been failing in the game of life? Maybe it is time to trust the Savior, and give your life to Him totally and completely.

Visual aid: google how to throw a screwball and show the players the grip and motion with a ball.