

It's Football Season...Does God Like Football?

Well it's Football Season again. The time of year has come when men and women don the jersey of their favorite team and route until they're blue in the face for their team to win. When it comes to football all that matters are that your team wins, even if it is chip shot off the helmet of the long snapper's helmet. A win is a win as they say. Every year I ask the question does God even like football? My head wants to say yes but my spirit says no. I do know that God loves the millions of people that watch the game, and the millions of people that attend the games, and the thousands of people who play the game. Praise the Lord that I know for sure, but I am not sure God even likes Football. I had lunch this past week at Genghis Grill; great spot by the way, and as I sat there eating, I watched the people who were glued to the TV as SportsCenter was on...but then again SportsCenter is always on! What I noticed most was that no one was making eye contact with each other as they talked. Then I noticed everyone glancing at their smart phones doing the index finger digital slide like pre-programmed robots. It was enlightening and I had the answer to my question. No, the God Heaven does not like football, or does he care about the outcome of any game.

On the flip side the god of this world (satan) loves football. It's one of his favorite tools to distract Christian men from what should our primary pursuit which is pressing for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. A dear brother in Lord said to me after a recent Wednesday night service, "Thank God it's football season!" I thought seriously is that all you must thank God for. I'm thankful to God were alive, thank God we have roofs over our heads, food to eat, cars to drive, churches we can still attend, and the right to marry whom we choose. Thank God it's football season, for real?

To be fair sports for the most part is about the most decent thing there is to watch on TV. There are times when a dog football game is better than some of the Christian TV programming, we all suffer through. I am a football fan as far as to say the Detroit Lions are going to win the Super Bowl, but I say that every year and 22 weeks from now we'll find out if I'm right. Watching football is not a sin, but what is so disconcerting is the unbridled passion people have for the game and all the man worship that goes along with it. I do distinctly remember the Word of God saying, "Thou shalt not have any gods before me." Football is idol worship when you boil it down, which makes me very unpopular, but it is true.

There is more passion, money, love, attention to detail put in preparing for a football game than there is getting ready to worship the Lord God Almighty. Let's see, we wear jerseys with mascots of animals, bulls, lions, eagles, falcons, bears, rams, giants (which really existed), men who raid call raiders, cowboys, buccaneers, and dolphins you get the point.

With a little homework you'll find ancient cultures worshiped the very images we Christians wear on our backs! I'm mean how cool is it to wear a menorah on your jersey--it isn't but when Jesus comes to establish His Kingdom, I'm sure many will be at the gift shop trying to buy a jersey to represent Team Jesus.

I'm embarrassed for God, oh how we insult him. God sent his only begotten Son to die on the cross to forgive us of all our sins, save us from a devil's hell, plus has chosen to let us reign with him and we clock watch on Sunday mornings. The Pastor better not even think about preaching past noon or God forbid the Holy Spirit might want to move, or worst yet the Pastor cuts his message short. Unacceptable Saints! Beloved being heavy handed is not something I like to do at all but if one person stops and considers their ways then this Holy Spirit motivated blog post was worth it. Our time is short, and God needs more of our time not less.

Father in the name of Jesus, I ask that the Holy Spirit help every person who reads this to negotiate with you about the matter of their heart and what is truly on the throne of their heart. Father you have given us all thing that pertain to life and godliness to be enjoyed. So, I ask that the fruit of self control manifest in the heart of your people, so that we will not put anything before you, nothing, nothing, nothing before you.

In the name of Jesus! Amen

Scripture Reference: Philippians 3:14, Exodus 20:3, Exodus 20:4, 2 Peter 1:3, John 3:16, & 17, 2 Timothy 2:12, Galatians 5:23, 1 Thessalonians 5:19