

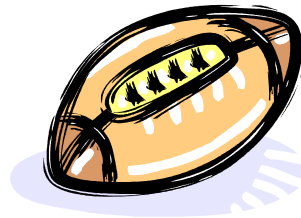


Super Bowl Sunday is Every Sunday

Today is the day that has come to be known as America's unofficial holiday. Yes, that's right, it is Super Bowl Sunday. Of course, the Super Bowl is the penultimate sports experience for most people who live in the United States. People start planning weeks in advance for their parties and get-togethers at which they eat, it is reported, more snacks than any other day of the year. It is said that more Americans watch the Super Bowl than any other program on television. In fact, over 150 million are expected to watch (that's over half the population of the U.S.) and during that time advertisers will pay \$2.4 million dollars per half minute to promote their product. The revenues alone for the entire event would be enough to fund the startup of a small country. It is an event that truly vies for the national attention.

In contrast, there are those places to which people frequent on Sundays called, in the vernacular, "churches." While there are many Americans who claim to be Christians, not nearly as many show the kind of devotion and zeal that is seen in preparation for the Super Bowl. Oh, there are some who prepare, preachers, teachers, students of the word, but most simply decide at the last minute

whether they will show up or not. While Super Bowl Sunday boasts a record number of snacks consumed, many "churches" throughout the land won't even observe the one holy meal of which the Lord's church partakes every Sunday (Acts 20:7). And it is quite doubtful that anyone will pay \$2.4 million dollars per half minute in order to hear the greatest message ever known. These events hardly merit the attention of the local media, much less the national attention.



Yet for all of the hype surrounding Super Bowl Sunday and its events and all of the apathy toward the other fifty-one Sundays of the year and their events, just one ordinary Sunday is still more super than Super Bowl Sunday, provided that Sunday is spent in the pursuits of the Lord. For Sunday is the day that the saints of God gather in fellowship one with another to recount the apostles doctrine, break bread, and pray (Acts 2:42). It is the day that those devoted to God may return to Him that portion of blessings which is His due (1 Corin-

thians 16:1, 2). It is the day that a remembrance is made of God's only begotten Son in the memorial feast that commemorates His body and blood (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Because it was on this day, Sunday, that Jesus rose triumphantly from the grave proclaiming the defeat of Satan and victory over death, that we assemble to honor, praise, and worship He whose plan redeemed mankind from inevitable and eternal defeat.

On Super Bowl Sunday, there will be winners and there will be losers. There will be those who are victorious and those who fall, ignominiously, to ruin. Some will indeed be heroes this Sunday and some will be goats. I'm not necessarily speaking of the gridiron, but of the grand field upon which the souls of men and women are gained and lost. Whose team are you rooting for this Sunday? Indeed, for whose team will you be playing eternally? There are only two sides in this contest and the odds of winning are heavily favored for one side against the other. The choice as to whether we will be winners or losers, victorious or defeated, is ours. Let us choose sides prayerfully and devote ourselves to that team whose victory is assured.

Kevin Cauley

Messengers—Carl Hanson



“...we must always remember the MESSAGE BELONGS TO HIM and we are merely the messengers.”

Yesterday was “Groundhog Day” and according to the “official” groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, since he saw his shadow, we are in for six more weeks of cold winter weather. As this annual event was captured by the news media, there was much mumbling and groaning from the crowd gathered and they were reminded that “Phil” was only the messenger. Though we may not fully rely upon the forecast associated with “Groundhog Day”, how often has the weatherman felt the brunt of complaints regarding the weather as people forget the weatherman only predicts the weather, not produces it?

As Stephen was helping to spread the message of salvation in Jesus, there were some who disputed with him, but were unable to withstand his wisdom. In an attempt to stop this messenger, they secretly instigated men to accuse him of blasphemy. Stephen was seized and brought before the Jewish council where false witnesses testified against him. (Acts 6:8-14) Stephen then began a

speech pointing out a long history of ill treatment of God’s messengers. Note the following charge Stephen directed toward this group: “Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the righteous one, whom you have now betrayed and murdered” (Acts 7:52 ESV).

Jesus also referred to the history of how God’s messengers had been treated. (Matthew 23:29-36) So many of God’s prophets were mistreated as their message was rejected by those to whom God had sent them. However, God’s true prophets could and would only speak the message He gave them. There were also times when prophets who would speak a kinder message were sought out instead. Is the tendency much different today? Quite often, when people don’t like the message they simply take it out on the messenger. And if the messenger can’t be clearly proven wrong, attempts are made to shut him (or her) up one

way or another. Even many who seek to uphold freedom of speech and encourage a spirit of toleration of diverse ideas are among the most intolerant of Biblical principles and appear to want nothing more than for Christians to be silenced!

When the prophet Micah was before Ahab and was told to speak favorably, he responded “As the LORD lives, WHAT THE LORD SAYS TO ME, THAT I WILL SPEAK.” (1 Kings 22:14) We are not prophets, but we are to be messengers of GOD’S WORD. What God has spoken and preserved in the Scriptures, that is what we are to proclaim. As we hold out the message of salvation in Christ and live true to the standard God has given us for life, we must always remember the MESSAGE BELONGS TO HIM and we are merely the messengers. We have no right to change the message to suit the ears of those around us. The message is to be what it is regardless of the climate of society. May we remain true to HIS MESSAGE!



Bible Studies for the week of February 6th, 2005

- AM Sermon..... Bible Miracles
- Scripture Reading..... Hebrews 2:1-4
- PM Sermon..... Obtaining Sainthood
- Scripture Reading..... Colossians 1:21-26
- Sunday Class The Book of Hebrews
- Wednesday Class..... Lessons from the Cross

Kevin's Korner—MTV and Morality

I received the following interesting news blurb from an Internet resource called Agape Press. This news resource reports on things that the mainstream media won't, particularly in regard to items in which Christians would be interested. The news item is in regard to the amount of profanity, sex and violence portrayed on the popular video music channel, MTV. I hope that we can use this information to educate parents and community leaders regarding this social icon's true agenda. Here is the article:

...Research conducted by the Parents Television Council (PTC) indicates that MTV is blatantly peddling smut and profanity to children, with programming that contains more raunchy sex, foul language, and violent content than one would find in television

broadcasting aimed at adults. A new study released by the PTC, the nation's most influential advocacy organization working to protect children against harmful content in media and entertainment, notes that Viacom-owned MTV is profoundly influential in the lives of its young fans. "Music Television" is watched by 73 percent of boys and 78 percent of girls ages 12 to 19, a recent PTC press release notes, and the network maintains its dangerous grip on young fans by "glamorizing drug and alcohol use, sexual promiscuity, and violent behavior." Last year, the PTC's researchers recorded and analyzed 171 hours of programming around the clock from March 20 to March 27 during MTV's "Spring Break" coverage. They found that the network's reality programs averaged 13 sexual scenes per hour, while its music videos averaged 32 instances of profane lan-

guage per hour. According to the PTC, the "incessant sleaze" bombarding youth through MTV programming presents the most compelling case yet for consumer cable choice. Since the network is subsidized, parents who want basic cable in their homes currently have no choice but to accept and pay for MTV.

As the article states, those who have cable don't have a choice as to whether they want MTV or not. But just because it comes in the standard package doesn't mean one has to watch it.

For more information on this issue and to find evaluations of currently produced television programs you may visit the parents television council web site: www.parentstv.org.



"I hope that we can use this information to educate parents and community leaders regarding this social icon's true agenda."

Records for the week of January 30th, 2004

Sunday Bible Class	61
Sunday AM Worship.....	75
Sunday PM Worship.....	60
Wednesday Night Study.....	34
Contribution	\$1920.60
Budget.....	\$1778.13



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayers: Bill Anderson, Joann Bragg, Daisy Farmer, Darrell Roberts, Frank Smith.
- Carolyn Roller and John Gass were also feeling under the weather this past week.
- We are having a Spring Gospel Meeting this year! It is something for which we need to begin to prepare. Brother Jake King will be with us starting Sunday, March 6th. He will be speaking on the second chapter of Titus. I have made some flyers for this event and encourage each of you to pick a few up and hand them out to your friends. Let's invite everyone we know to this opportunity for Bible Study.
- This coming Saturday will be the time for our monthly men's breakfast. We certainly hope that you will join us at 7:00 AM for this good time of fellowship.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home is this coming Thursday afternoon at 2:00 in the activity room. Please feel free to join us at this time.
- Our pantry item is: Green Beans.



Welcome!

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	February 6th, 2005	February 13th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	Clay Bozarth	Bill Fort
	Bob Phillips	Ken Smith
(assist)	Jack Gentry	Brandon Foster
	Raymond Kimes	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	Dan Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Bruce Foster	Dan Hand
Lord's Table	Brandon Foster	Rusty Windle
	Ray Duncan	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley

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