

TOP TEN THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SUPER BOWL

1. SOME PEOPLE MAKE THE SUPER BOWL TOO IMPORTANT.

- A. It becomes a "life and death" matter for many people, especially this year for those living in Indianapolis and Chicago.
- B. Have you seen the media attention that has been showered upon the teams during the last two weeks?
- C. A visitor to our country would get the impression that the Super Bowl is *MORE IMPORTANT* than *the Presidential election, the Budget crisis or any pending legislation*.
- D.** What would happen in our country if spiritual matters were given just a fraction of this attention?
"While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." **2 Corinthians 4:18.**

2. THE SUPER BOWL GIVES PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIN.

- A. A huge amount of *GAMBLING* will take place.
 - 1. Over \$100 million dollars will be legally bet this year on such things as: the winner, the point spread, toss of the coin, who will make first First Down, etc.
 - 2. That doesn't account for the money bet on the game in offices, shops, etc. I read that a few years ago there was \$4 billion bet illegally across the US.
- B. Drinking and fighting go along with many important sporting events.
- C. Have you ever seen the wild parties and rioting that occurs when some teams win championships?
- D. Sin must be *defeated*, not *EMBRACED*, even in the "thrill of victory."

3. THE PAST DOESN'T MATTER.

- A. The Chicago Bears and Indianapolis Colts have not been to a Super Bowl in many years.
 - 1. They got close a few times.
 - 2. The Bears have not been to the Super Bowl since the 1985 season.
 - 3. The Colts have not been to the Super Bowl since the 1970 season, when they were the Baltimore Colts.
- B. A "Winning Tradition" has some effect on one's mental state entering a game, but it does not ASSURE victory.
- C. Your past does not **have** to determine your present and future.
 - 1. **EVEN IF THE DEVIL HAS DEFEATED YOU** IN THE PAST, he does not have to be victorious over you today nor in the future.

2. EVEN THOUGH YOU ***MAY HAVE DEFEATED HIM*** IN THE PAST, you have to ALWAYS "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." ***1 Peter 5:8***. He won't just go away.

4. A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY WILL BE SPENT.

- A. It will cost **\$2.6 million** for a *30-SECOND* commercial.
- B. People will spend thousands of dollars for tickets and trips to the game in South Fla.
- C. Compare to that the amount of money given to the Lord. Many will spend more on that one weekend than would be given in a whole year in the contribution plate.
- D. Remember what Jesus said about money:
 - 1. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;" ***Matthew 6:19-21***.
 - 2. "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." ***Luke 12:15***.

5. YOUR TIME WILL BE BETTER SPENT AT WORSHIP TONIGHT.

- A. There will be no money gambled on the outcome of worship.
- B. You won't have to watch any beer commercials.
- C. There won't be any violence nor injuries -- (unless Brian trips coming up the steps).

6. MANY PEOPLE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.

- A. Their team will lose. Some will get *depressed* about it.
- B. You will never be disappointed in the Lord.
 - 1. God will not tell you a lie, ***Titus 1:2***.
 - 2. God is not slack concerning His promises, ***2 Peter 3:9***.
- C. *Even if everyone else lets you down, the Lord never will.*

7. THE TEAM WITH THE BEST RECORD DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE SUPER BOWL.

- A. The ***San Diego Chargers*** had the best record in football (13-3), but they lost in the playoffs.
- B. Having the best record does not guarantee you make it to the Super Bowl.
- C. Having some good qualities does not guarantee you will make it to Heaven. You could even be the best person in the room, but if you do not obey the gospel, you will be lost.
- D. Sometimes teams with the best record will coast into the playoffs and think they will easily make it to the Super Bowl.

- E. We can be faithful for many years, but we can't let up.
 1. "Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have *come short of it.*" **Hebrews 4:1.**
 2. "Be *FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH*, and I will give you the crown of life." **Rev 2:10.**
- F. The Chargers played a close game, but lost to the New England Patriots.

8. VICTORY WILL COME TO ONE TEAM.

- A. Only one team will win the Super Bowl. Only one person can win a race. We all can win in the Christian race, **1 Corinthians 9:24-27.**
- B. Christians can have victory over:
 1. Death, **1 Corinthians 15:55-57.**
 2. Sin, **Romans 6:16-18.**
 3. Temptation, **1 Corinthians 10:13.**

9. THERE MAY BE AN UPSET IN THE SUPER BOWL.

- A. The Bears are favored, but the Colts might "upset" them.
- B. In the battle between Satan and the Lord, there will not be an "upset winner."
 1. Satan is not more powerful than the Lord.
 2. There is no way Satan can win unless we allow him to do so.
- C. "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." **1 John 4:4.**
- D. As long as the Lord is on our side, we can be assured of victory, if we stay on His side.
- E. This brings me to the final point.....

10. I WOULD RATHER BE ON THE WINNING SIDE.

- A. I like it when the team I am pulling for wins in any sport – football, bball, baseball....
- B. That will be the Lord's side, **Exodus 32:26**
 1. Aaron had built the golden calf and the people had worshiped it, **v.2-4.**
 2. Moses confronted him, ground the calf into powder and made the people drink it, **v.20.**
 3. Then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD'S side, come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.
Verse 26.
- C. *Whose side are you on?*

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