

Elkton Communicator

A Publication of the church of Christ in Elkton, TN

5FEB2012

Men Privileged to Serve

Announcements

Jarred Butler

Sunday Services

9 am

Singing— Jim Lovell

Prayer— Frank Solomon

10 am

Singing— Jim Lovell

S. R.— Johnny Lewis

Prayer— John Bryan III

Sermon— Joe Greer

Lord's Table—

- Presiding

- Jerry Moody

- Jay Butler

- Serving

- Mike Phillips

- Jimmy Davis

Prayer— Chris Crabtree

5 pm

Singing— John Bryan IV

Prayer— John Bryan Jr.

Sermon— Jim Lovell

Prayer— Joe Greer

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Singing— John Bryan III

Invitation— Dick Sullivan

*“The works of
His hands
are faithful
and just.”*

Psalm 111:7

Super Sunday

by W. Frank Walton

*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’”
(Psa 122:1).*

The marketing of professional football, with huge revenues and highly paid players (like all-pro QB Peyton Manning in the last year of his 7 yr., \$92 million contract to the Colts), with also a two week run up to this main event of the NFL playoffs, has managed to make the Super Bowl an icon of American culture. It is the most watched sporting event in the USA, which has averaged over 100 million viewers the last four years, with 117 million viewers projected to watch this one. Last year, 163 million watched at least part of the game. A 30-second commercial will cost an advertiser \$3.5 million.

Many churches felt like they didn't have anything exciting to offer to compete against the Super Bowl, so some started showing the game as part of their Sunday evening Service. Deacons would dress up in referee uniforms and hand out popcorn, etc. The NFL countered that it is illegal to show the Super Bowl on any screen larger than 55 inches and cannot be shown at any venue that wouldn't normally show sporting events, such as churches. Hence, some churches have just canceled Sunday evening services on Super Bowl Sunday. One church in Houston, TX posted a comical video entitled, “Don't come to Church Sunday at 5 PM.” The message says, “We know you want to watch the big game. We do too. So, stay at home and don't come to church. We won't be here.” In the background is a “goofy” guy who didn't get the message, who is running around in the empty building acting silly. Huh?

Watching a good NFL football game can certainly be enjoyable and a fun way to spend time with your friends. (Just be ready with the remote to flip the channel if they show morally questionable commercials that we don't need to see)

However, what is really "super" about Sunday?

Christ the Everlasting Victor Arose on Sunday

In the greatest contest of the ages, the Son of God defeated all the forces of evil that had conspired against Him to kill Him, causing Him to suffer and die a cruel, humiliating death on the cross. In joyful submission to the Father's will, as well as unfathomable love for us, Jesus bravely endured it all with a shout of triumph, *“It is finished!” (Jn 19:31).*

Then, when religious hypocrites conspired to keep him secured in a sealed tomb with Roman guards to disprove His claims, He raised Himself miraculously from the dead in glory (**Jn 10:17**), which was done on Sunday (**Mk 16:9, Lk 24:1,13,21-24**). *“On...the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” (Jn 20:19).* This highlighted the power of God the Father and the Holy Spirit, which worked to raise Him as well (**Rom 8:11**). It forever shows the power of God is far superior to the power of death and evil. His gracious death at the cross and glorious resurrection have forever demonstrated that Christ is the everlasting Victor: *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” (Col 2:15).* There is not enough power on earth or in hell to defeat God in the accomplishment of His redemptive purpose!

Each Sunday, we remember the sacrifice of the living Christ, who will return for us, so we can forever share in His eternal victory in heaven's winner circle. *“We proclaim His death until He comes” (1 Cor 11:26).* The early

continued on the back ...

continued from the front ...

church, by apostolic example, remembered Christ in the Lord's Supper every Sunday (**Acts 2:42, 20:7; cf. Matt 26:29**). Today, we *"believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification"* (**Rom 4:20-21**). The early church overcame incredible odds to persevere through entrenched Jewish opposition and pagan Roman persecution. Justin Martyr, who wrote a defense of Christianity to the Roman Senate in 165 AD but was executed in 168 AD, said "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Only those who have something worth dying for, then have something worth living for! The weekly Lord's Supper helps to empower us to rededicate ourselves to Him who gave His all for us. In Christ, we're life's true winners. *"They overcame because the blood of the Lamb....And they shall reign forever and ever"* (**Rev 12:11, 22:5**).

In the greatest contest known to man, the conflict between God and Satan, we must decide which team we will be on. The Lord doesn't draft us to be on His heavenly team. It is an all-volunteer army to submit to His rule: *"They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful"* (**Rev 17:14**). Each Sunday, we remember Him. We are reminded that we can overcome through Christ! Jesus gives us divine reasons to celebrate His victory at the cross each Sunday, which was the conquest of sin and death. This is far greater and more important than being in or watching any temporal contest.

God's will on any given subject is rarely found in a single verse in the Bible. One needs to search the scriptures for all passages on a subject before reaching a conclusion.

"The sum of thy word is truth..."

Psalms 119:160 ASV

News and Notes

- **Wednesday night assignment list**— Men ... please sign up for leading singing or doing the invitation.
- **Singing**—At El Bethel in Shelbyville, Friday at 7 pm, 10FEB.
- **Our gospel meeting with Bill Hall begins three weeks from today!** *February 26-29*

SICK

- **Eli Williams**— (classmate of Kaleigh Butler) Continue to remember Eli as he faces treatments. Eli is the son of Vic and Kristie (Sharp) Williams and they ask for prayers. Here is his address ... **Elijah Williams c/o St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38103**
- **Gail Bailey**— (Melisha's mother) The doctor is still working to diagnose a mass in her chest. A message left Friday evening from the doctor said he had good news, but she does not know for sure what that is. She will talk to the doctor again tomorrow. She is very thankful for the cards so many have sent and continues to ask for our prayers. Gail's address; **24732 Windward Dr., Athens, AL 35613**
- **Francis Carter**— Received a good report from Vanderbilt on her thyroid.
- **Josephine Solomon**— Is under-going several tests and wants us to keep her in our prayers.
- **Erica Butler**— Test results last week on her heart come back good. One more test tomorrow.
- **Many others have been sick** ... the Parkers, Melisha Burgess, Bubba and Sissy, Johnny and Karen Lewis, the Coxes, Erica and Aubrey, and others I am sure.
- **Others in our prayers** — Suzy Milligan, Betty Yant, Justin Ruf (working overseas), Edith Marie Wilburn, Sandra Davis, Reba Gordon (at Sunbridge), Rhenda Martin, David Bryant, Lillian Magnusson, Richard Patterson and Kathleen Hillis.