

Super Bowl Sunday

This next Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday, the day that the supposed best two teams in the National Football League play each other to prove which is superior.

Last year, on Super Bowl Sunday night, I brought a lesson concerning the game and church attendance. This Super bowl week NEWSLETTER article will be about the same subject. Tens of thousands of fans will show up at the University of Phoenix Stadium, millions will watch it world-wide, and millions more will watch the replays of it over and over again. The average ticket price will top \$3200 (yes, that's THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS) and most of the fans there will spend hundreds more for concessions, souvenirs, and various doo-dads. Airfare, hotel, car rental, parking, etc. brings the total to around \$5000 each. And, even though the game is being played indoors, people would show up in droves even if the weather was inclement.

Which brings us to church attendance. I understand there are a number of legitimate reasons for not attending. However, there are even more "excuses" not to attend. Listen how silly our excuses sound coming from a sports fan who has "quit going to sports events."

Every time I went, they asked for money.

The people I sat next to didn't seem friendly.

The seats were too hard and not comfortable at all.

I went to many games but the coach never came to see me at home.

The referees made decisions I couldn't agree with.

The game went into overtime and I was late getting home.

The band played numbers I'd never heard before and it wasn't my style of music.

It seems the games are scheduled when I want to do other things.

I suspect I was sitting next to some hypocrites. They came to see their friends and talked during the whole game.

I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.

It rained the whole game.

It was cold.

It was hot.

The stadium is in a dangerous part of town.

I just needed to rest up, and the game requires I get dressed and leave the house.

I could go on, but you get the idea. We would never use these kinds of excuses not to attend the Super Bowl, but we regularly use them in order to justify not attending worship services. Teams constantly talk about the effect the “12th man” has on spirit, enthusiasm, and performance. Church members, having the same objective in mind, can accomplish many things. God can be praised. Each of us can be encouraged. We can all be positively impacted. Great works can be accomplished. If you haven’t been attending regularly on Sunday mornings, and if you haven’t been attending at all on Sunday night or Wednesday night, ask yourself why. Is it a reason, or just simply an excuse? Only you can answer the question, and remember, you have to live with your answer. See you Sunday.