

Announcements

Sick

Jo Byrnes ✦ Betty Cannon ✦ Sleatha Gore ✦ Essielene Henderson ✦ Faye Kilpatrick ✦ Sease Derrick (Bonnie Lord's father in Cullman, Alabama)

Out of Town

Buddy & Hildreth Johnson are away from us this morning, but are hoping to be back tonight ✦ Cindy Hinds and the girls ✦ Margaret Brooks ✦ Amy Henderson

Upcoming Gospel Meeting

Trenton congregation with brother Buddy Payne preaching. It is a weekend series of lessons, beginning Friday, November 6th through Sunday, November 8th. Times are as follows: Friday, 7:30 PM ✦ Saturday, 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM.

Ladies Meeting

Has been rescheduled for next Sunday (October 25th) after evening worship services at the home of Ida Mae Watson.

Don't plan the future with a rearview mirror.

"I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (*Philippians 3:13-14*).

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 ✦ Chiefland FL 32644 ✦ (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"

— [Colossians 3:1-2] —

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Assembling to Huddle

By Ron Mosby

Thousands of spectators file into stadiums each week to witness one of the greatest spectator sports of our time — the game of football. Others hover around a TV to watch their favorite teams do battle against the opposing foe. When the time comes to play the game, a shout goes forth from the stands as the teams leave their locker rooms and gather at the edge of the field of play.

Then, just before the game begins, the teams gather in a huddle, pack their hands on top of one another, give a great shout, and run onto the field to do battle. But, someone might ask, 'what is a huddle and why do they do that? One definition is: "a close gathering of football players behind the line of scrimmage to hear instructions for the next play." After the huddle, the players line up at the line of scrimmage to engage play.



Athletic Analogies

The Bible often compares the Christian's life to a sports event. The apostle Paul speaks of the self-control of an athlete when he wrote: "Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things." (1 Corinthians 9:25). He further writes, "If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules." (2 Timothy 2:5). In Hebrews 12:1 we have the illustration of a race that is run before a great cloud of witnesses. As we look in the stands through the eye of faith we can see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and all the Old Testament worthies who have already run their race and are there now to watch you and me.

We have been given our instructions in the huddle to lay aside every weight and any encumbrance that may hinder our progress, and to keep our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Jesus finished the course His Father gave Him to run which ended with His death on the cross. Now He joins the witnesses to watch us run our race. Bear with me in a little folly.

Huddle Up — and Go Home?

Let's suppose that after the huddle, instead of lining up on the field to play the game, all the players return to the dressing rooms, take off their equipment, and go home. You can imagine how upset the spectators would be, as they demand a refund. After all, they did not come to witness a huddle; they came to see the game!

Let's apply this scenario to the local church. We know that Christians are commanded to forsake not the assembling of themselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Some brethren are proud of the fact that they cannot remember when they ever missed an assembly. And that is good, but the game of life is not played in the assembly. The assembly is just the huddle! The game is played outside the huddle. The saints may huddle three times a week, but

what do we do between the huddles? Do we ever really play the game? Do we ever feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in any stranger, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison? Though we may try to get along with our neighbors, do we ever mention Him to them? Do we find or make any opportunities to tell others about Christ and their need for salvation?

Some may say they do not have time to do that and all the other things they have to do from day to day. Yet, if we truly have fallen out with the devil and have fallen in with the army of the Lord, are we still too busy with the affairs of everyday life that we do not have time to try to please Him Who enlisted us as a soldier in His army (2 Timothy 2:4)?

The one-talent man was in the huddle to receive his talent. But, instead of engaging in battle, he went home and hid his talent under the recliner in the TV room! We know the end of that story. His master was not pleased just to receive back what He gave without interest. Are we gaining interest with the talents the Lord has given us? Are we keeping busy outside the huddle trying to please the One Who called us? At the end of our lives will we be able to say with the apostle, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith?" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Engage the Enemy!

Brethren, let us not deceive ourselves into thinking we can be "carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease while others fought to win the fight and sailed through bloody seas!" Let us not assemble just to huddle and then go back home and bury our talents. Let us use the huddles to get all the necessary instructions and then go line up and play the game. Yes, we might get hurt and we might even get killed, but won't it be worth it? Paul thought so: "For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us" (Romans 8:28).

