

New England Patriots Church of Christ?

by Wayne Goff

Yes, the title of this article was designed to get your attention. But what does it mean? I was watching an ESPN special honoring our military this past week and **Jake Bequette**, 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army was being interviewed by Tim Tebow. Jake played defensive lineman for the Arkansas Razorbacks, then was drafted by the New England Patriots and played for them for a few years. After his football career ended, Jake joined the army. The discussion centered around military men fighting for freedom and defending ours.

Tim eventually asked Jake what he learned about his time with the New England Patriots. He said there were four team principles every player was asked to live by: (1) Work hard; (2) Do your job; (3) Be attentive; (4) Team first. If every member of every local congregation of Jesus Christ would put those four principles into practice, then how much stronger would each church be? Hence, "New England Patriots Church of Christ."

Does anyone besides me think it is **more than strange** that we now have Sunday NFL games, Sunday night NFL games, Monday night NFL games, and even Thursday night NFL games — **but churches are canceling their Sunday evening services all over the place?! I** have yet to hear *one reasonable explanation* for doing so except for churches who have members who live many miles away. But the reality is that churches are dying on the vine while most sports are booming in America. We have raised a generation of children on the soccer fields on Sunday, and they have no conception of worshiping God on Sunday. One day America will be faced with **a real national crisis**, and I predict then that *hopefully* people will once again fill the empty church buildings. But even that may not occur soon enough for people to remember God.

The sad thing is that churches of Christ are slowly losing their convictions. We have reached the time when brethren "*will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desire, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables*" (2 Tim. 4:4-5). One of those signs is the loss of desire to spend the entire day on Sunday to worship God. "We're done by noon!" is the cry now. And that tells me more than I want to know about the problem. Brethren will leave churches that have Sunday evening preaching to attend churches that have no Sunday evening service. How sad....

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