

Christianity: Super Bowl or Marathon?

You may or may not know that two NFL teams battled it out last night in the Super Bowl. The whole season led up to this one particular game. Months of pre-season training, competitive games throughout the regular season, and knock-out rounds of the playoffs all culminated in one event that 114 million people turned on their TVs to watch. It was quite the spectacle, with presidents, politicians, and pop-culture icons in attendance. Maybe you paid close attention to every play. Others, like myself, occasionally glanced in the general direction of the TV while eating finger foods or playing games with friends. Whatever your level of excitement about the 'big game,' we can learn a spiritual lesson from the event.

It's tempting to view the Christian life like we view the Super Bowl. We might envision a grand spiritual event, one ultimate moment of victory, one great act of faith that ensures our ticket to heaven. Many people look for some life-defining 'spiritual experience' that proves God's love for them or their own salvation. Scripture tells us that baptism into Christ is the moment our sins are forgiven (1 Pet. 3:21) and the moment that Christian life begins. But what does the rest of our experience look like? The truth is, the Christian life isn't a Super Bowl. It's not about one spectacular performance. It's something much more challenging, but ultimately, much more rewarding.

Following Jesus is more of a marathon than a Super Bowl. There are daily acts of faith directed towards our loving Savior and the daily obedience of being His disciple. We discipline ourselves through quiet Bible study. We pray for our own growth and the physical and spiritual concerns for others. We fellowship with our church family, our team with the same common goals. These activities won't ever feature on a highlight reel. They are the consistent, often unseen, work that builds our spiritual endurance for the race ahead of us.

Think about it. Football players don't just show up on Super Bowl Sunday and perform perfectly. Their success is built on countless hours of studying the playbook, team workouts, and training day in and day out, even when no one is watching. Similarly, our faith isn't built on grand gestures or occasional bursts of enthusiasm. It's built on the daily grind of spiritual disciplines. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 speaks to this: "Have nothing to do with godless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

The Christian life aims toward the ultimate spiritual victory, but it's all about the daily journey, the constant striving, the persistent effort to grow closer to God. It's about learning to love more deeply, forgive more freely, and serve more humbly. It's about running the race with perseverance, not for a fleeting moment of glory, but for the enduring reward of a life lived in Christ.

So, as we go about our week, let's remember that the Christian life is a marathon, not a Super Bowl. Let's embrace the daily grind, the quiet disciplines, the consistent effort. Let's find strength in God's Word (Heb. 4:12), comfort in prayer (1 Thess. 5:16-18), and encouragement in fellowship (Heb. 10:24-25). And let's run the race with our eyes fixed on the ultimate prize: not a championship trophy, but eternal life in Christ Jesus. Paul, in Philippians 3:14, captures this beautifully: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."

On Our Prayer List...

Martha Durham-now @ Waverly hosp skilled care for rehab-in room 205
Herbert Capps-now back at the nursing home.
Hattie Tate

W. R. Long

Betty Suddeath
Jim Tyler
Al & Vicki Peek
Marvin England
Danny Dotson-surgery on Feb 16th

SURGERIES/PROCEDURES: Heather Coates-procedure/tests this week

*Mike Mathis-(Keith & Linda Rodgers son) home doing better
*Josh Barnett-(Charlotte Heights CoC Minister)benign brain tumor@treatments
*Suzanne Boyd-(John&Erin's friends) newborn-improving-now home@feeding tube
*Thelma Davidson-(Gwen Bullington's sister)
*Prim Sanders-newborn-had heart surg-went well.
*Jeff Hyland (N.Buttrey's uncle)heart blockages, upcoming surg.
*Ralph Simpson(Ruby England's brother) back in the hospital
*Chuck Bumpus-(Emalee Buttrey's brother) now home.
*Whitney(Bullion)Sager-now @ St Thomas Rehab.
*Stephanie Greene-(Mike's sister)needs prayers
*Charles Miles-recovering fr a fall + heart issues
*Scottie Lashlee-had a fall-back/shoulder problems
*Marcia Simpson-(Mike Burn's aunt) now home.
*Chase Lewis-(Vicki Peek's family) he has lupus, sick
*Alyssa Gold-(Robert Proctor's niece) in need of prayers
*Bubba Tummins(Bo & Amy's bro
*Faye Marshall-Traci Adams mom *June Dreaden-S. Rachford's mom
*Doug Simpson-(Ruby England's brother) heart problems
*Mike Gunn *Shane Cobb
*John Henry & Carlene Davis *Janet Hicks

THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER

*KENNY FLEMING-cancer
*JIMMY PHY-CA treatments
*HUDSON JONES-{2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC- has neuroblastoma}
*DAVID NOWLIN-CA treatments-WCOC Elder
*RONNIE ENGLAND-CA/AFIB-NOW HOME ON HOSPICE.
*DONNA BURNS-WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN'S NIECE)-CA
*WANDA DOBBINS-(kin to Tyler's) terminal CA
*JACKIE BORDERS- Lauren Stuart's mom
*ROBERT GARDNER(Friend of Bill Williams) CA
*RANAE DUNCAN-(Bo&Amy's neighbor)CA treatments
*CASEY VAILES-(Ranae Duncan's son)also has cancer
*JOHN PIRTLE -frd of Roy Deloach) Lung CA-age 53
*LARRY HAYES-(fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo
*MAGGIE WRIGHT-(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo
*BARBARA BUCCIARELLI-CA-from Tennessee Ridge
*ALAN JONES-Stage 4 Esophageal CA-taking treatments

ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME/HOME

AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-Wyle Marshall (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad

NHC-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- JoAnn Haley Doris Stokes-R127

Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. Mary Lana Adams-Rm 706/Herbert Capps-Rm 704)
Waverly, TN 37185

AT HOME:JIMMY MULLINICKS-56 Mike Street/JANE RIDINGS-172 Indian Ck Rd/ ELTON SMITH-7731 Hwy 70E

Address needs to have everything listed for Eric to receive: Dickson County Jail/James Eric Warden-ID102618/ POBox 76550/Highland Heights, KY 41076

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Our Evangelism Program
Be sure to check out all the information involving this program on the new table in the back of the auditorium. Also be sure to be here on Sunday nights, as John's lessons include things we all need to know to be involved in this exciting work for those in need of our Lord!!!!

CYC Meeting- Wed, Feb 12th after bible class in Adult classroom I.

VBS Meeting
this coming Sunday, Feb 16th @ 5:00 PM in Adult Classroom I.

Ladies, if you want to sign up for the new tapestry group, please fill out a form (on the back table of auditorium) & return to Erin asap.

FYI: Members, if you need to use some of our tables/chairs for an event outside of the building the ones to use are labeled in the basement of the church house. These are the only ones needing to leave the building. Thank You, Your Elders

Congratulations to Zack & Megan Brit on the birth of their baby boy {Max} on Feb 6th, 7lb 12 oz. Proud grandparents Eric & Chrissie Pullen.

IN.F.O.C.U.S. Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Laurie and I were blessed to be able to attend the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat this past week/weekend. We headed out on Thursday morning and our sessions began that night and went through Friday. We had Saturday free and spent the day enjoying Pigeon Forge. Laurie and I encourage any married couple to please consider this great event. It is always a blessing for our marriage!

Our only youth/church event last weekend was our Super Bowl watch party Sunday night after service. We had a group of 36 in attendance. We enjoyed some great food and great fellowship. The actual game was a blowout, but at least the Eagles won!! I appreciate everyone that came and those that brought food. It was a great night!
Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, February 16th 2025

WelcomeMike Robertson
Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
1st Prayer.....Drew Buttrey
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Bill Williams
 Todd Mullinicks Andy Marlor
 Clavin Buckner Robert Proctor
 Terry Parchman Wayne Coates

Closing Prayer.....Jacen Robertson
Collect Cards.....Jaxon Holt
 & Danny Dotson

Greeters..... Not at this time
Nursery..... Not at this time
Collect Cups.....Youth
Security.....Team #2

Sunday 6PM, February 16th 2025

Lead Singing..... Mark Forster
Prayer.....Bruce Mayfield
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Mike Tyler
 Jimmy Sudeath
Closing Prayer.....Caleb Coates

Wednesday 6:30 PM, February 19th 2025

Lead Singing.....Andrew Peyton
Prayer.....Billy Buttrey
Adult Class.....John Jones

**If you are unable to serve...please contact Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)*

**If changes need to be made in scheduling please contact Jimmy Phy.*

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Return Service Requested



*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

The MESSENGER is online!
Visit the church website
to view!



OUR RECORDS for 2/9/2025

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	123
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	167
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	90
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	???
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$8,504
Number of Seeds Planted	-----	




The MESSENGER

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Week of February 9th 2025

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

HEBREWS 12:1

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am
 Worship..... 10:00am
 Evening.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study..... 6:30pm

Elders:

Calvin Buckner

Billy Buttrey Bruce Mayfield
 W.R. Long Mike Robertson

Deacons:

Derek Berryman Mike Burns
 Wayne Coates Mark Forster
 John Hurt Barry Phy
 Robert Proctor James Tidings
 Joe Smith Dwight Stuart
 Ethan Tummins Wade Tummins
 Ronnie Tyler

Staff:

Ministers ---- Every Member
 Pulpit ----- John Jones
 Youth ----- Keith Grigsby

Secretaries

Terri Tummins/Teresa Fleming

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