

Game Plan
Part 5: The REAL Super Day
1 Thessalonians 4:14-18

Everybody knows that today is Super Bowl Sunday. This is the number one sporting event of the year. It is not only the most watched sporting event of the year, it will be the most watched program of anything on TV this year!

- They will use 40 or 50 different cameras to cover this game
- They will broadcast live to countries all around the world
- A 30 second commercial costs 2.8 million dollars!

It is the big game of the year. That's why they call today Super Sunday. However, no matter how big the Super Bowl gets, no matter how many people watch it, no matter how much money is spent on it, even if the entire world agrees that it's the biggest day of the year.....there is a more Super Day still to come! And it has nothing to do with football.

Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 to read about the day I speak of:

14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

The real "Super Day" is when Jesus Christ returns!

When Jesus Christ returns that will be the most Super of all Super days. (No matter what day of the week it is!)

You won't need 40 or 50 cameras because the entire world will see it happen:

Revelation 1:7 Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be!

There won't be any ticket scalpers because by then it will be too late:

Matthew 24:40-42

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

There are many extreme differences between the ultimate Super Day and the NFL's Super Bowl Sunday. But there are also many similarities. Let's look at some of those similarities.

On the day of Christ's return:

1. There will be two teams.

The Colts and the Saints are playing today.

When Jesus returns there will also be two teams. Christians and non-Christians

The Bible uses several other names to identify these two teams:

Sheep and Goats

The sheep are the ones going to heaven, the goats are the ones who won't be going to heaven. The sheep are the winners, the goats are the losers.

Matthew 25:31-34, 41

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Jesus calls them sheep and goats. (And the goats are going to say, this is b-a-a-a-d)

Saved and Unserved

Those are very "religious" sounding words. But the important thing is that they are biblical words. Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

We are saved from the consequences of our sins. We are saved from eternal punishment.

Those in Christ and those not in Christ

Going to heaven has nothing to do with religion. It has everything to do with your relationship with Jesus Christ.

I John 5:11-12

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Believers and nonbelievers

You either believe in Jesus, or you don't believe in Jesus. There's no middle ground.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

The forgiven and the condemned

The reason we can go to heaven is because our sins are forgiven. It's not because we are better than anyone else, it's not that we don't make mistakes, it's only because we have been forgiven through Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 4:7-8

7 Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.

The redeemed and the cursed

By redeemed we mean that our relationship with God has been restored. We've been reconciled. We've been redeemed.

Galatians 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse....."

Call them what you want but you will have two teams: those going to heaven, and those who wished they were going to heaven!

Which team are you on? Everybody is on one team or the other. There are no spectators. There are no fans in the stands. There are no armchair quarterbacks watching the game at home.

Matthew 12:30 Jesus said, "He who is not with me is against me..."

Jesus said that you are either on His team, or you are NOT on His team. One or the other! Some of you have been putting off a decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. What are you waiting for. He's coming back. Don't let there be any doubt as to which team you are on!

1. There are two teams.
2. There is a rule book.

In today's Super Bowl they will follow the rules of the NFL. If they don't they will be penalized.

(Can you imagine the quarterback throwing the ball to his guard, who catches it and runs for 7 or 8 yards. The ref then throws a flag and says that's an ineligible receiver. 10 yard penalty and loss of down. The quarterback then says, "Gee ref, I didn't know the rule." What's the ref going to say? "Oh, my mistake, we'll go ahead and let the play stand." No way! He'll just march off the penalty. You only hurt yourself when you don't know the rule book!)

The rule book is the guidelines, the directions, the information you need to play the game. Our rule book, our guidelines, our directions, our information is our Bible. How well do you know it?

Jesus said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, but don't do what I say?"
Do you know what Jesus said to do?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

1. Two teams
2. Rule book
3. Uniform

Football players wear helmets, shoulder pads, hip pads, knee pads, mouth guard, cleats, jersey.

Christians also have a uniform.

Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Pastor Chad elaborated upon this entire issue two weeks ago, so we don't have to cover all of this again! Read Ephesians 6:11-17 to see a description of the believers uniform.

You've got to wear the right uniform
Can you imagine if the quarterback ran onto the field wearing a bathing suit?
Can you imagine if Phil Mickelson tried to play golf today wearing a football outfit?
You've got to wear the right uniform.

What uniform are you wearing? Are you putting on the full armor of God?

1. Two teams
2. Rule book
3. Uniform
4. The final score

Because of all the commercials and the half time show and all the hype, it will seem that the Super Bowl will never end today. But make no mistake about it, eventually the game will be over!

The same thing is true with this game called life!

Make no mistake about it. Eventually, the game will end.

The ultimate Super Day is absolutely going to happen

Jesus Christ will indeed return. Look at one of His final statements in the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon ."

Eventually the game ends and you have the final score. Someone will win, someone will lose.

Eventually life will end, and you have the final judgement. Some will win, some will lose.

Romans 14:10 "..... For we will all stand before God's judgment seat."

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ....."

Are you ready for the judgement? Are you on the right team?

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?