

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 29

July 16, 2007

Playing Chess with God

By: Blaine Kelly

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to play a particular game or sport against someone who was considered the one of the best ever at it. As a sports fan, I have occasionally wondered what it must be like for professional basketball players to try to guard Michael Jordan or how Major League pitchers approach their craft against some of baseball's most prolific hitters. For them, I am sure it is difficult. For someone like me, it would be a next-to-impossible assignment. I stand in awe of those who successfully meet the challenge.

Outside of sports, I want to learn how to play the game of chess. I, like many others, know what the specific pieces are supposed to do, but I know nothing about the strategies, intricacies, and complexities of the game. Like in sports, there are those who are world-renowned for their mastery of chess. I can't even imagine what playing against these geniuses must be like! They would wax me so quickly that I would feel like the pawn being controlled by them.

If that's what playing chess against the world's best would be like, can you even imagine what playing chess against God would be like? On one side of the board, you have the all-wise and all-powerful Creator of every living thing, every star in the sky, and every thing in-between. He is so intelligent that He created a universe so vast that no man can fully comprehend its depth or truly understand how it all works. Yet at the same time, He is so pervasive that He knows the exact number of hairs on your head, the most secret of your personal thoughts, and your moves (in chess or otherwise) before you ever make them.

On the other side of the board is you—a very small speck among the entirety of things created by your chess opponent. Not much of a matchup, now is it? Upon consideration of these facts, no one in their right mind would be so bold as to think they stand a chance against God in chess. Why then, do we think we can play God at other games or change the rules of the “game” before us? Consider the following:

- Some have decided to play their game alone. They don't need the church's help, and by extension, they evidently don't need Christ's help either. Such people might be surprised to find themselves alone when their “game” is over (Heb. 10:24-25).
- Instead of taking on Satan and sin, others try to play against God and His grace. They believe, “I can sin intentionally, then ask God for forgiveness, and all will be well.” God already sees past that game and has no use for such a flagrant disregard for His grace (Heb. 10:26-29).
- Then there are those who try to substitute referees. They think, “If parent/spouse/neighbor/church doesn't catch me, then everything is all right.” WRONG! The whole world might not ever know about our sins, but the whole world will not be our judge in the Last Day (Heb. 10:30-31).

God will not be played for a fool nor will He tolerate those who make Him out to be one. We have too wonderful and gracious of a God to challenge Him at anything. Instead, let's serve and worship Him as God.

Building Altars & Pitching Tents

By Steve Higginbotham

Most people are conversant with the Old Testament story of Abraham being asked to offer his “Son of Promise,” Isaac as a burnt offering to God. Abraham had such faith in God that he indeed intended to put Isaac to death, trusting that God would raise him from the dead to fulfill the promise that he had made. It is a wonderful story of faith. How one could have the faith to actually raise a knife against his own son is a challenge to our own faith. Would we have done as Abraham did? Would we have had the faith in God that Abraham had, which would have empowered us to do as Abraham was commanded?

Well, one of the reasons that Abraham was able to be obedient to such a difficult command was that he realized his home here on earth was transitory. He looked for a city that had foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10).

In his book, “The 10 Commandments Of Parenting,” Ed Young makes the following observation...

“He knew he would find no such city in this world, so he never called a real estate agent, never built a home—he simply pitched a tent. He refused to become attached to the things of this world. Instead, Abraham’s focus was on God’s will for his life. He wanted his children and grandchildren to know that it is the things of God that are permanent—not the things of the world. That’s why, wherever he went, Abraham did not merely *pitch* his tent, but he also *built* his altar.”

“The problem is, far too many of us do the exact opposite of Abraham—we *build our tents* and *pitch our altars*. We attach permanence to our homes, our lands, our possessions, and our culture while treating the things of God as ethereal and unreal. We spend our time building, improving, and adding to our tents, and, at best, we “pitch our altars” if we do anything with them at all. Too many of us tend to follow the example of Lot more than Abraham.”

Brethren, I think he’s right. One of the largest problems we face in our homes today is the example we are setting before our children. When the church takes a backseat to our vacation plans, sports, entertainment, band, work, unexpected visitors who drop in, or fatigue from our busy schedules, we are making a very clear statement to our children. While our words we speak to our children may be right, they are drowned out by our actions.

If you want to be able to make the choices that Abraham made, then you must begin with his perspective on life and eternity. Friends, we must stop “*building our tents*” and “*pitching our altars*.” Rather we must begin “*building our altars*” and “*pitching our tents*.”

Let us resolve to live so that our friends, neighbors, children, and spouse may be able to see that our relationship to the Lord is an “immovable structure” around which the rest of my life must be built.

Family Matters

Sick List

- Jessica Durham, daughter of Tim & Kim Durham, will undergo surgery on Wednesday at the Community Hospital.
- Scott Hays, brother-in-law of Caroline Kelly, underwent surgery last week in New Zealand. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- Donnie Huff, brother-in-law of Karen Kerney, is hospitalized in Louisville. He is in serious condition.

Prayer List

- Jesse Abney and James Holloway
- Susan Carter, friend of Janet Dilley
- C.G. Coomer of Cave City
- Frank & Nella Stewart, grandparents of Frankie England

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the friends and family of Herman Hammer. He passed away on Tuesday, July 10. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at the Strode Funeral Home in Tompkinsville. Herman was the nephew of Robbie Pitcock and Mary Taylor.

Our sympathy is expressed to the friends and family of Eunice Shipley. She passed away on Thursday, July 12. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at the Hatcher & Sadler Funeral Home.

Prayer Request

At the Sunday evening service Beverly Elliott requested prayers for her and her family. Please honor her request and keep the Elliott family in your daily prayers.

Senior Members Banquet

The Youth of the South Green Street Church of Christ will host a Senior Members Banquet on Saturday, July 28, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. If you and/or your spouse are sixty years and above you are cordially invited to attend. Sign-up forms are located in the foyer and also near the rear entrance of the building.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for all the thoughtfulness and kindness that has continued to be shown to me. I appreciate everything so very much. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Dorothy Coffey

Back To School

Donations are now being accepted for the Back To School Ministry. Each year donations to this ministry are used to purchase school supplies and other essentials for a selected school in our area. Please give donations to Gary Edmunds or Rollin Simmons.

VBS

The South Edmonton Church of Christ in Edmonton, KY, will have Vacation Bible School, July 22-25 at 6:30 p.m. Classes for everyone! You are cordially invited to attend.

Teacher Training Seminar

An area wide Teacher Training Seminar will be conducted September 24 and 25, from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the South Green Street Church of Christ. There will be sessions for teachers from Cradle Roll through adults, a non-teacher class, as well as, a special song leading class. Speakers for these sessions include: Preschool Teachers-Lea Dye, Primary Teachers-Kim Higginbotham, Intermediate Teachers-Mark Sexton and Blaine Kelly, Adult Teachers-Sellers Crain and David Hamilton. Speakers for the non-teachers will be Dale Graham, Mike Greene, Tom Hall and Steve Higginbotham. The song leading class will be conducted by Todd Walker from Murray, KY. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

For The Record

Sunday Morning Attendance	388
Sunday Contribution	\$6,675.50
2007 Weekly Budget	\$6,700.00
2007 Weekly Average	\$6,841.91

Sunday Morning, July 22, 2007

Deacons in Charge.....Ralph Dunbar
 Tony Shirley
 Announcements.....Kevin Redford
 Song Leader.....David Fant
 Opening Prayer.....Doyle Coffey
 Lesson.....Steve Higginbotham
 Presiding at the TableTrent Ferguson
 David Alls
 Serving the Assembly.....Elliot Bowman
 Jabin McGuire
 John Alan Estes
 Orry Wood
 Serving the Balcony.....Shannon England
 Hugh England
 Gordon Kelsay III
 Closing Remarks.....Darrell Pitcock
 Dismissal Prayer.....Glenn Pitcock
 Greeters (Front Door)Karl Wood
 Freda Wood
 Greeters (Back Door)Ernie Weir
 Joyce Weir
 Greeter (Side Door).....Indy McGuire
 Assistance (Back Door).....Nick Pace
 Umbrella (Back Door).....Fred Proffitt

UshersRandall Bray
 Jerry Staples
 Usher & Serve BasementJames Williams
 Dickie Barrick
 Count Contribution.....Jonathan Dugger
 Mike Martin
 Billy Brown
 J.C. Grider
 Nursery Attendant.....Haley Pace
 Bake Bread.....Mildred Bull
 Bus Driver.....Tony Shirley
 Pick Up Attendance Cards.....Derek Gossett
Kameron Bellamy

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements.....Kevin Redford
 Song LeaderDavid Fant
 Opening Prayer.....John Weaver
 Lesson.....Steve Higginbotham
 Presiding at the TableGlenn Pritchard
 Robbie Fudge
 Dismissal Prayer.....Mark Bowman

Wednesday Evening Service

Song LeaderWalter Smith
 PrayerRonnie Turner

Sunday Bible Study9:30 a.m.
 Sunday A.M. Worship10:30 a.m.
 Sunday P.M. Worship6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Ladies' Class10:00 a.m.

Worship Times:

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 Blaine Kelly.....blaine@glasgow-coc.org
 Secretary's email.....nancy@glasgow-coc.org

Church Information

Mark Bowman	678-2075	Kevin Redford	646-3260
Ralph Dunbar	678-4576	Tony Shirley	651-5605
Gary Edmunds	678-2330	Walter Smith	427-3178
Doug Frasier	651-1062	Robert Spear	678-2319
Robbie Fudge	678-5602	Ronnie Turner	678-6798
David Gray	678-8824	Leslie Wilson	678-3692
Chrs Page			

Deacons

Steve Higginbotham 590-8785
 Blaine Kelly 404-2684

Ministers

Scott Bradford	651-7244	Billy Pritchard	651-3304
Tommy Gumm	678-3957	Rollin Simmons	678-4854
Darrell Pitcock	678-4333		

Elders

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