



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

GOD AND FOOTBALL.

Does God like football and
Team sports!?
OR HOW TO WORSHIP GOD
PROPERLY.

I grew up in England. When I was a boy I followed a couple of clubs in the English Football League, they were 'Spurs' (Tottenham Hotspur), and later Manchester United. My Dad was from Manchester and, I remember, we went once at **Old Trafford**, the home or ground of that great team, and watched a 'live' game.

Years later, I became a pastor and missionary in other countries. Occasionally, I watched football but very rarely.

Ok; I watched maybe 20 full games in 40 years.

Recently, and I am sure at least a few of you have thought the same, what is it about sports that makes people just go nuts, and especially the so-called 'beautiful game' of football? And why is it also that football stadiums and their fans increasingly remind not only me, but societies as a whole, of a church, **with their quasi-religious fervour, but only much more lively and raucous!?**

It seems to me that God will do anything possible, or use anything, even football to get the attention of the world and focus their minds , on some of the following very important points of life which could be:

- Dignity,
- What is winning and losing,
- Integrity, fairness, unfairness,
- Rules and regulations,
- Laws and commands,
- Keeping rules, breaking them.
- Sportsmanship,
- Righteousness, unrighteousness,
- Priorities,
- Sympathy, compassion,
- Risk taking,
- Genius,
- Sacrifice,
- Fear, confidence,
- The David and Goliath syndrome, played out constantly;
- Forgetting the wrongs,

A small percentage of players who are way above others in skill and gifted by God, yet enhanced by their own deep sacrifice and training and sometimes by coaches

And so many other valuable things.

All of these to some degree

are exemplified in Football and some other sports, especially Team sports.

It becomes clear to me then, that God MUST BE very interested in football and in sharing principles of His Holy Word with the world. Doesn't that make sense to you too?

When people watch a football (or other team sport) game, they have to immediately interact with all these (very few) points I have just mentioned. There is no escaping them! **God, through football, presents a whole series of continuous condensed choices to the world; primarily 'what is right and what is wrong'.**

Really nobody who is a 'fan' of this game of football, can escape these decisions; they are the natural or human consequences of this sport.

And what is the result of the decisions that humans make concerning sport?

Well, they can be life changing; humans can either choose to cheat, fix matches, make bets for that, or they can embrace the love of the sport.

These are only my opinions,

and I may be wrong.

During the last two major football tournaments between 2020 to 2024 (for example only), it was quite plain to me, to see that certain countries in the last world cup, seemingly with little or no Christian heritage, were in general far more prone (likely) to make very dangerous 'tackles' and body and bloody-crunching connections **and career-ending contact with other young humans** from the other team.

I did watch a few bits and pieces of some games, and found to my horror, at least a couple of countries, who one could only describe as 'wicked' in the manner in which they played. These are countries also renowned (famous) for their very high crime rates in their own land, and are also cheerfully willing to export their inherent demonic crimes to other parts of the primarily western world.

I am not naming any of them but I am praying for you! (And many others). May the Lord help you to receive the Gospel as well every other nation)

In short I found it fascinating that the unsaved spirits of some footballers were, of course, therefore not yielded to the loving Holy Spirit, and were therefore under the influence of other spirits, if you catch my drift!?

I am not going to name those individuals, of quite a few countries, but it was very plain to see that. Neither am I saying that other countries are angelic or polite in how they play soccer, but the

difference was there.

SO,

- **Is competition and a competitive spirit part of God's nature**, or is it as a result of the fall of man? This is a good question, and I don't think that there is a clear direct answer in the Bible.
- **Is God Himself competitive? Or did He create 'competition? Or is Competition from the devil?**

But it IS clear from scripture that God expects US to fight or contend for our faith;



He also gives verses about running a difficult race to obtain the Great 'Crown of Life'. There is definitely something God likes when we fight to overcome our own sins and weaknesses, and also fight through difficulties to serve Him and bring the Gospel to the nations!



On Sept. 12, 1683, troops led by renowned Polish King Jan III Sobieski defeated the Ottoman Empire army commanded by

Grand Vizier Kara Mustafa in the Battle of Vienna, thus defending Europe and Christianity against an Islamic deluge.

If the people of the Western European 'Christian' alliance, through Vienna, Austria, had not galvanised to fight the Muslim hordes of the 'East', then we would all be Muslims today in Western Europe, as I have mentioned before. See 'the 'Battle of Vienna' on most reputable search engines!

Moving on....

The Lord also gives us rewards in abundance, **and Jesus even stands up to receive those who have died for the faith!** Stephen in the Book of Acts is the first example, and Jesus stood at the right hand of the Father.

So I believe there is a lot to be said that we can learn a great deal from these sports.

In fact why would God NOT wish to use sports to bring out all these lessons for people about what is right and wrong? And to highlight the difference in commitment, enthusiasm and support between the sport's fans and the average Christian church going member's commitment, enthusiasm and support for their Saviour.

Every week or day in this human world, there is some big game going on. People 'live or die' so to speak on the pitch. They are literally praised by fans, or blamed or booed for other mistakes.

Finally the other thing that came to my mind this week when reflecting on football;

is that people are absolutely nuts about it, they are enthusiastic, **they spend their money and quite a huge proportion of their wages for some people, just to go and watch a game** and see their favourite players. Then they talk about it for hours afterwards with their mates or enemies also!

They (the football fans) shout, scream for joy or anger, sing songs at the top of their lungs.

The BIG QUESTIONS FOR ME ARE THESE:

- **DO PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS CHRIST EVER DO THE SAME IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE?**
- **DO THEY EVER IN A CHURCH, EVEN ANY CHURCH YOU KNOW OF, 'SHOUT FOR JOY',**
- **PRAISE GOD WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS,**
- **STAND UP WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM**
- **AND PROCLAIM IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION THAT THEY LOVE JESUS CHRIST?**

SPEND A HUGE AMOUNT OF THEIR EARTHLY INCOME TO INCREASE GOD'S KINGDOM? OBVIOUSLY THE ANSWER IS NO.

AND WHY NOT?

Let's look at these verses before continuing!

Ezra 3:12

But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

Ezra 3:13

So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Job 38:7

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

(WOW!)

Psalms 5:11

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Psalms 32:11

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psalms 35:27

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Psalms 65:13

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Psalms 132:9

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.

Psalms 132:16

I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

What is wrong with us dear Christians that we cannot truly follow any one of the above eight verses?

If we can't do that, but we really want to, perhaps we are in the wrong place, or country,

Or perhaps like I have had to do often, we should go into some remote place where no one can hear you and scream out to God from all your heart!



Shout for Joy dear brother or sister and be thankful to Him from the BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART!

Do it now before it is too late. This is your protection for the future. The devil's doctrines are rapidly closing in on the western world, and just about everywhere.

My experience of worship or singing to God in the western world **is so beyond disappointing**, I thank God I have not been here too long! Only 14 years and counting!

I think Christians should go to a football game and watch how these fans behave, and copy them in church. If you can understand in your own deep spirit that Jesus is greater than the greatest football player or team, then why would you not love to SHOUT, scream, dance and sing songs for joy?!

I 'bet' the Lord would take great pleasure in that.

But does that happen in a normal church? Now, don't get me started, but there we stand in a western church, sloppily dressed with our hands in our pockets, swaying casually side to side as we sing some type of almost a dirge to God, with our eyes half closed, or if we are considered by others to be truly dedicated, then we wave one hand around!

Could it be actually true that like Jesus said 'The publicans and sinners and football fans will go into the Kingdom of Heaven BEFORE' US!? Why?

Yes!

Because at least they were not ashamed to scream and shout, sing at the top of their lungs and proclaim, well not the Gospel, but at least the 'good news' for their team!

It may be true, perhaps they will go in before other people who could not really know God very

well because they were never willing to do those things. Or anything.

Is it true dear brother and sister, that dear wonderful you were never willing to show, with NO reservation, that you truly loved Jesus Christ before this wicked and adulterous generation. God will be ashamed of you.

At least the football fans don't have that problem that some of us do!

I hope we all think about that.

Let's break loose, break free. We don't need alcohol, **but we need a sharp heavy dose of the Holy Spirit to even begin to equal these football fans**, who also, we should remember, travel to support their country at vast distances. There is really no comparison



between the average churchy Christians and the football fans who give almost everything they have **emotionally and**

financially! **WOW!!**

Time to Wake up! Lets score for GOD!





Radamel "Falcao" García Zárate (born 10 February 1986) is a Colombian professional footballer

IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE THANKS UNTO
THE LORD, & TO SING PRAISES UNTO THY
NAME, O MOST HIGH: TO SHEW FORTH THY
LOVINGKINDNESS IN THE MORNING, & THY
FAITHFULNESS EVERY NIGHT.

PSA 92:1,2

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