**Super Bowl Sunday**

(1 Corinthians 9:24-25 KJV)

*24Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

I

ronically when Super Bowl Sunday comes around many fans of opposite teams will gather for a 3 hour football game. The fans unlike church will be on time to support their team. In fact, they will refuse to miss opening kickoff. They will sit in their favorite seat and surprisely they won’t get up to eat, get a drink, or even go to the bathroom. Moreover, if you've ever noticed that most men won’t be bothered by a wife or kids who want his attention—because he'll get an attitude if you interrupt his insight into the game.

In other words he'll be engaged watching the game! And he will by no means grumble when the game goes into overtime—because that’s even better! Why? Well because the football team is worthy of his respect, concentration, attention and time. And sadly, the football game usually gets more respect, time, and intensity than our worship to God.

Listen, during the football game—in each play 22 large men will face off across a line of scrimmage. A call will be made, leather will slap, and bodies will collide and crash. In other word—a battle has begun! This will happen in four 15 minute quarters—whereby men will expend enormous energy and extraordinary efforts to move up and down a field of grass—and in the end one team will emerge victorious as the Super Bowl Champion.

But! I want you to know that another game is being played this evening and you are a part of that game. But, unlike the Super Bowl, your game has eternal consequences. Insomuch so like the NFL, only a few Christians will rise to the level of play exhibited by a Super Bowl Champion. So my question for you is what does it take to be a Super Bowl Christian? What separates a champion—from a bush leaguer who is known to be the biggest loser in the league?

While you might not think of your Christian life as a football game, the Bible does use sports to teach about spiritual truths. In Biblical times they might not have had American football games or Super Bowls but they did have athletic competitions.

Now by nature, sports are a competition. But to compete you must be a team player. Traditionally, as a coach chooses players to be in the football game, God has chosen us. Our competitor is focused on our defeat—but we also compete against ourselves. And it is sad to say, but just like in real life football games, most of the people in the stadium sit in the stands (fans). Then there are those who are on the team, but sit in the bench (team players). And sadly most of us would prefer resting on the bench (or pew) and observe the game—both with encouragement and more often with criticism about how others are playing on the field. But God doesn’t call us to be SPECTATORS, but PARTICIPATORS.

Paul issued the same challenge here in this portion of his epistle—that just as we want to win the earthly games we play, Paul challenged us to **have that same attitude in our spiritual battles** and race for Christ. He challenged all Christians to be champions for Jesus Christ and be victorious as they lived their lives each day. He talked about the attitudes, attributes, and actions of a champion. So, what does it take to become a Super Bowl champion? Let's see what Paul had to say.