

**General Topics :: American Religious Holiday, February 4, 2018 ~ Ken Miller**

**American Religious Holiday, February 4, 2018 ~ Ken Miller - posted by SHMILY, on: 2018/2/22 12:31**

American Religious Holiday Today

Published on Sunday, 04 February 2018 15:37

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

While I was munching on my barbecued chicken wings at lunch today, someone asked me if I was going to be watching the big game tonight. I said I wasn't

"Why not?"

"I'm just not into it," was my rather lame reply.

I wish now I would've been more brave and told this man how I REALLY felt.

While walking off my lunch I considered writing an article, "Why I'm Not Watching the Super Bowl."

At 1:00 I came into the housing unit, checked my email, and discovered Frank Reed had already written that article. It's superior to anything I had in mind.

Here it is for our mutual strengthening. I endorse it wholeheartedly.

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Super Bowl LII

Today is a very important spiritual holiday. The high priests and high priestesses of this religion are busily preparing for the occasion. Worshipers around the globe will be giving their total attention to the proceedings.

There will be priests on the field. They will be the finest specimens of male physiology. They will be displaying their prowess in bodily ways. They will be dressed in the shining robes of their religion. There will be priestesses on the sidelines. They will be displaying themselves to enhance the worship experience. They will be dressed in very little. There will be a half-time show of who-knows-what.

It will basically be a body show. The brawn and beauty of the species will be showcased in the most watched spectacle of the year.

And people, who otherwise seem decent, will waste hours of precious life watching human flesh display uncivilized and risqué behaviors. People who, otherwise seem to possess wisdom, will surrender hours at which they would revolt, if a Church service or a prayer meeting would dare to last so long.

But maybe that is the attraction to this worship experience? Sports is, after all, the perfect religion. No smoke and mirrors. No sleight of hand. What you see is what you get. There is no hypocrisy. Either the ball went through the hoop or it did not. Either it was fair or it was foul. When the bell rings, it is over. The score board does not tell lies.

In all this hedonistic show of flesh; real substance is sadly missing. The jolts of the gladiator contest are there but any enduring legacy is not. The allurements of the bodies are there but lasting value is sacrificed.

Where is the real/true religion? The real worship of a real Man whose body was also displayed & displayed for all the world to see. The Man who began the real and true religion to call real men and real women to serve Him, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Where is that man? The Man who never wore a Super Bowl ring but wore a crown of thorns. The man who was despised and rejected by the masses but will someday wear the crown as King of kings of all the Universe

Can we worship both? Can we worship the priests and priestesses of this world AND the high Priest of the real religion? The high Priest whose body was also displayed? The high Priest whose body hung on a cross for all the world to see and to mock and to jeer. The high Priest who died that we may live. Can we have it both ways? Will He allow us that duality and duplicity? Will He share His space in our heart with the lust of a world that has rejected Him?

Many people will watch the Super Bowl. Many knees will bow at the shrine of this religion. Someday, the Bible tells us, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. I will not be participating in this religious event this Sunday.

Someday I long to be among those who cast their crowns at the feet of the real Man – the God-Man. The Man who made Himself of no reputation but the man whose character is unassailable – the Man whose life is pristine goodness – the Man of God. The God Man – The Man who was willing to allow abuse without retaliation. The Man who died for me – and for you. The Man who brought and bought redemption. That will be real worship – worship that will last forever. I trust that we shall meet at that Spiritual holiday.

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Brothers, right this moment is the time to make our choices. Will we follow a world under the control of "The prince of the power of darkness", or will we "Follow the Lamb Wherever He Goes?"

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**Re: American Religious Holiday, February 4, 2018 ~ Ken Miller - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/2/22 15:42**

Unfortunately he is castigating strong Christian brothers who play and coach for these teams and who are making an impact for Christ on their teams and communities and I daresay are impacting folks all over the world.

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.  
1 Corinthians 10:31

I think whatever is broad enough to cover football.

**Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/2/22 20:28**

The fact that gladiators fought in large stadiums while being cheered on by the crowds, happily roared when victims fell, gladiators spilt their blood or as in so many cases Christians were torn to bits and eaten alive while the romans cheered on, rejoicing over their deaths as a sign their gods have greater power.

The superbowl is not that.

It does contain every bit of idolatry common in our culture and propagates all the vices acceptable to paying viewers.

I get it that Superbowl is a the consummate non-religious-religious experience for many.  
For the Christian, one man condemns it utterly, for another, he's the player or coach of the team.

This is the love of God, that God sent his own sons into the world of idolatry and consummate corruptions to live out their faith and bring the gospel to those who otherwise would have no evangelist to bring the gospel.

Isn't it strange we look in awe at a brother who goes to prison for the faith and associates with nothing but criminals every day and we esteem him God's chosen witness. But these men, who are not there because their skin is ready to be peeled off, are there and yet doing the same thing? Do we esteem them or condemn them?

Is there a double standard? Maybe, maybe we are too worldly, maybe we are too connected to the entertainments of the flesh. Maybe God uses all of those things, not as a means to tempt us to sin, but as opportunities for us to live out Christ

to those who's hearts are empty and their entertainments only fill the minutes until their emptiness demands another moment of entertainment.

But, simplistic judgments are easy and they will always get some applause.

**Re: American Religious Holiday, February 4, 2018 ~ Ken Miller - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2018/2/27 19:54**

I have heard this idea floated before...

Without judging anyone I do wonder how one can be part of an event where prostitution is rampant during these festivities...Oh, I know some would castigate me for asking this question...

Maybe one need to ask a few questions or listen to the doubts that gnaw at the corners of our conscience.

Still...the Bible does say "whatsoever is highly esteemed among man is an abomination to God." What all does this include?

Sandra

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/2/27 20:15**

Sandra- do you think a true Christian would ever play or coach pro or college football?

**Re: a fan-atic - posted by savannah, on: 2018/2/28 8:29**

Sandra,

Have you not read in the lost epistles how Paul formed a team with the other apostles and participated in the games in the Roman aqueduct? And, how all their wives supported their husbands by becoming their cheerleaders?

Hey...we're in the 21st century now! Don't you know we Christians have to get with the program and go with the flow! Haven't you ever heard of the word 'contemporary'? Or how we must become all things to all men to win them?

A bunch of "Christians" just enlightened me last evening that it's just old-fashioned for wives to be at home with the children, cooking and cleaning. Hillary's got it right after all. I bet God is really proud of her for emancipating women all over the world.

These "Christians" also were kind enough to enlighten me by telling me we're New Testament Christians. The Old Testament and the God of the Old Testament are obsolete.

Wow! I'm learning so much from these 21st century American Christians. I bet you probably are too. You just have to have an open mind. Sorta like they tell you in the yoga class they're having at church.

These aren't perilous times! These are wonderful times!

You just need to join a small group Bible study like this one I joined last month:

[www.godtube.com/watch/?v=FJBEF1NU](http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=FJBEF1NU)

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/2/28 9:37**

"And we know that in "all" things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Maybe we should just ask God if we could edit this scripture to "some" things. Man has always tried to figure out God, and voice their opinions on his motives, or try and find a scripture or two, to support their opinions. When we all start seeing in the spiritual, and not the natural, we might begin to understand Romans 8:28 a little more.