

# From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ  
Mobile, AL**

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## ***Bible and Life Lessons Found in Football!***

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 2:14*



Well, it's almost here! I have been waiting for 7 1/2 months for this coming weekend. Football season starts. I know there are fans at Creekwood of several colleges other than Auburn and Alabama. I apologize to each of you (Wayne Haney, Ernie Smith, Pat Smith, and others), but space is limited. One of the reasons I enjoy football is the opportunity to see life lessons taught in the Bible put into action. Listed below are seven points we can see in action in football.

1. ***Talent is not enough. A player must be disciplined and work hard to develop their talent.*** Potential talent can be a curse. Potential talent left undeveloped is sad. Football players must practice and condition their bodies so their talent can shine. We as Christians have been given talents we can use in the church. We must grow in the use of those talents. In James 1:2-24, James writes that when we face trials and temptations we are being made complete. Let's all be disciplined to let our talent shine so that people will glorify God.
2. ***Always keep trying.*** Football is tough. On every play somebody is trying to knock you down and make you fail. When they succeed, football players have to get back up and try again. Nehemiah had a tremendous job in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. In Nehemiah 4:1-3, his enemies made fun of him saying that if a fox ran on the wall, the wall would fall down. But he kept on working. We as Christians will have people put us down. When we get put down, we must get back up. We must endure to the end and then we will receive our reward. (Mark 13:13)
3. ***Keep your eyes on the goal.*** Ultimately you always want to cross the goal line and score a touchdown. But on some plays, your immediate goal is to make a first down. Keep focused on those 10 yard goals and pretty soon you will cross the goal line. In Philippians 3:4-17, we read that Paul's goal was to know Jesus. He pressed on to that goal. He stayed focused on that goal. Let's all focus on Jesus and knowing Him.
4. ***Teamwork is the key to success.*** The football team is not one member but many. There are many members but one team. On a football team there are many different size bodies and many different sets of talents. Your talents are completing each other – not competing with each other. In the church there are many talents. Each of us should recognize who we are and who we are not. We should appreciate and accept others that are different. God has placed each of us just where He wants us in the church. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
5. ***You will probably lose sometimes.*** Very few football teams go undefeated every year. Good teams learn from a loss to get better. No person ever goes through life without dealing with some adversity. As Christians we must have faith that God is with us through our trials. We must have faith that if we love God and live according to His purpose for us, everything that happens in our life will work out for good. (Romans 8:28) We should learn from Job and the "losses" he faced in his life and how his life was at the end.
6. ***Great things happen when you work hard.*** It is an old saying in football that "The harder I work, the luckier I get." In Nehemiah 2:18, Nehemiah told the Jews in Jerusalem what God had sent him to do and what the king of Persia had told him. Upon hearing this, the people rose up and went to work on rebuilding the wall. In Nehemiah 6:15, we read that the wall was finished in 52 days. Great things happened when the people went to work.
7. ***Keep playing hard until the game is over.*** Some football teams fade in the fourth quarter and fail to finish strong. Championship teams play hard all the way until the final whistle blows. The teams that finish strong celebrate on one side. The team that fades weeps on the other side. In 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Paul urged the Christians in Thessalonica to not grow weary in doing good. Do not fade in following God. Jesus told His disciples that at the harvest at the end of time, the angels will gather those who practice lawlessness and cast them in the furnace of fire where there will be weeping and wailing. On the other side, those who stayed strong to the end will be feasting in heaven. Let's finish strong as followers of Christ.

As you watch football this week, look for additional lessons about the Christian life. Share them with others.

**RICKY**