

## **My Grandson Can't Play In the Championship Game**

**By Kent Heaton**

They are the Gilchrist League Rookie Baseball All-Stars and they have an undefeated season. The past few years this group of young men has put up an impressive score in basketball and little league baseball of very few losses. This season they have won the first championship and are entering the second championship with no losses. The games have been hard with close scores. Each player has stepped up and delivered a stellar performance to move their team to winning. They have embodied the spirit of team play. More games are ahead that will test their metal but they are a winning team on the field and off the field. Today, they won a hard fought game with a good team defeating them 6-4. With this win, they move to the championship game. Sadly, my grandson will not be able to play in the championship game.

He was not injured or disqualified. The reason for his not playing in the championship game was not because of sickness or weather or the like. When they won the game today there was great jubilation as the team together succeeded to secure another spot in a championship game. In a world gone carnal to its core, he will not be able to play in the championship game because it is scheduled for Sunday morning 9:00am. I know this is not news to many people as this has been happening in many places for many years. It is not the norm.

There was a time when society respected the first day of the week. Many stores were closed on Sunday called the "Blue Laws." Publix, a major grocery store, was closed on Sunday. Many businesses do not open on the first day of the week but this is changing more and more. Ball games are now played all day on Sunday and no one seems to care. There was no doubt Kendon would not be able to play the championship game because his first cause is the Lord. His parents have affirmed that in him but how heartbreaking for a young man to learn the cruel twist of a carnal world. It is not so much about him being in a place of worship on Sunday morning instead of being on the ball field. The sad truth is the world our children and grandchildren are growing up in is a world that has no respect for the first day of the week.

What is more startling than the scheduling of games on Sunday is the silence of parents and teams who participate. Most in the world could care less because God is not in their lives anyway. There was a time that good religious people honored the first day of the week. Chick-Fil-A and Hobby Lobby have both shown through the corporate world that success can be had without being open on the first day of the week. Now our good religious neighbors gladly go off to parlay with the world in a championship game on the first day of the week with no sense of regret or conscience. What is more tragic are brethren who justify taking their children to ball games on the first day of the week. At a congregation I preached a woman and son came to the early service to take of the communion so they could rush out to play in a ball game (they were from out of town). Sadly for her, the communion was not served until later and she left to take her son to play ball. She turned her back on Jesus Christ for a ball game. What good is that game going to do a person who stands before the Almighty God and explain why they chose to play in a silly ball game instead of communing over the body and blood of His Son?

It is sad Kendon will miss out in the championship game. He is okay and I am proud of him. It is more sad than he will grow up in a world that will try everything it can to destroy his faith. Something as simple as a ball game on Sunday morning at 9:00 will be how Satan hurts the body of Christ. The church is going to be filled with parents who think nothing of taking the children to these ball games because they are so important to the development of the child. All the while, teaching them to hate God. What other things hinder our service to the Lord on the first day of the week. When on vacation do we vacate God? If our child has a school function or a party do we hate God and let them go? Please know this – if God is not first He is last and if He is last there is no love for Him. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Let's be clear. If we do not obey God we hate Him. Stop pretending that disobeying the

Lord is love. Jesus Christ did not die so we could play ball instead of remember His sacrifice. If the communion of the Lord is not first – God help you.

Let us be prepared for the continual onslaught of an evil and adulterous generation. This is not new news because the early church faced the same problem. We must stand for truth no matter how many games we miss and friends we lose. God is first. Jesus is first. The Holy Spirit is first. His word is first. Nothing is first in our lives but the Lord. May God richly bless parents who train their children in the way of righteousness and truth and reject the overtones of a world that rejects God.

*(Addendum by PRB: What I find even more tragic is the number of members of the church who would readily excuse their child's absence from church services for sports.)*

### **On the Fleeting Nature of Pleasure**

But pleasures are like poppies spread:  
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed;  
Or like the snow fall on the river,  
A moment white - then melts forever,  
Or like the Aurora Borealis rays,  
That move before you can point to their place;  
Or like the rainbow's lovely form,  
Vanishing amid the storm.  
(From the Robert Burns poem, Tam 'o Shanter)

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--In youth it seems that the days are short and the years long; in old age it seems that the years are short and the days are long.  
--Prosperity makes friends: adversity tries them.  
--He is the greatest conqueror who has first conquered himself.  
--A man must be big enough to admit his mistakes, smart enough to profit by them, and strong enough to correct them.  
--We experience two kinds of gratitude: the sudden kind we feel for what we receive and the larger kind we feel for what we give.  
--We are inclined to call things by the wrong names. We call prosperity "happiness" and adversity "misery," even though adversity is the school of wisdom and often the path to eternal happiness.  
--People who refuse to admit they were wrong love themselves more than they love the truth.  
--Increased earnings tend to increase yearnings.  
--Many people spend Monday through Saturday sowing wild oats and Sunday praying for a crop failure.  
--To many people use religion as a bus; they ride it only when it is going their way.  
--There is a difference between good, sound reasons and reasons that just sound good.  
--The best way to compliment your wife is frequently.  
--You can judge a man by whether, when given a choice, he would ask for a lighter burden or a stronger back.