

Church Football

(copied, edited)

Quarterback Sneak –A fourth of the church members who quietly leave during the invitation.

Draw Play -What many children do with the bulletins during the worship hour.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, or worship in anyway during the assembly.

Backfield in Motion - Making a trip to the restroom or fountain during services.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of the money that should be given to the Lord's work.

Two Minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon's almost done and you pull out your hymnal.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his place and falls back on last week's illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of some members if the preacher goes "overtime".

Trap Play -You're called on to pray when you've been asleep.

End Run - Getting to the back pews before they are all taken.

Prevent Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said in the sermon to affect your life.

Halfback Option - The decision of 50% of the congregation to not return for evening services.

Blitz-The all out rush for the restaurant following the final amen.

My apologies to any of the members who do not understand these football terms. The message is humorous to those who do, but it is clear even if you do not understand the jargon. We need to be more committed in our service to God.

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

January 29, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Editor: Ron Roberts

(317) 851-6777

moorevillecoc.com

**The servant is
the greatest in
the kingdom
of God**

Announcements

Dusty will be preaching this evening's lesson for the fifth Sunday.

Shannon is having great pain with kidney problems. Bob is having troubles with his back. Lavena is still recovering from broken ribs. Elizabeth has been home with cold symptoms.

In addition to all of these illnesses we need to keep Jill and Mary in mind as they combat cancer.

This is our last Sunday of the month so check your duties on the lists.

There are Bible reading schedules in the rack. One is for the entire Bible and the other is for the New Testament. You are only a month behind if you want to get started now.

This morning begins a series on the book of Colossians. You might want to read the epistle before next week. Thank you for your support.

Paradox of our Time

George Carlin

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less. We have bigger houses and smaller families.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.

We plan more but accomplish less. We build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication.

These are the times of fast food and slow digestion; tall men and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; fancier houses, but broken homes. These are the days of pills to do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill.

Matthew 16 begins with the Pharisees approaching Jesus and asking for a sign. This was done in order to tempt Him (1). Jesus said they could tell the weather by the color of the sky but were unable to discern **the signs of the times** (3). The point was that there were already sufficient signs given to recognize that Jesus was the Christ. They did not need more signs. They needed to discern the meaning of the signs already given. He let them know the resurrection of His crucified body would be the ultimate sign for all to see that He was the Christ (4).

After this the Apostles became concerned because they had forgotten bread. When Jesus warned them about *the leaven of the Pharisees* they believed He was talking about the missing bread (5-12). The Apostles failed to make the appropriate application to their situation. They had missed the sign. If Jesus could feed thousands He could certainly provide for them. Like the Pharisees, the Apostles were struggling to read **the signs of the time** which identified the almighty Messiah.

This phrase (**the signs of the time**) reminded me of the above article by Mr. Carlin. There are things all around us to help us see where we are headed, and yet we move through life blindly. Our innovations have outrun our morals. Just because we know how to do something does not mean we ought to do it. We can clone, euthanize painlessly, abort babies, and a dozen other things. The capability of the scientific developments are staggering. However, the moral judgment is lagging way behind. Because we have a pill that will kill, should it ever be taken? Because we can, does not mean we should.

The smart phone was developed after the article was written, but Mr. Carlin was on the same track when he mentioned the increased capabilities of computers. We have increased our access to information, but we have decreased our ability to communicate at the same time.

We can find out facts in a fraction of the time we used to. We do not need to get out an encyclopedia or go to the library resource room. We simply ask our phone or some other device for the answer, and we have it immediately.

We are so amazed by our access to facts that we have not noticed our loss of feelings. We now communicate just to learn and have ceased to share and grow with one another. Today lovers cannot look into one another's eyes and share their hearts without the interruption of a cell phone. It used to be we could walk in the woods or drive in the country to escape the house phone, but now the constant interrupter is always in our pocket. It goes where we go. It makes us feel important, informed, and in sync with what is going on. But at what cost? Will we lose all our meaningful relationships in order to gain instant surface knowledge?

We need to read **the signs of our time**. We are losing our values because we find no time to pray or meditate on the Bible. We are too busy for worship. We are increasing in knowledge, wealth, and physical fitness, but deteriorating in spirit. God is mentioned more in profanity than He is in prayer. He has become an emergency contact instead of a constant companion to many Christians. Most Americans have released God in order to embrace science. Are we being blind to the **signs** of our own destruction?

Ron Roberts