

## PK's Perspectives ... "Who's in?"

"Who's in?" This was the question dominating the college football landscape in the final few weeks of the regular season. Early on, the question focused mostly on the top 6-8 teams in the much anticipated College Football Playoff rankings. There were seemingly endless scenarios presented as to how this team could end up in the Final Four or that team could drop out of the Final Four. As the end of the season approached with the various conference championship games looming, it was pretty much a "win and you're in" or "lose and you're out" storyline...but not really. Some teams dropped from the Final Four because they lost; some teams got into the Final Four because they won; and one team won their conference championship (and every other game they played during the season) but fell out of the final Final Four ranking anyway.

OMG, fans went ballistic on social media either defending their favorite team's inclusion in the CFP Final Four or ranting over their favorite team's exclusion from a shot at the Natty. There was some serious vitriol flying around social media, family holiday gatherings, and the workplace break room. Even if you're a person who couldn't care less about the CFP National Championship, you couldn't escape all the conversations, memes, and headlines related to the selection of the Final Four teams.

Here's the thing — people were disgruntled because it seemed as if the criteria for deciding "Who's In?" was not consistent...like maybe the 'powers that be' (aka The Selection Committee) kept moving the goalposts in order to accommodate some teams/conferences which also had the result of excluding other teams/conferences. For many fans (including some fans of the teams that made it into the playoff), the thorn is the fact that what in past years had been enough to secure a spot in the Final Four was seemingly disregarded this year....which begs the question, "Will the requirements shift again next year?"

"Who's in?" is also a question of eternal importance. At the end of our season on this earth, we step into an eternity of heaven or hell. "Who's in?" as regards entrance into heaven and who will be denied access? Is God arbitrary in His choosing of the people who will be welcomed into heaven? Are the requirements for gaining access to heaven the same for everyone, or are the requirements for heaven considered on a case-by-case evaluation?

Okay — so here's the Good News: there is only one way to secure your place in heaven, and it's the same for every single person regardless of age, skin color, nationality, economic standing, educational achievement, life achievements, personal failure, criminal background, addiction issues, or stingy tipping habits. Total, unconditional surrender to Jesus Christ is the only way to secure your place in heaven; fully trusting His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave whereby we find forgiveness for sin. There is no heavenly selection committee to shift the requirements for heaven...Jesus said, "...No man comes to the Father except through me." "Who's in?" It's really your choice — believe in Jesus and you're in; reject Jesus and access to heaven will be denied.

I hope your holidays were awesome! Grace & peace, PK.