“Pick the Winning Team!”
Revelation 5:1-10
Last September’s Super Bowl Picks

On September 5\textsuperscript{th}, odds of winning the Super Bowl: Westgate Las Vegas Superbook

New England Patriots 6/1  \textcolor{red}{\textbf{clear favorite}}

Atlanta Falcons 80/1 \textcolor{red}{\textbf{“longshot”}}

Wouldn’t it be great to pick the winning team?
Gotta Have a Great Coach!

Coaches Bill Belichick

- Won 4 of 6 Super Bowls
- W 237 - L 115 .673

Coach Dan Quinn

- 0 Super Bowls
- W 19 – L 13 .594
Winning Coaches **Develop** Talent

Consider the tragedy of wasted talent!

Heisman “has-beens” = Of the 78 winners:
* 14 never played 1 NFL game;
* 15 went undrafted;
* 9 made to the NFL Hall of Fame

Most recent: Johnny Manziel
2012 winner
“taking a year off” from NFL
Great Coaches Elicit:

**Maximum effort** from **each** player – internal motivation!

Each player **sacrifices / trains** to peak talent!

“Peaking” players = **each doing their roles with excellence** leads to TEAM VICTORY!

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.”

-- Vince Lombardi
Jesus = **Consummate** Savior and Developer of Lives!

Jesus did it with 12 crusty disciples

**Peter:** from failure to fantastic!

**Saul:** persecutor of church to regional evangelist

And He’s doing it with His church!

“Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth!” (Rev. 5:10)
What Has Jesus Done In Your Life?

We have wonderful hope = He can do it **with you**! Philippians 1:6; destination = HEAVEN (John 14:6)

“Where could I go? Oh, where could I go seeking a refuge for my soul? Needing a friend to save me in the end, where could I go but to the Lord?”

In sharp contrast: the creepy coach Satan
* liar (John 8:44)
* only comes to steal, kill, destroy (John 10:10)
Gotta Have a Franchise Player!

Tom Brady vs. Matt Ryan
Let’s Compare These Two QB’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Player 1</th>
<th>Player 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passing Yards</td>
<td>3,554 yards</td>
<td>4,944 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touchdowns</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interceptions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Offensive Player/Year!
“I saw…a Lamb standing, as if slain” vs. 6  It’s Jesus!

Rev. 5:2 – “Who is worthy?”

Rev. 5:3 – “No one in heaven or on the earth”

Rev. 5:5 – “the Lion … has overcome so as to open the Book”

He is able to open the Book... (Revelation 6:1)

The book (or scroll) with 7 seals = **the final mysteries of the final steps to the Kingdom!**

The suspense = Heisman, beauty pageant, or – Tuesday, September 18, 1990???
Gotta Have a Winning Strategy!

Champion teams study game tapes!
* exploit weaknesses of opponents

Jesus: “He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free!”

Jesus was slain vs. 9
Jesus purchased for God with Thy blood vs. 9
Men (and women!) from every tribe and tongue and people and nation vs. 9
Jesus Plan: Withdraw and Send His Spirit!

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father” (John 14:12).

“Go ye therefore and make disciples...”
(Mt. 28:18)

“And you shall be My witnesses... to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).
Gotta Have A Great Recruiting Program

Alabama #1 for the 7th year in a row!
(photo: Coach Nick Saban)

Ohio St. #2
Georgia #3 this year
(Tech = 46th)

There were 32 consensus five-star prospects in the class, and SEC schools signed 11 of them.
Christians – On the Winning Team!

In the battle tween good and evil, who wins? “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)

“And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16:20).

“Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4)
The Heavenly, **Divine** Draft of God!

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him” (Ephesians 1:4).
What Team Have You Picked?

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it”

(Matthew 7:13).