

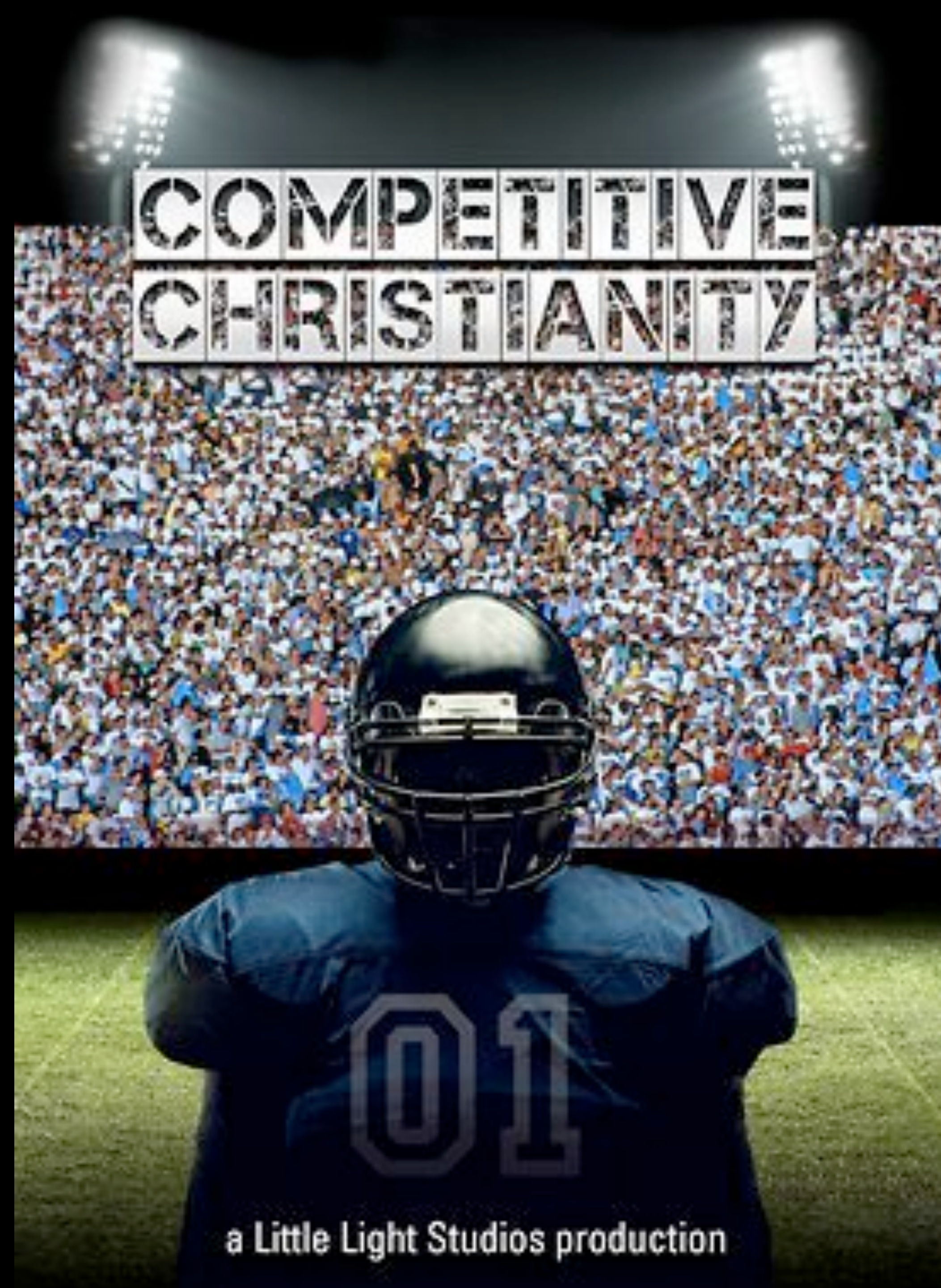
Part 1

Competitive Christianity: Sports and Spirituality

Prayerful Character or
Prideful Contempt?

Competitive Christianity DVD

Little Light Studios





***My personal
testimony...***

**Freshman Year
210 Lbs**

AGRI MASTER

SWEET 18%

Calf Starter Medicated

for replacement dairy and beef calves
For prevention of coccidiosis caused by
Eimeria bovis and *Eimeria zuernii* in
cattle, including ruminating
and non-ruminating calves
and veal calves

Medicated
Grain Mix



Net Wt. 50 Lbs. (22.67kg)

Calf Starter Medicated



**10th Grade
230 Lbs**



Junior
250
Lbs

High School Football Team

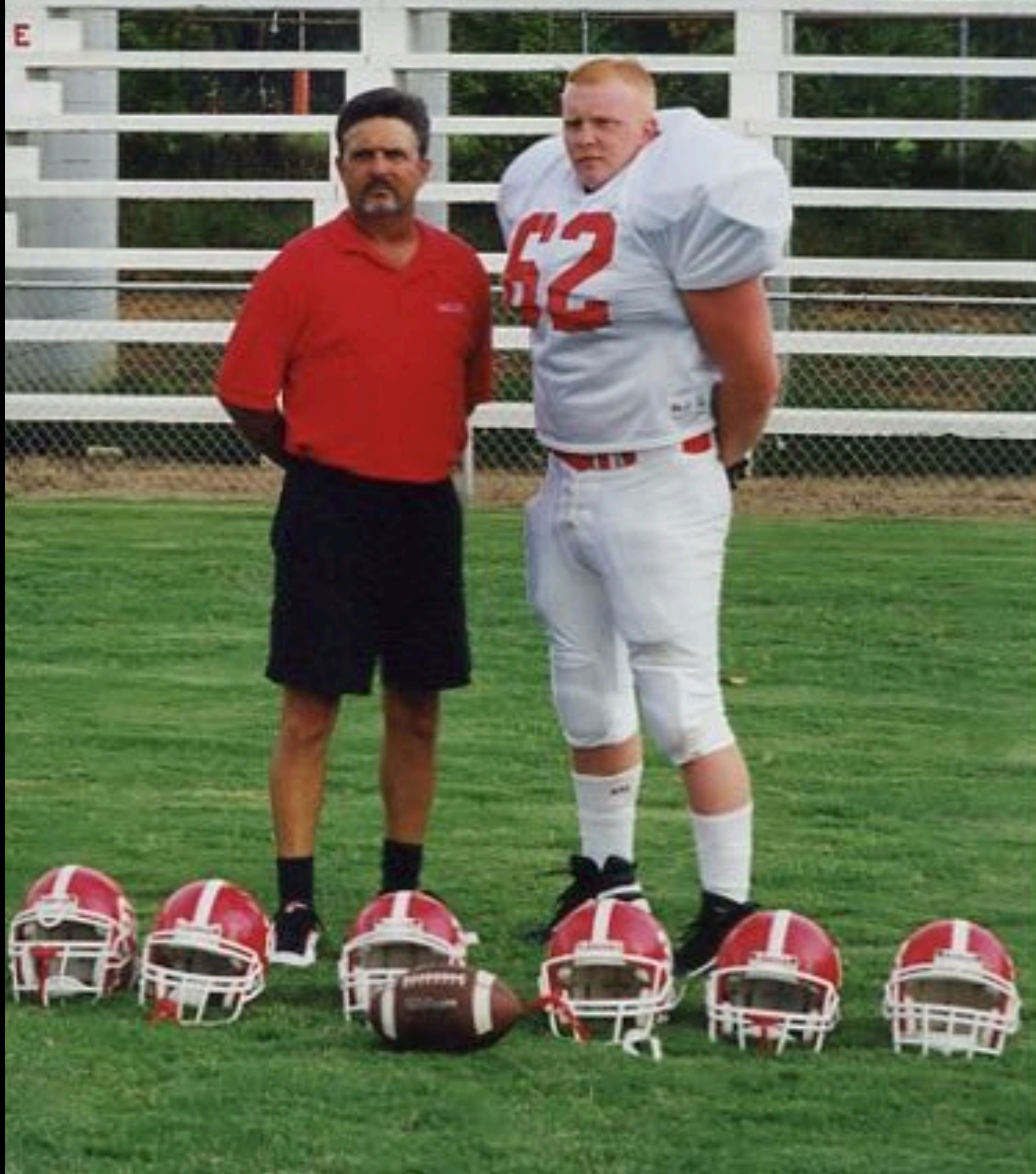
Junior Year





**Senior
Year
260 Lbs**





Senior Year:

All State

All County

All Area

Bench Press - 455 lbs

Squat - 700 lbs

Leg Press - 1800 lbs

40 Yard Dash - 4.8s

The Birmingham News **1997**

All-State Team

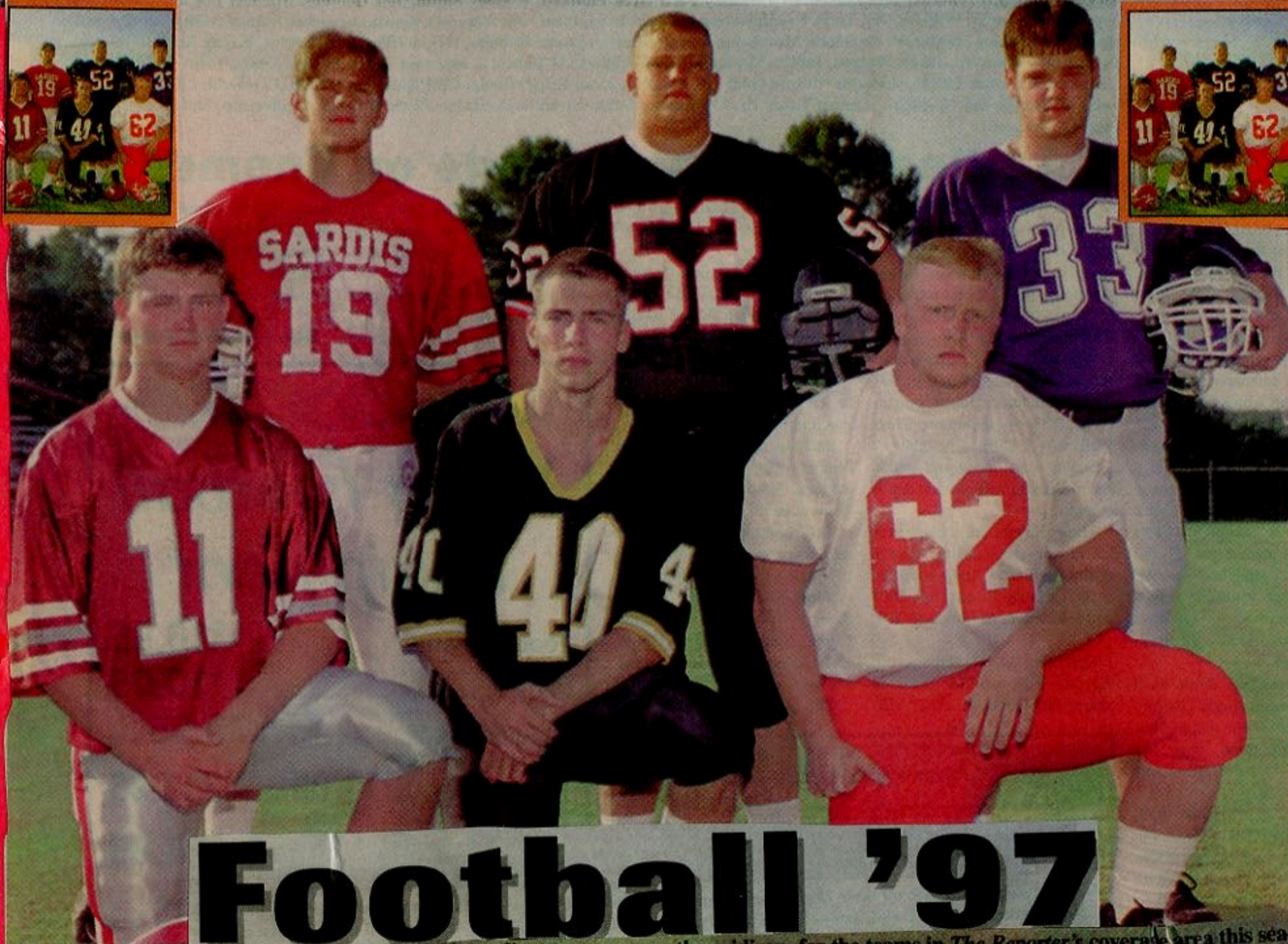


OFFENSE

POS.	PLAYER, SCHOOL	YR.	HT./WT.
QB	Tim Gallahan, Midfield	Sr.	6-5/220
RB	Shontua Ray, Montevallo	Sr.	5-10/195
RB	Mac Campbell, Alexandria	Sr.	5-9/175
RB	Michael Owens, Deshler	Jr.	6-0/205
R	Sam Collins, Fayette County	Sr.	6-2/180
R	Aryvia Holmes, Midfield	Jr.	5-9/160
L	Jake Hogan, Leeds	Sr.	6-4/280
L	Wes Peppers, Douglas	Sr.	6-1/250
L	Kendall Palge, Greensboro	Jr.	6-5/284
L	Ray Marshall, Montevallo	Sr.	6-6/290
L	Josh Billue, Guntersville	Jr.	6-5/295
PK	Danny Haynes, Brooks	Jr.	6-0/190

DEFENSE

POS.	PLAYER, SCHOOL	YR.	HT./WT.
DB	Demetree Moore, Dale County	Sr.	6-1/180
DB	Kyle Doughty, Pleasant Grove	Sr.	6-1/175
DB	Chris Williams, Emma Sanson	Sr.	5-9/170
LB	C.J. Boyd, Alexandria	Jr.	6-1/190
LB	Glen Thompson, Midfield	Sr.	6-1/210
LB	Robert Shepherd, Greensboro	Sr.	6-0/200
LB	Kevin Sanders, Bibb County	Sr.	5-9/220
L	Brent Robinson, Deshler	Sr.	6-1/265
L	Ryan Johnson, Guntersville	Sr.	6-2/220
L	Michael Simonetti, Pleasant Grove	Jr.	6-1/260
L	Desmond Sturdivant, Sumter County	Jr.	6-3/290
P	Jeff King, T.R. Miller	Sr.	5-10/155



Football '97

These seniors will provide leadership, a crucial ingredient to success on the gridiron, for the teams in *The Reporter's* coverage area this season. Kneeling, from left, Brock Rutledge of Boaz, Tex Martin of Crossville and Wes Peppers of Douglas. Standing, from left, Shade Powell of Sardis, Quinton Williams of Albertville and Jonathan Colvin of Geraldine. The season kicks off Thursday night when Boaz travels to Arab.

Florida Gators



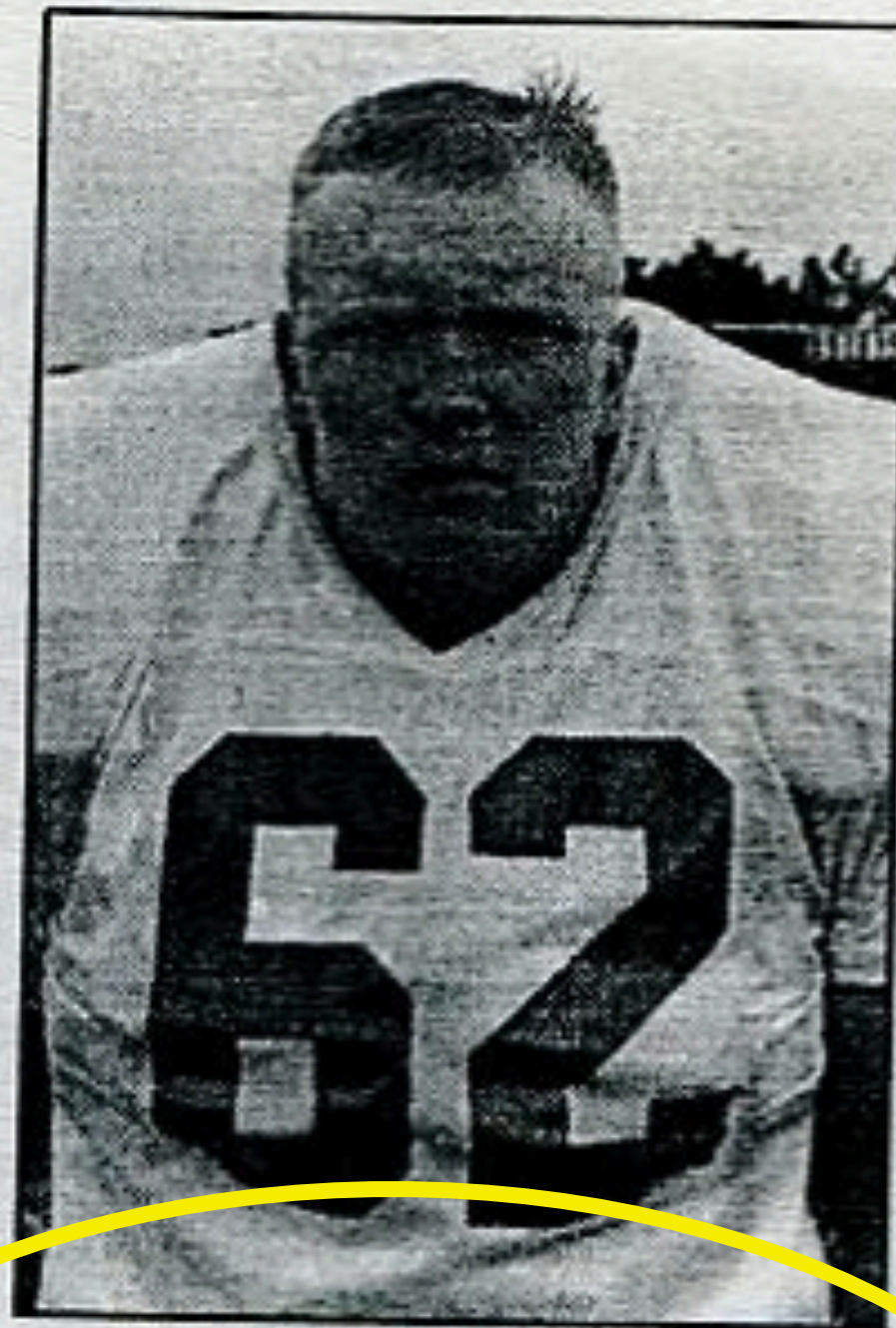
TENNESSEE.







ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE



Wes Peppers

Injury ends Peppers' career at Douglas

By SHANNON J. ALLEN
Sports Editor

Senior lineman Wes Peppers' outstanding career as a Douglas Eagle has ended due to a knee injury suffered in the first half of last weekend's 14-8 loss to arch-rival Boaz.

"We're going to have to replace Wes," said Douglas head coach Rex Mitchell.

"It will take Wes about three months to recuperate from it and go through his rehabilitation.

"Knowing Wes, by the spring-time he'll be working hard and getting back in shape and hoping somebody will still try to look at him.

"If not, I'm sure he'll try to walk on somewhere and go to school. But somebody will pick him up.

"He's walking around on it now in a brace, not needing any help. It's still not really hurting him, it's just swollen."

An experienced player such as Peppers can't be replaced, but Mitchell was pleased with the way his team responded after Peppers went out against Boaz.

The Eagles' touchdown drive came after his injury.

"Some of the young guys see it as an opportunity to step in and have a major role in the offensive and defensive side of the ball," Mitchell said.

"They're not dragging around. They're not feeling sorry for the team or themselves, and Wes doesn't want them to do that either."

**A Life-
Changing
Blessing from
God!!!**



**Knee Injury-
Senior Year**

Eagle linemen

By SHANNON J. ALLEN
Sports Editor

Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Mo., bolstered its 1998 recruiting class with the recent addition of two outstanding linemen from Douglas.

Wes Peppers and Tony Tidwell signed with Lindenwood, a private liberal arts college which is a member of the NAIA.

"Lindenwood sent a questionnaire about Wes and Tony and I filled it out," said Douglas head coach Rex Mitchell.

"I said it will probably be hard to get these boys out of the South because football is big in the South, but the next thing I knew they'd called them two or three times. They went to visit and liked what they saw, and that's where they're going."

Last fall, the 6-foot-1, 255-pound Peppers was on his way to a banner year until suffering a season-ending knee injury in the fourth game against arch-rival Boaz.

Despite missing much of the season, Peppers made All-State in Class 4A and All-Marshall County.

A three-year starter, Peppers is one of the strongest players in Eagle

sign with Lindenwood College

history. He bench presses 420 pounds and holds the school record in the squat at 685 pounds.

The 6-2 1/2, 240-pound Tidwell didn't begin playing football until his junior season, but made the most of his two years in an Eagle uniform.

He was All-County, 4A All-Area 13 and honorable mention All-State as a senior.

A member of *The Reporter's* 1997 All-Area Team, Tidwell has been timed at 4.9 seconds in the 40-yard dash. He benches 400 pounds and squats 520 pounds.

Peppers was recruited as an offensive guard and Tidwell as an outside linebacker/defensive end.

"I believe Wes was probably one of the better offensive linemen in Marshall County," Mitchell said.

"For three years he did an outstanding job. He had a little setback, but he's well again and he'll do a real good job for Lindenwood.

"It's a shame we couldn't see him as much as we wanted to last fall, but we'll hear from him, just wait and see.

"Tony just played two years. He's a big kid who's awful quick and has

good speed for his size.

"He still has a lot of growing to do and a lot of football to learn, but he can play the game and he enjoys it thoroughly.

"I'm eager to see what Lindenwood will do with him. He has a lot of talent and will do a good job for them."

Mitchell said when a coach has players he believes can play college football, he must fill out questionnaires and take other steps to make sure they are recruited.

"We have two or three right now who some small colleges are communicating with. They've been talking back and forth with them through letters, mailings and questionnaires.

"The kids see that it doesn't matter if it's the National Coast Guard Reserve team, Division III, NAIA, Division I or Division II, there's some teams out there.

"And when others get that opportunity, like Tony and Wes, they know if they work hard they might get it too. That's what it's all about."

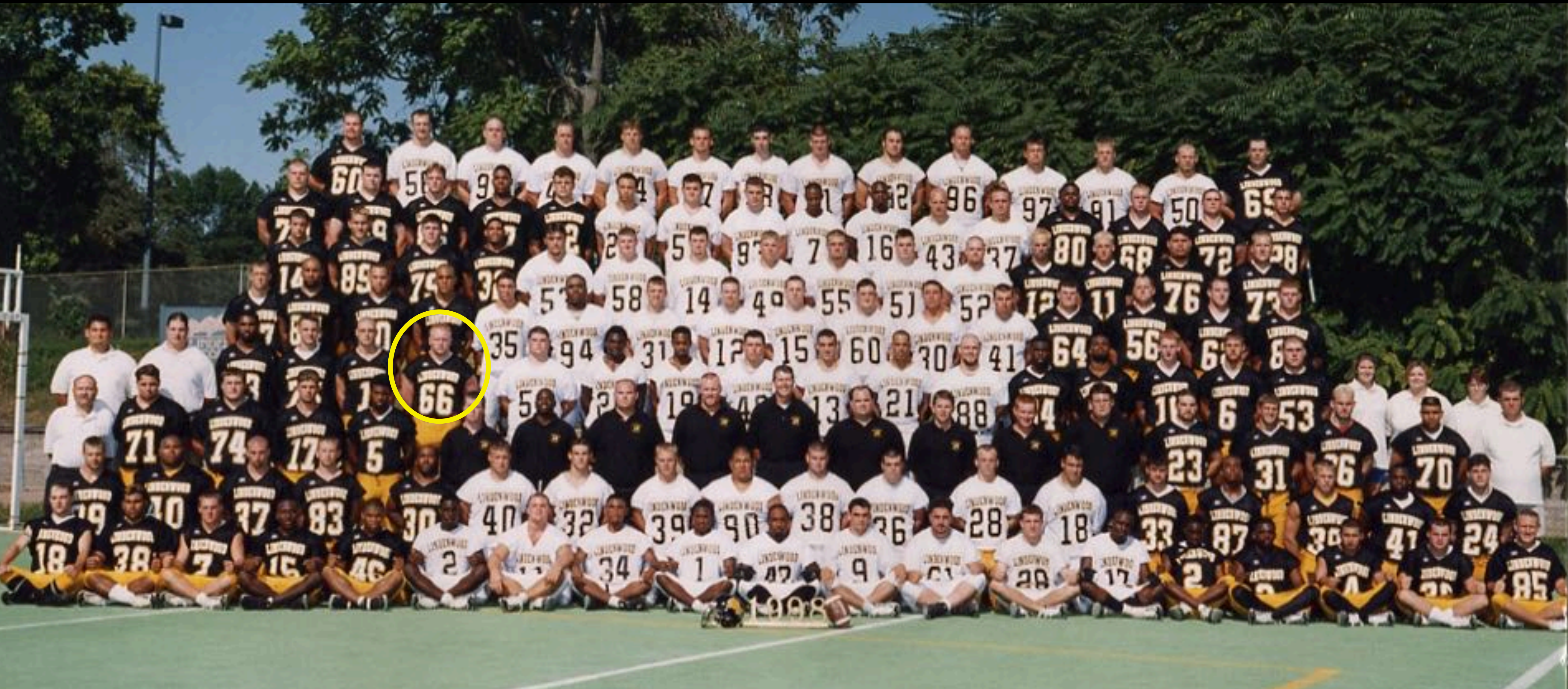
College Football Scholarship Signing



TO PLAY IN SHOW ME STATE - Wes Peppers, sitting, of Douglas, signs a scholarship to play football for Lindenwood College, an NAIA school in St. Charles, Mo. Peppers was an All-State selection in Class 4A as a senior. Supporting Peppers' decision are, standing, from left, DHS principal Brenda Milner, Eagles' head coach Rex Mitchell and his parents, Regina and Gene Peppers. (Staff photo by Shannon J. Allen)

Lindenwood Lions College Football

NAIA National Runner-Ups



**College
Football
265 Lbs**



The Atheist Who Found God...

















ZOOM KOBE II
SUPERNATURAL

Kobe

I'm chasing perfection. Elevating my game.
Zoom Kobe II helps me be the best basketball player I can be.
Natural fit and motion. Supernatural performance.

NIKEBASKETBALL.COM



ZOOM KOBE II
SUPERNATURAL

A stylized white signature of Kobe Bryant is located below the shoe name.

I'm chasing perfection. Elevating my game.
Zoom Kobe II helps me be the best basketball player I can be.
Natural fit and motion. Supernatural performance.

***“I’m chasing perfection...
Supernatural Performance”***





Friendly Competition...???



***We pray at the
Superbowl!!!***





***There are so
many positives
to it!***











***Competitive Sports may be
popular and very
American...***



...BUT ARE THEY
CHRISTIAN AND
BIBLICAL?

IS IT GOD'S PLAN FOR
HIS LAST DAY PEOPLE?

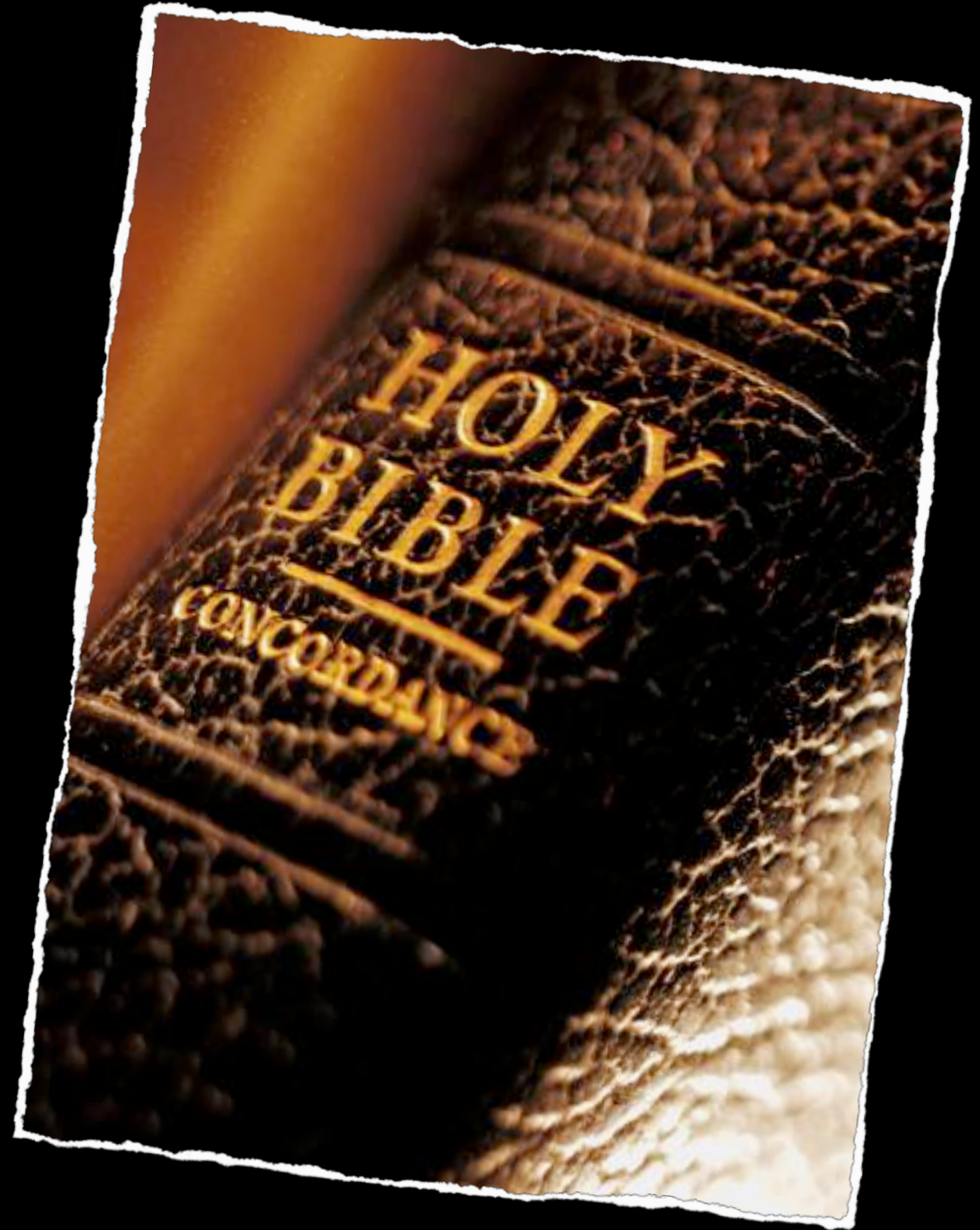
Jeff Beacham: "THE CLASH OF THE KINGDOMS--THE KINGDOM OF SELF AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

“From God’s view, there are only two kingdoms. In one, you "follow Him" and obey His will and ways. In the other, there is only "worship of self," which is always in competition against God’s ways, which are selfless. In this season, we need to align ourselves to the culture of His Kingdom and not make the mistake of thinking that western "Christian" culture and Kingdom culture are necessarily the same!”



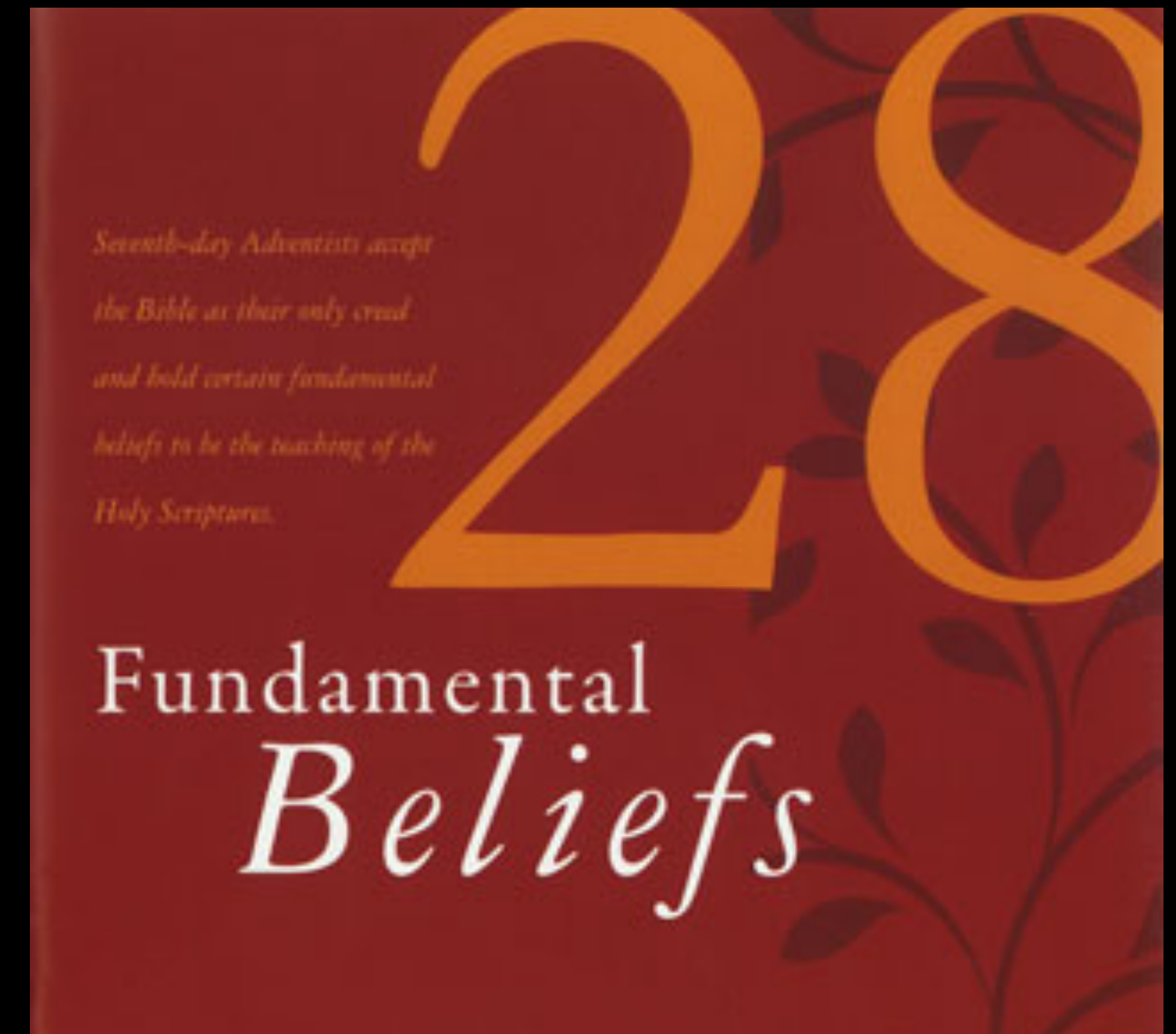
Guiding Text...

Colossians 3



Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Belief #22

“We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty...Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholeness, joy, and goodness.”



“Seventh-day Adventists, above all people, should be patterns of piety, holy in heart and in conversation. To them have been entrusted the most solemn truths ever committed to mortals. They look for the soon return of Christ in the clouds of heaven.”

“For them to give to the world the impression that their faith is not a dominating power in their lives, is to greatly dishonor God.”

PH145 - Recreation 3.2



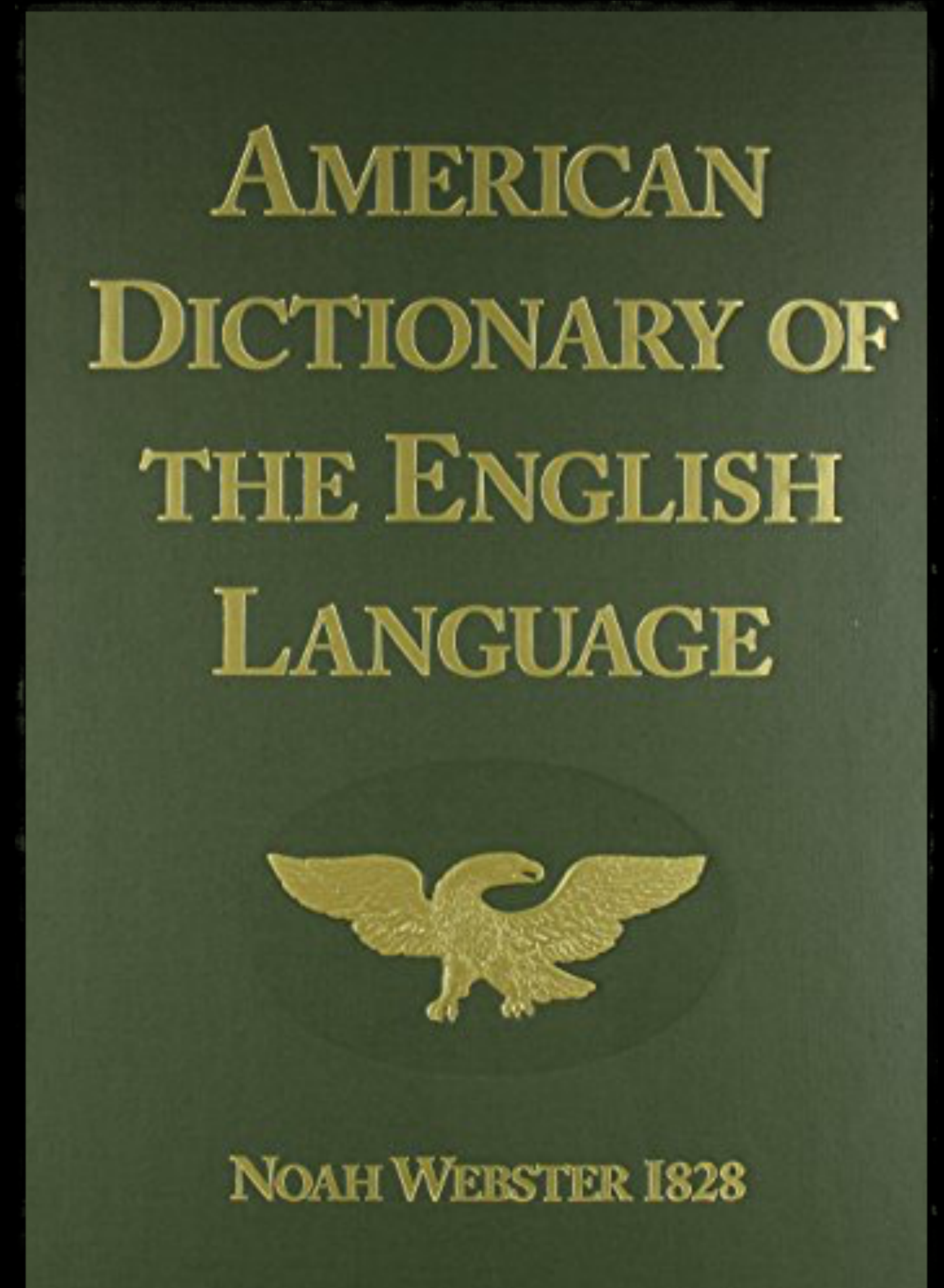
Definitions – Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

Sport:

- That which diverts and makes merry; play; game;
- Mock; mockery; contemptuous mirth.
- To represent by any kind of play

Game:

- An exercise or play for amusement or winning a stake;
- In antiquity, games were public diversions or contests exhibited as spectacles for the gratification of the people. These games consisted of running, leaping, wrestling, riding, etc. Such were the Olympic games.



Definitions – Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

Competition:

- The act of seeking, or endeavoring to gain, what another is endeavoring to gain, at the same time; rivalry; mutual strife for the same object; also, strife for superiority; A state of rivalry
- Pitting 2 or more people against each other in an artificial situation to determine a winner and a loser.

Competitor:

One who seeks and endeavors to obtain what another seeks; or one who claims what another claims; a rival. An opponent.



1) Sports build Character



Sportsman:

“Someone who can take a loss or defeat without complaint OR victory without gloating, and who treats his opponent with fairness, generosity, and courtesy.”



1600 Male High School Seniors were analyzed as to the effect of participation in a variety of sports:

- Increased Aggression**
 - Increased Irritability**
 - Reduced Honesty**
 - Decreased Self Control**
 - Slight increase in Self Esteem**



If we participate in something that increases aggression or irritability even a little...is that preparing us for heaven or reducing our preparation?



*Can we consciously
participate in anything to
the glory of God that will
DECREASE our ability to
maintain self control?*



Scientific studies show that athletes generally score higher in the areas of “dominance, pride, egotism, and aggression” in multiple psychological tests.



Studies also show that:

- 19% of violent sexual crimes were committed by male athletes even though they only made up 3.3% of the male student body!

“When you are trained to be violent, it can spill over into your private life.”

- Todd Crosset



***If sports build character, then
the more we compete in sports,
the better our character should
become, right?***



***We should expect that the
higher level of competitiveness,
the less we would see athletes
involved in violent activity...***

Professional Athletes & Violent Crimes:

Mike Tyson- ***Rape & Assault***

O.J. Simpson
Murder

Scottie Pippin ***Domestic Assault***

Michael Vick
Drugs & Violent Crimes

Tiger Woods ***Adultery***

Kobe Bryant
Rape

Ray Lewis
Murder



**Americans are
loving the bad
conduct of
players...**





***The harder the
hit or the more
vile the actions,
the greater the
applause &
cheer!***





***TWO CONCLUSIONS PROVEN
BY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH:***

***1) Sports do not build
character in most cases.***

***2) Sports can actually cause a
decline in character.***





***WHAT RESEARCH IS
DISCOVERING TODAY IS WHAT
GOD'S PROPHET KNEW ALONG
TIME AGO!!!***

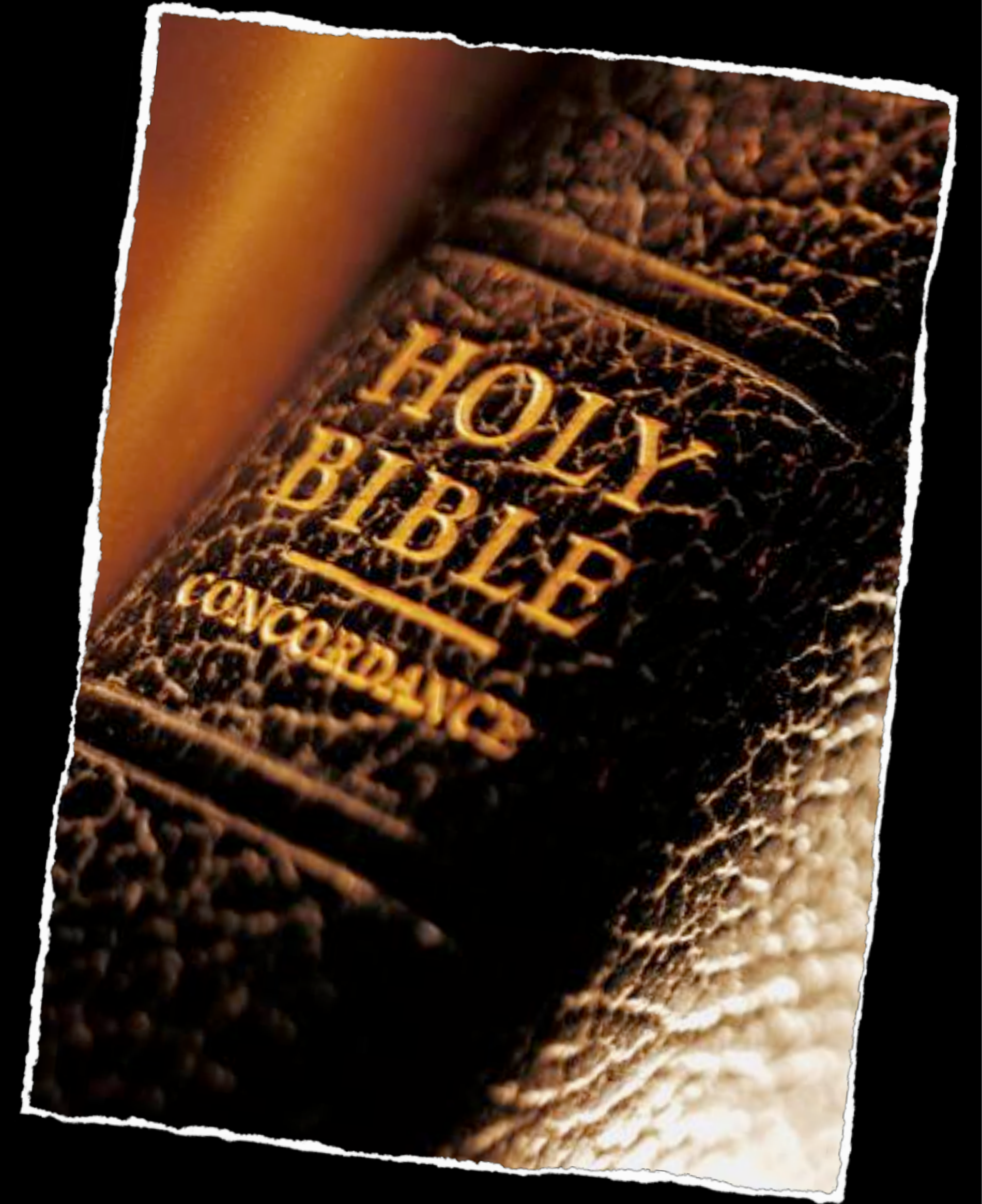
AH 500.3 (The Adventist Home)

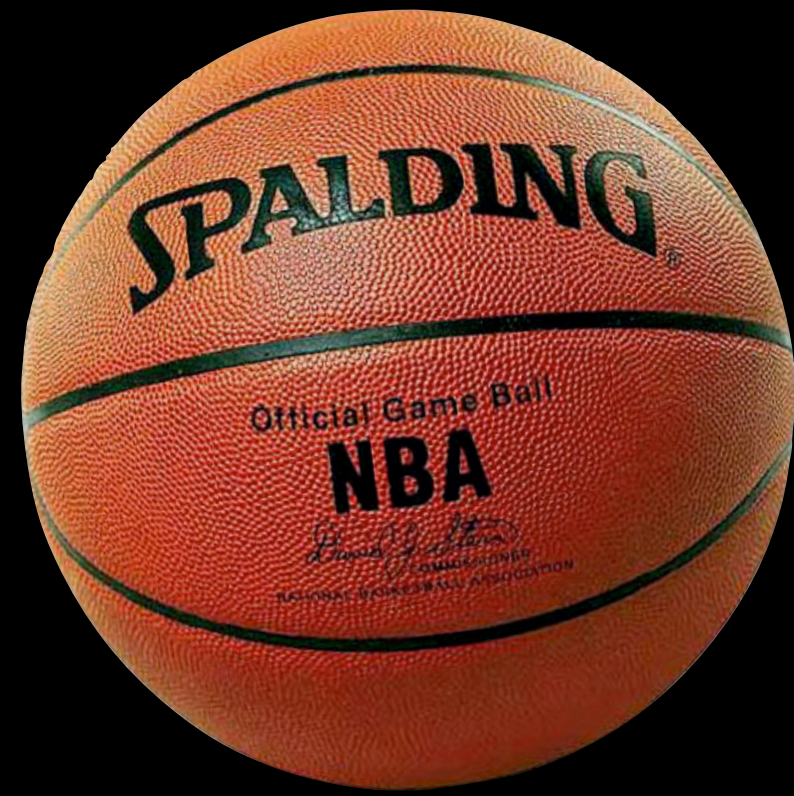
“Some of the most popular amusements, such as football and boxing, have become schools of brutality. They are developing the same characteristics as did the games of ancient Rome. The love of domination, the pride in mere brute force, the reckless disregard of life, are exerting upon the youth a power to demoralize that is appalling.”





Colossians 3:8





***WHAT RESEARCH IS DISCOVERING
TODAY IS WHAT GOD'S PROPHET
KNEW ALONG TIME AGO!!!***



AH 500.3 (The Adventist Home)

“Other athletic games, though not so brutalizing, are scarcely less objectionable because of the excess to which they are carried. They stimulate the love of pleasure and excitement, thus fostering a distaste for useful labor, a disposition to shun practical duties and responsibilities. They tend to destroy a relish for life's sober realities and its tranquil enjoyments. Thus the door is opened to dissipation and lawlessness with their terrible results.” {AH 500.4}



***Can it really be that
bad?***



Can it really be that bad?

“When there has been a departure from the right path, it is difficult to return. Barriers have been removed, safeguards broken down. One step in the wrong direction prepares the way for another. What we do once we more readily and naturally do again; and to go forward in a certain path, be it right or wrong, is more easy than to start. It takes less time and labor to corrupt our ways before God than to engraft upon the character habits of righteousness and truth.”

{PH145 35.3}

*Can it really be that
bad?*

***IS IT REALLY THAT
SPIRITUALLY
HELPFUL?***

**“Will indulgence in
these sports give men
a desire to know truth
and righteousness?
Will it keep God in
their thoughts? Will it
lead them to inquire,
How is it with my
soul?”**

13MR 264.1



***Is it drawing us
closer to Christ
or further
away?***



***If further away,
then should we
avoid it as
Christians?***



***In most cases,
competitive sports
do not build
character, but they
do reveal
character.***



2) Sports build Self Esteem

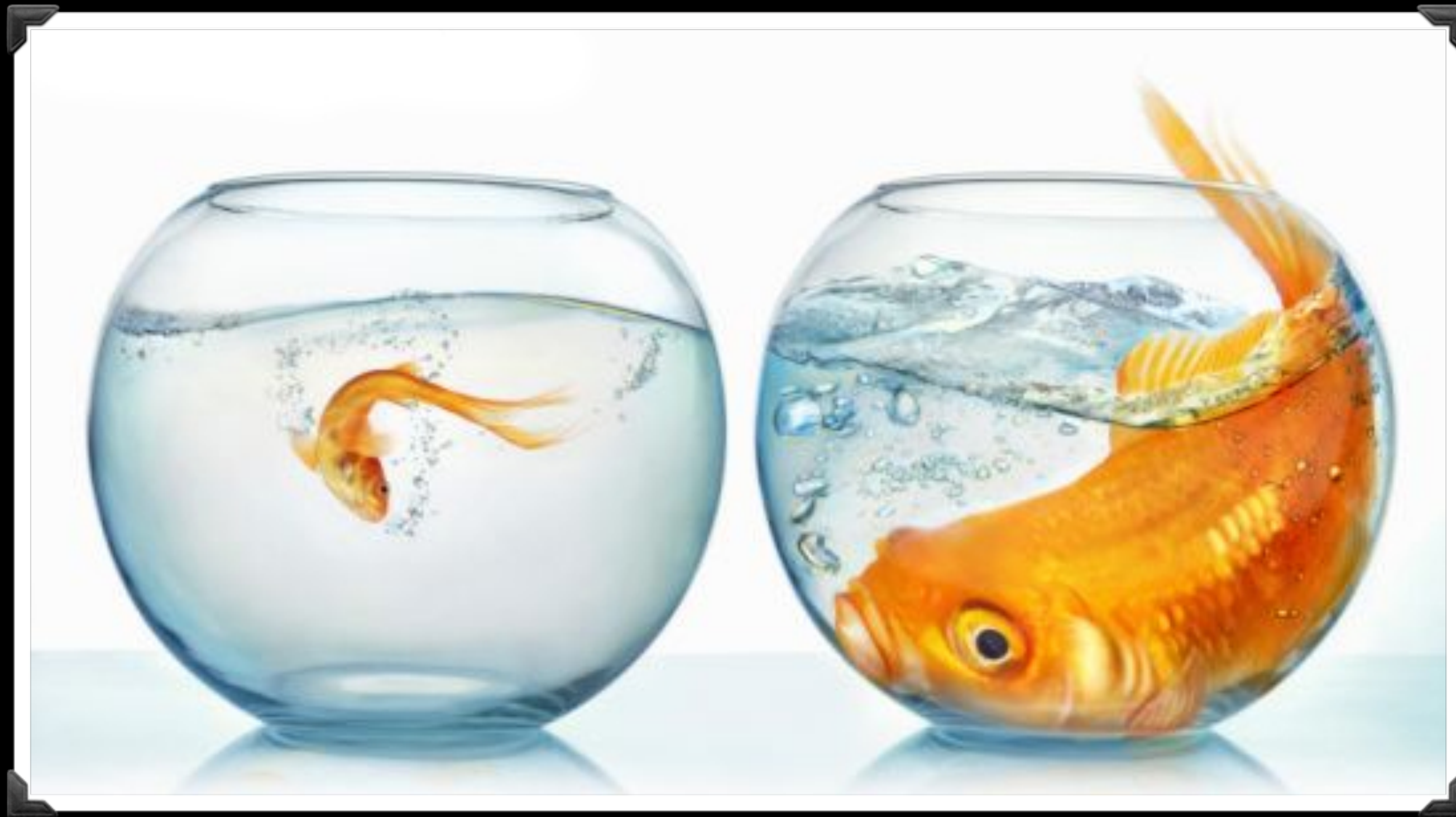
***Based
on what???***



***In this type of setting,
self worth is based on
my own performance or
dominance of others. It
comes from myself, not
from God.***



Shall We Find Out Who Is the Greatest, Prettiest, Best, Strongest, Smartest?



“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

- 2 Corinthians 10:12

Shall We Find Out Who Is the Greatest, Prettiest, Best, Strongest, Smartest?



1 Corinthians 13:4-6 NASB

“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered.”

Shall We Find Out Who Is the Greatest, Prettiest, Best, Strongest, Smartest?



“Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.”

- 2 Timothy 2:23-24

What are youthful lusts?

Who is the strongest,
prettiest, richest,
smartest!

Why does competition appeal to us?

James: 4:13-18

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”



***Competitive sports
build a competitive
spirit, not self
worth.***

***The real object is to win
and be supreme.***



***Where should I get my self
worth?***

- John 17

- Jeremiah 29:11-13

