Wide Left – Wide Right

By Curt W. Buckmire

As we approach the end of the summer vacation, we know that football season is just around the corner. As we all look forward to our favorite football team returning to the field of play with great expectation, there is one thing as fans we don’t want to hear in the middle of a close game; that is the kick is wide left or wide right. What that signifies is a missed opportunity to put points on the scoreboard and potentially win the game.

For all you non-football fans reading this article, when a team has driven the football down the field close to the end zone but failed to make a touchdown in the appropriate amount of downs, the coach will send in the field goal kicker to try to salvage the drive and put some points on the scoreboard. The field goal kicker kicks the football with the intention of putting it right down middle of the field goal; but occasionally the football will go astray either right or left because of the wind or because the ball wasn’t hit correctly.

You may be asking yourself, what does kicking a football have to do with the life of a Christian? In the teaching on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus taught His disciples, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."

Christians, just like the field goal kicker, are attempting to hit a target. Our target, however, is the one that leads to eternal life. There is a belief in our society today that a person can pretty much do whatever he or she wants and still enter into life eternal. Even the great and powerful Oprah Winfrey has stated on her television program “there are many paths to God.” This teaching, however, is contradictory to Jesus teachings who said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6.

Metaphorically, life is like a football game; and when we’re in the fourth quarter with the game on the line, if you make the call for the field goal kicker to go into the game, the one thing you don’t want to hear after the kick is made is wide left or wide right. As in football, so to in life. When it’s all said and done, after this life is over, the one thing you don’t want to hear is that you missed the goal of eternal life wide right or wide left.

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