

“THE BIG GAME”

Noel K. Anderson, pastor

TEXT: EPHESIANS 4: 25-32 ESV

Color lead: coin toss.

It's the Big Game. Divided sides, each invested in their side with crazed excitement.

Opponents or enemies? It can feel like enemies

No one says it [agree] “Football is awesome”

Moving to Nebraska—huskers & projected esteem.

Funny to me—like Soap Operas-fans think they matter

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma

They cared SO MUCH. Something good in that.

George F. Will visits Lincoln

Something good in caring so much.

But OUR BIG GAME mirrors NAT Division

Evidence: Two half-time shows? Two anthems?

Where is that one agreement? “Football is awesome?”

How about “Isn't it great to be Americans?--to be here....

We need to find that one voice again.

Not only find it, but collectively celebrate it!

Not in arrogance or superiority—because when we celebrate

Oneness, we celebrate our opponents as much as ourselves.

We need to do this as a country, but also as a community.

As political beings

AS a congregation

As families.

Some people need to work out division within themselves! [Lent]

We are all in this life on a spiritual journey,

Moving from Mister Magoo blindness toward a sane reading of the world.

We are constantly being trained by the HS to see things from 10kviewpoint

The Godly perspective.

It's HARD, because everything around us, TVs, Schools, Netflix, Facebook—

All seek to drag us down into an isolated, divided, fanatical subgroup—

The world wants us to be sluggishly numb—drunk with arrogance and

Self-righteousness—shamelessly virtue signaling and cursing the

Demonized opposition.

This is our TEXT [REREAD ENTIRE]

Let's look at the Big Game—don't read political into it..

Tickets \$4800 to \$40,500 [Seahawks bench]

Fans up for the game, box seaters, the teams getting ready.

There are three games we can see.

1. The players who will take the field
2. The fans seated and waiting

3. Those outside who did not get in.

Standing at the fence, hoping for a miracle

Just being near it all is intoxicating

“It’s not fair—I’ve been a Seahawks fan longer..!”

“My great grandad used to farm here—this was our land”

Breach in the gate—dash in lost in the crowd.

A kind and gentle granddad walks with his young grandson to the seats he painstakingly saved to purchase. This is a dream for both of them.

Two men are sitting there.

Where is perspective? Where is that Godly view?

At 30,000 feet, stadium looks like an inverted thimble

At 30,000 miles, see the whole Earth at once?

How important are those concerns?

Jesus came to save us from all that mess

His death on the cross obliterated the penalty for sin,

His rising exalts him above Heaven and Earth

We have been redeemed for lives of love!

We are to live as redeemed people, not lost

We seek the mind of Christ, not the polluted groupthink of the crowds.

V. 32: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

We are forgiven so that we would be forgiving.

