

PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 1 – Issue 18 – 17 February 2008

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM A RED WINGS GAME

On the evening of February 1st some of the saints and I went down to Joe Louis Arena to take in a night of hockey. All and all, it was a great night. It was especially fun to see little Cole’s eyes light up with each pass of the puck and with each score. I wish to share with you some observations I made that night – observations that can easily be made at any professional sporting event in our country.

1. **Lots of people love to drink alcohol.** As I looked around I saw a host of adult persons with glasses of beer in their hands. Intoxication is condemned by Jesus (**Luke 12:45**). Remember: there are degrees of drunkenness (cf. **1 Kings 16:9-10**). If it takes one 4 beers to become “stone drunk,” then they are ¼ drunk after just one beer. Time after time, God warns against the consumption of alcoholic beverages: **Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Peter 4:1-3**. Despite what the world and carnal “Christians” want people to believe, there is no way Scripture can be twisted to support social drinking.
2. **Drinkers do stupid things.** Ask Belshazzar (**Daniel 5:4ff**). Ask Noah (**Genesis 9:21**). Consult **Isaiah 28:7**. I saw drunks stumbling to cars. I saw a drunk acting a fool in front of a television camera. Etc, etc, etc.
3. **The Devil comes to you** (**Matthew 4:3; 1 Peter 5:8**). All throughout the night I saw men and women running up and down the stairs of the arena shouting, “**Beer Here!**”
4. **People happily give their time to what they feel is important.** With the pregame festivities, intermissions and travel time, the evening lasted over five hours. Yes, people find the time to do what they want to do. You draw the conclusion (**Hebrews 10:25**).
5. **People disrespect God’s dress code.** It was (and still is) the middle of winter, yet I saw some women dressed scantily. I saw women dressed in tight clothing. God’s dress code is neck to knee (**Genesis 3:21 – definition of tunic**). God is pleased with modesty and shamefacedness (**1 Timothy 2:9**).
6. **We live in a society that judges by outward appearances.** On the big screen the crowd was shown an overweight girl in an Avalanche jersey. Next was shown a skinny blonde in a Red Wings jersey. Team choice aside, the crowd cheered the “bombshell” and continually booed the heavy girl. God does not judge this way (**1 Samuel 16:7**). He has forbidden His creation from so doing (**John 7:24**).
7. **Many people are selfish.** In the restroom a man tried to “cut in line” in front of Cole. Pitiful. Let’s remember the attitude that pleases God (**Philippians 2:3-4**).
8. **Even children use profanity.** I heard many teens cursing and spewing euphemisms – sometimes right in front of their parents. Those who use such language cannot hope to make it to heaven (**Ephesians 5:1-5**).
9. **Being around other Christians helps one to better cope with all the ungodliness that’s out there.** No wonder the Lord sent disciples out in pairs (**Mark 6:7**).
10. **There are still “good” people out there.** Sure, there were drunks there. Cole did not encounter the only selfish person in the arena. Yet, there are still some kind folks out there. There is still a Cornelius or two roaming around (**Acts 10:1-2**). A man in front of us overheard that I needed a pen (to jot down some of the ideas for this article) and handed one to me. I was thankful. It’s nice to know some still care.
11. **Hard work pays off.** The Red Wings worked and worked and finally were rewarded with the game winning goal with just over 2 minutes left to play. As Christians, if we keep focused, we will be rewarded with a much greater prize (**1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**).