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Theme: Beyond the Gridiron

Scripture: Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

A Thought:

For many men (including me) we enjoy watching football on television for the same reason when as youngsters we got a kick from plowing our hot-wheels into each other - Pow! Pow! Crash! For no other reason than the satisfaction and excitement of being in the midst of controlled chaos. During football season we sit comfy in our Lazy Boys and munch on carbs and high- cholesterol delights. Not unlike the “good old Roman days”. The grid-iron field is our version of the Roman Colosseum. We cheer, we boo, we raise our hands in victory and our fists in defeat and as we commit one of the seven deadly sins (gluttony) the twenty-first century Gladiators grunt, wham and bang into each other! One of those Gladiators is a left handed quarterback. He is not known to throw the ball well and supposedly has less skills than the average NFL quarterback. Nevertheless...for the past seven weeks or so he has taken the sport's world by surprise. Lately his exceptional fourth-quarter plays have caused consternation to the challenging teams. His superb performances have brought cheers to the mile high city and subsequently sky high (no pun intended) ratings to television sports. The self-proclaimed virgin and born again Christian has everyone talking about God in the midst of football chatter. What a testimony! 1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (ESV) *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.”*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Do you agree with Tebow's mixing faith with football?
- What are your thoughts about proselytizing?
- How often do you talk about your religious views with others?
- Are you one of the "silent majority?" Why?

Scriptures to read: 1 John 5:10; John 8:14, John 15:26, John 16:12-14; Mark 5:19; Romans 8:39; 1 Cor. 10:8; Ephesians 5:1:33; 1 Peter 2:18; 2 Tim 3:12

Quote: Tim Tebow, Quarterback, Denver Broncos

"I don't know what my future holds, but I know who holds my future."

Bottom Line:

By now you know that I am talking about the quarterback for the Denver Broncos...devout Christian Tim Tebow. Tim is the first person to acknowledge that the past seven victories of which the last four have been won in the fourth quarter have been a team effort...especially by the mighty and fearless defense unit. Tim is grateful and gives God all the glory for the team's success. He is not afraid of reprisal or isolation when he publicly demonstrates his love by way of raising his hand to heaven and or taking a knee followed by a prayer on the grid sideline. Today's culture dismisses such public demonstration alas, many Christians just want to "get along." We demur from any appropriate form of public demonstration of our faith. Silence prevails. Recently a panel of four celebrities bantered about the value of celibacy. A female guest stated that she thought Tim Tebow was an excellent role model for young folks. The male guest was quick with his rebuttal and with a hint of sarcasm he replied..."*in no way do I want Tebow to be a role model for my sons.*" His reason..."*I want my sons to be seasoned before they are hitched.*" (*I replaced "seasoned" for another word*). When Tebow was asked why he doesn't drop the Jesus thing...his reply, "no way." Insisting, he isn't just a Christian or a believer at church. As you can see he walks the walk. Colossians 3:23 (NIV) "*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* **NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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