

# December 1997 Summit Journal

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## ***From the President's Desk***

Matthew writes "and they will call him Immanuel which means `God with us.'" In one verse (Matthew 1:23) the incarnation/virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ are all wrapped in one package. C.S. Lewis is absolutely correct - Jesus Christ is either a liar, a lunatic, a legend or LORD. The Bible and Bible-believing Christians say he is LORD. Bernard Shaw thought him a lunatic, the Soviet Encyclopedia relegated him to the status of legend, and the village atheist insists he is a liar.

As the Christian world prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ (the un-Christian world continues to make sure the incarnation/virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ are buried in trivia) the message of His incarnation, birth, life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension is clear for all who care to ponder its meaning.

Jesus Christ is "God with us." Man is not left alone as a mere blob of protoplasm in a senseless universe with no future or purpose for living. Man is important enough that his Creator took upon Himself human flesh to reveal Himself to us. Mankind understands physical flesh! Mankind has a terrible time understanding God in the abstract. We need a face! But "God with us" has been understood by millions of human beings down through the centuries. It is the foundation of Christianity. And it is the beginning truth that leads to life everlasting. Without "God with us" there is no Christianity - no cross or resurrection. There is no Gospel or "Good news" for the human race.

One who accepted the message of "God with us" without reservation was Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He lifted high the name of Jesus Christ from his pulpit in London and when he died, literally hundreds of thousands lined the five-mile route from his church, the Metropolitan Tabernacle, to the Norwood Cemetery. The whole city mourned his passing, a city so interested in his sermons that they were distributed throughout the city every Monday morning. He was a preacher without equal and his volumes upon volumes of sermons are still without equal.

His Christmas sermon for December 25, 1892 was never preached on that date because he died in Mentone, France on January 31, 1892, but his written sermon lives on in the hearts and minds of God's

people nonetheless. It was entitled "The Empty Place: a Christmas Day sermon." Hear parts of it -

"You know how it was in our own land [England], how many a seat was empty during the persecutions of Queen Mary; and after that, when our noble sires would not conform to the established Church of this land, and, therefore, were hunted into the dens and caves of the earth, as though they had been wild beasts, instead of men of whom the world was not worthy. Many of the bravest and best of England's sons and daughters fled away to America, and found another and a safer home there, in New England, where the wild rocks were less flinty than the hearts of men here in England."

Spurgeon understood that the "God with us" was a God of magnificent grace. "Grace," says Spurgeon, "makes a wonderful change in a man." And it was for such a change that God took upon Himself flesh, dwelt among us, and died for our sin, was buried and rose again the third day to prove once and for all that He was our Savior. As Spurgeon puts it, because of Christ there is no need for an empty place in heaven. "If you are a believer in Christ," says Spurgeon, "if you are the poorest saint, and the least worthy of consideration in the whole household, yet you shall have your place in heaven; you must have it, for God will not have one empty seat there, and nobody but yourself can fill your place. Our Lord Jesus Christ says, `I go to prepare a place for you.'"

On behalf of our whole Summit family I thank you for your love and prayers, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters; we wish you God's best at this Christmas season and trust that together we will make sure there are no empty places.

## ***Month in Review***

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, Thou that are highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Luke 1:26-33

Jesus Christ, whose birthday is celebrated throughout the world this month, has had a greater impact on human history than any person who ever lived. Though he died at the age of 33, the year in which we live is dated from his birth. Though he lived in an obscure corner of the Roman Empire nearly 2,000 years ago, more than one billion [1,000,000,000] people today call themselves followers of Christ. Though he never wrote a book, tens of thousands of books have been written about his life and teachings."

James J. Drummey, *Review of the News*

"Whatever attitude people hold toward Jesus Christ, whether they believe him to be God or not, there is no question that if his teachings were followed faithfully by everyone, the world would be a better and more peaceful place to live."

James J. Drummey, *Review of the News*

"This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished them far more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times."

Philip Schaff, historian

"The character of Jesus has not only been the highest pattern of virtue, but the strongest incentive to its practice, and has exerted so deep an influence, that it may be truly said, that the simple record of three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and to soften mankind, than all the disquisitions of philosophers and than all the exhortations of moralists."

W.E.H. Lecky, English Skeptic, *History of European Morals*

"Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historic sense. In short, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians."

Sir William Ramsey

"The latest edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* uses 20,000 words in describing the person, Jesus. His description took more space than was given to Aristotle, Cicero, Alexander, Julius Caesar, Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed or Napoleon Bonaparte."

Josh McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*

"In the reign of Tiberius Caesar a great teacher arose out of Judea who was to liberate the intense realization of the righteous and unchallengeable oneness of God, and of man's moral obligation to God. This was Jesus of Nazareth. Is it any wonder that to this day the Galilean is too much for our small hearts."

H.G. Wells, English Skeptic in *The Outline of History*, 1929

## ***Cultural Rot***

"I admit it. I very much dislike rock and all its pomps and its works and its ways. Others have explained better than I why it is so dislikable. Allan Bloom, for instance, in *The Closing of the American Mind*. And Richard Brookhiser in a piece occasioned by reading that megachurches favor rock music for their 'entertainment worship.' Just like the political conventions, just like the Olympics, just like everyone everywhere, says Brookhiser. Those of a certain age say they remember when rock was better. 'It hasn't changed for forty years,' he responds, 'and it never will, because it is so easy to do well enough.' The music requires no talent, the words are dumb, and there is easy money to be made. Brookhiser: 'It is easy to make a buck selling it. Because the product is so generic, primitive, and witless, the distributors and marketers can know nothing, ingest huge quantities of drugs, and still not be too addled to make millions. The fields I know best are journalism, publishing, and politics, so I do know something about laziness and empty pretensions. But if there was ever a land of opportunity for the feckless, the modern music industry is it. Rock is a form of popular culture that aims downward in terms of class and age, instead of aiming up. Rather than aspiring, it *despises*. The preceding phase of popular music, encompassing jazz, dance bands, and show tunes, was urban and adult. Rock is kids channeling the rhythms of bumpkins. The worst thing about rock is not that it fails the culture, but that it fails on its own terms - and hence fails us. Popular music is a marker and a memory aid. Most of the important events in life - romance, courtship, celebration - are accompanied by it. We remember them because of their importance to us, no matter what was on the radio. But if the music is crude and blank, does not some of its crudity and blankness infect the experience and the memory? And while popular music mostly amplifies pre-existing emotion, at its best it can tug us, tease us, make us grow. Not rock. For all its supposedly revolutionary ethos, rock is a binary switch of angst and hormones - Kafka without humor, or centerfolds in notes. The emotions that unsettle, like stones under a sleeping bag - hope, regret - are beyond its ken. And so they are beyond our ken, to the extent rock stuffs our ears. It's Bottom Forty, all junk, all the time. And it's here to stay.' He's probably right, and megachurches that debase the beautiful, trim the true, and detach the good from uncomfortable demands will likely continue to flourish with the help of it. Upon this rock they've built their church."

Richard John Neuhaus, *First Things*, January 1997, p. 64, 65

"Vice President Al Gore told the Hollywood Radio and Television Society that 'Hollywood produces the world's role models and helps shape kids' minds,' and, therefore, they have 'a deep responsibility.' Gore praised the ABC sitcom 'Ellen,' which stars a woman who is a lesbian on and off television, saying, 'And when the character Ellen came out, millions of Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light.'

"Five years ago former Vice President Dan Quayle took a different view of Hollywood. He was denounced by some (but praised by more) for saying that single motherhood portrayed on 'Murphy Brown' sent the wrong message. Quayle responded to the Gore speech: 'I'm always surprised to hear politicians promoting the agenda of the Hollywood elites. If there's anybody whose agenda needs

promoting, it is the middle-class American family.'

"Gore has come a long way since he and his wife Tipper criticized some of Hollywood's darker products. More than a decade ago, Mrs. Gore co-founded the Parents' Music Resource Center which persuaded the movie and record industries to label video rental films and recorded music containing high levels of violence and sex. Back then Mrs. Gore said: 'It's as if we let companies go into a national park and dump everything into the stream and we all sit there and go, "Well, guess we can't swim in that stream anymore," and it's our stream...I am trying to make a connection in people's minds that we can... make a difference and reassert a sense of control.'

"Then-Sen. Al Gore was on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, which held hearings on the content of videos and rock music. According to a Nov. 3, 1987, story in *Daily Variety*, the Gores did penance before a group of Hollywood music executives. Mrs. Gore said the hearings were a mistake and 'sent the wrong message.' Sen. Gore agreed with his wife and attempted to excuse his involvement in the hearings by pointing out that he was 'a freshman minority member of the committee' and in no position to veto the proceeding.

"But *Daily Variety* reporter Henry Schipper checked the Congressional Record and found that Gore's conduct at the hearings was a lot more enthusiastic than he was willing to admit. According to Schipper: 'Gore was among the first to arrive and the last to leave. He questioned, often vigorously and at length, every witness or group of witnesses to come before the panel, and in his opening statement he explicitly "commended" committee chairman Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.) for convening the meeting.'

"What caused the transformation? The lust for money. Gore knew then, and knows now, he needs Hollywood cash to run for president, so he sacrifices principle to expediency, as he did with abortion. Gore wrote a letter in the mid-'80s opposing not only federal funding of abortion but the procedure itself. Now he is so radically pro-abortion that he wants to force the procedure on the Third World as a partial cure for his pseudo-scientific theory of global warming."

Cal Thomas, *The Gazette*, October 30, 1997, p. 7

"The modern Episcopal Church is the oddest of churches: scrupulous about maintaining tradition in matters of worship and dress, feverish about rejecting tradition when a given religious belief contradicts the spirit of the times.

"The Episcopal descent into spiritual incoherence is one of the more remarkable religious occurrences of the late twentieth century. At its triennial General Convention, held in Philadelphia this July, the church came close to scraping bottom. Much of the secular media praised the Convention as moderate. The calm that indeed prevailed was due mostly to the inability of traditionalists to feel astonishment at anything such a gathering might produce. In recent years, Episcopalians have seen it all: bishops proudly ordaining active homosexuals and an official church court declaring (with more than a tinge of satisfaction) that no discernible doctrine prohibits such a practice; general apathy toward moral issues

such as abortion that enrage other Christians; disrespect for scriptural authority; sluggishness in evangelizing; the trial and conviction of the national church treasurer on charges of embezzling \$2.1 million to support herself and her Episcopal priest-husband; bishops implicated in adultery; seminary approval of homosexual living arrangements for students; a major East Coast diocese riven by the style and agenda of its radical bishop. Unsurprisingly, membership in America's formerly most prestigious church has fallen by a third since 1965."

William Murchison, *First Things*, November 1997, p. 16

## ***Educational Folly***

"Patti Johnson's son, Peter, is in college, but it was a long, tough haul getting him there.

"He was learning everything but academics in school,' says Mrs. Johnson, now a member of the Colorado State Board of Education.

"Her son's educational odyssey tells a cautionary tale about everything that's wrong with American education.

"His school in the Boulder Valley School District didn't teach phonics, so she sent him to a private company for phonics instruction.

"The school handed him a calculator, but never required him to memorize multiplication tables, so she whipped out flashcards and taught him the tables at home.

"The school used 'invented' spelling, so he never learned to spell correctly.

"He had no spelling books, no word lists, no spelling tests or spelling bees,' Mrs. Johnson says. 'I would ask, "When is my son going to learn to spell?" The response was, "We're working on his creativity.'"

"Correcting his spelling would 'hurt his self-esteem,' she was told. 'He kept misspelling things, and he would say, "It doesn't matter." I'd say, "It matters to me.'"

"Peter was in sixth grade when his parents' patience ran out. He became obsessed with death. The Johnsons learned that the school had been teaching death education and situational ethics - 'the lifeboat scenario where somebody has to be sacrificed and they kill off the old people.'

"Mrs. Johnson transferred him to another public school that turned out to be a pilot program for a teaching philosophy that stresses behavioral and attitudinal outcomes instead of academics.

"By eighth grade, they were mixing sixth, seventh and eighth grades and he spent most of his time

tutoring the sixth- and seventh-graders,' Mrs. Johnson recalled. 'It wasn't fair to him.

"I'd sit in on classes, and I couldn't tell what they were learning because they mixed the subjects. There were no textbooks. They mixed English, science and history. It was all watered down.'

"Peter transferred again to another school in the same district, immediately moved up a grade and enrolled in honors and advanced-placement classes.

"He was a pretty smart kid, and I figured since everything was so watered down, he could do the honors courses,' she said.

"Right after Peter graduated last year, the school dropped honors classes.

"Mrs. Johnson became so concerned about the lack of academic rigor in the schools that she ran for and won a seat on the state school board. Today, the former United Airlines flight attendant sees the situation turning around 'district by district' as parents rise up to complain.

"But it's a hard battle,' she says.

"I hope America turns it around. It sounds trite, but our kids are our future. An ignorant electorate is easily swayed."

*The Washington Times*, October 19, 1997, p. A5

## ***Foreign Policy***

"Global government is not just a pipe dream of starry-eyed dreamers. It is the world view and goal of the Clinton Administration. Its advocates are all around us.

"The attempt by the Clinton Administration to give away the rights of American inventors is another example of Clintonian globalism. The number-one argument used to defend this giveaway is that we must harmonize our system with the rest of the world. This particular sellout wasn't even a treaty; it was just a private deal made between Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and the Japanese Ambassador to give away a great and unique American constitutional right.

"The National Education Association passes a resolution every year calling for global education in the schools. Public school textbooks are filled with concepts about world citizenship rather than American independence, protection of the earth and biodiversity rather than human rights, and definitions of family to conform to the feminist agenda enunciated in Beijing.

"I received a letter from Walter Cronkite, the longtime icon of television news, asking me to contribute

to the Campaign for Global Change. He urged a `global call' for a reinvigorated United Nations, permanent UN peacekeeping forces, an international Court, and a strong Commission on Sustainable Development that would restrict our property rights. As Walter used to say, `And that's the way it is.'

"When Bill Clinton delivered his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in New York City in 1992, the only person he mentioned besides his mother and grandfather was his history professor at Georgetown University's Foreign Service School, the late Carroll Quigley, whom Clinton credited with helping to form his own political outlook. Quigley was a liberal professor known principally for his 1,300-page book called *Tragedy and Hope*, published in 1966, in which he approvingly described the small elite group which he said actually runs the United States.

"Global treaties and conferences are a direct threat to every American citizen. They are an assault on our right to raise and educate our children as we see fit. They are an attack on our ownership of our private property and on American ownership of our national treasures. They are an attack on our pocketbooks because, if the UN ever gets taxing power, there is no limit to how much of our money it can grab. They are an attack on the American standard of living because their goal is to steal American wealth and give it to the rest of the world.

"Global treaties and conferences are an assault on the soul and sovereignty of America because they mean that young American men and women will be sent around the world on phony `peacekeeping' expeditions.

"The Senate should reject all UN treaties out of hand. Every single one would be a diminution of our rights, freedom and sovereignty. That goes for treaties on the child, women, the sea, trade, chemical weapons, biodiversity, and heritage sites. Congress should stop financing UN conferences and put a stop to all Clinton attempts to implement them through the bureaucracy.

"Americans are not willing to have our property stolen by envious dictators or our standard of living reduced by those who whine about sustainable development. Americans are not willing to let Clinton turn our armed services into global social workers or global cops.

"Americans are not willing to be ruled by Strobe Talbott's `global nation,' or by Walter Cronkite's `reinvigorated United Nations,' or by Bill Clinton's treaties and conferences.

"If the rest of the world wants to enjoy the blessings of liberty and prosperity, they can copy our system. We are not going to compromise with theirs."

*The Phyllis Schlafly Report*, October 1997

"At the end of this month [October], Jiang Zemin, the president of China, arrives for an imperial procession through the United States. It includes a visit to Independence Hall in Philadelphia - perhaps for the day we can put `Independence' in quotes so as not to offend the dictator's delicate sensibilities - a

speech at Harvard, a state dinner at the White House and a breakfast on the Hill with congressional leaders, complete with photo-ops at the Rotunda.

"There has, of course, always been a time lag between the imposition of tyranny in one part of the world and the realization of it by the rest of the world. But though ignorance is a shabby excuse, our political leaders who will be feting the Butcher of Beijing cannot even use that. They know all too well what is going on in China: the laogai - the Chinese gulag, with at least 6 million slave laborers - the harvesting of prisoners' organs, the forced abortions, the borderline genocide in Tibet, the religious persecution, the torture and execution of dissidents. Welcome to the City of Brotherly Love and Independence Hall, Mr. Jiang!

"What is shocking is that this is a bipartisan betrayal. Both the Clinton administration, which lost its moral compass long ago, and the Republican leadership in Congress, which lost its backbone soon after it gained power, are determined to allow nothing to interfere with free trade. Of course, free trade with China is anything but free - with 40 percent tariffs on American imports, a \$40 billion trade surplus with the United States, and a command-and-control economy. Apparently, 'free' is one of those words that doesn't translate too well.

"And with the upcoming state visit, it appears that trading with the Chinese is no longer enough. We are now being asked not only to lie down with the Butchers of Beijing but to respect them in the morning. Would that this were only a one-night stand. Then, we could just shake it off and try to learn something from the experience. But unfortunately, this is policy.

"There is, however, a growing movement against our policy of 'constructive engagement' with China, otherwise known as servile appeasement of China. And the coalition has some strange bedfellows. On a 'Firing Line' debate that will air on Oct. 24, the anti-Beijing side included Gary Bauer, head of the conservative Family Research Council, liberal iconoclast Jerry Brown, Republican Sen. Tim Hutchinson and me. We were pitted against Bill Buckley, Henry Kissinger, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Netscape President Jim Barksdale.

"I did not intend to make Mr. Kissinger angry. But the former secretary of state and Nobel Peace Prize winner did not appreciate being questioned about the financial benefits he derives from his cozy relationship with the Chinese leaders - which became even warmer after Mr. Kissinger, practically alone in the world, refused to condemn Beijing following the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. He was offended at the mere suggestion that many of the companies represented by Kissinger Associates stand to benefit from the extension of most favored nation status and other lucrative concessions to China.

"Mr. Kissinger's latest client is Disney, which ran into some difficulties with the Chinese after it decided to go ahead with 'Kundun,' Martin Scorsese's movie on the Dalai Lama. When I pointed this out, Mr. Kissinger protested that he was only 'advising' Disney. He then went on to remind me - and America - of the 40 years of service he had given to his country, as if this fact should put an instant end to all questioning of his positions or his motives.

"In most circles, this tactic works. The Kissinger aura has seduced many a contemporary political leader - especially Newt Gingrich, who changed his China-Taiwan policy after one weekend at Mr. Kissinger's home in Connecticut.

"'No system,' Mr. Kissinger said once, 'that leads to periodic upheavals and violence can possibly be just or acceptable.' The reduction of ultimate principles like justice and freedom to questions of efficiency is the Kissinger anthem, which also dominates the trade-uber-alles crowd. Never forget that this was the man who vetoed Alexander Solzhenitsyn's meeting with President Ford. That efficient decision was taken, of course, to protect Washington's 'special relationship' with Moscow.

"And now, to protect our 'special relationship' with Beijing, the entire political establishment is willing to overlook not only the regime's atrocities but the constant violations by China of one international agreement after another - from the ban on exporting nuclear technology to America's enemies, to its refusal to put an end to exports to the United States from its labor camps, to the abandonment of its promise to protect democracy in Hong Kong. No matter. Nothing China does seems to merit sanctions. A carrot-and-stick policy has become a rich diet of carrots only.

"Mr. Lott has endorsed the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act, which would require economic sanctions against countries that persecute their citizens for their faith. What a meaningless gesture this is when, before the month is out, lawmakers who pledged to support it will have broken bread with the man who embodies what the act is intended to protest. Mr. Kissinger said on 'Firing Line' that he is even against this modest law. Which perhaps is not that different from being for it, in a world where champagne toasts trump principles."

Arianna Huffington, *The Washington Times*, Oct. 20, 1997, p. A16

## **Other**

"I care not of what complexion, white or brown; I care not under what circumstances of climate or cultivation, if I can find a race of men on an inhabitable spot of earth whose general sentiment it is, and whose general feeling it is, that government is made for man - man, as a religious, moral, and social being - and not man for government, there I know that I shall find prosperity and happiness."

Daniel Webster, "The Landing at Plymouth," *The Works of Daniel Webster*, Vol 2, 1869

"Carl Sagan described the theory of evolution in his final book as the doctrine that 'human beings (and all the other species) have slowly evolved by natural processes from a succession of more ancient beings with no divine intervention needed along the way.' It is the alleged absence of divine intervention throughout the history of life - the strict *materialism* of the orthodox theory - that explains why a great many people, only some of whom are biblical fundamentalists, think that Darwinian evolution (beyond the micro level) is basically materialistic philosophy disguised as scientific fact. Sagan himself worried

about opinion polls showing that only about 10 percent of Americans believe in a strictly materialistic evolutionary process, and, as Lewontin's anecdote concedes, some of the doubters have advanced degrees in the relevant sciences. Dissent as widespread as that must rest on something less easily remedied than mere ignorance of facts."

Phillip E. Johnson, *First Things*, November 1997, p. 22

"When I was 11 years old, I had committed my life to Jesus Christ at an evangelistic crusade, but in my pursuit to make a name for myself in football, I had left God on my bedroom shelf - right next to my dust-covered Bible.

"Now, in the pain of rejection, I pulled out my Bible and found comfort in a verse that I had memorized in Sunday school: 'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.' I recommitted my life to Jesus Christ and asked him to take control again.

"Shortly after having been dropped by the [New York] Jets, I was reunited with a spunky blonde whom I had first met at a junior high Bible camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Kathy Bowman had just returned from a one-year mission stint in Zaire, where she had served as a nurse. We began to spend a lot of time together. Kathy's knowledge of the Scriptures and her mature walk with God helped me to grow in my ability to trust in the Lord. Within a year Kathy and I married.

"In 1990 my faith was really tested when two teams courted me to become their head coach. I knew that I was ready for the challenge, but our twin daughters were entering their senior year of high school. Kathy and I prayed and sought counsel from our pastor and our Christian friends. It was difficult, but I chose to pass up the opportunities because I believed it was what God wanted me to do.

"The sportswriters scoffed at my decision and said I would never be given another opportunity. But I was convinced that if God wanted me to be a head coach in the National Football League, he would bring it about. I knew that if I trusted him, he would direct my path. A Christian friend gave me a framed artistic rendering of Proverbs 3:5-6, which we placed in our home as a reminder.

"Within a year the Green Bay Packers invited me to try on the mantle of the legendary Vince Lombardi. Our family sensed God's leading, so I accepted. At the press conference during which I was introduced, I boldly stated that my priorities in life are faith, family and football - in that order. I remain committed to those priorities.

"I'm grateful to have led 'The Pack' to the play-offs in four successive seasons - including last season when we became Super Bowl champions - but I will not risk losing my marriage or my family for my career. If pro football ever begins to undermine what matters most in life, then I'll go back to coaching high school. It's that simple!

"Win or lose, I now realize what really matters: It's not the Super Bowl rings - it's the crown of eternal life that Jesus Christ has won for us through his victory on the cross. As the Swedish hymn writer put it, `Though he giveth or he taketh,/God his children ne'er forsaketh;/His the loving purpose solely/To preserve them pure and holy.'"

Mike Holmgren, *Decision* magazine, October 1997