



### **“Playing All Four Quarters”**

*“Alright team, let’s bring it in.”*

You know, when you watch the Detroit Lions, one thing’s clear: you can’t win a game by playing just one good quarter. You have to **play all four quarters**. And that’s true in our walk with Christ.

Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:9, *“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* Faith isn’t about a strong start, it’s about finishing well.

Now, you’ve probably heard the saying: **“Defense wins championships.”**

That’s true in football, and it’s true in life. The enemy is always on offense, always looking for a weakness. That’s why Paul says in Ephesians 6:11 — *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”* Every day, we’ve got to suit up spiritually with truth, faith, prayer, and God’s Word. Yesterday’s win doesn’t protect us from today’s battles.

Another saying is: **“Leave it all on the field.”** That means no half-hearted effort. Colossians 3:23 says, *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”* When we follow Christ, He deserves our best, not our leftovers. We play for His glory, not for applause.

And what happens when someone gets injured? You hear: **“Next man up.”**

Football teams depend on everyone doing their part. And the church is no different. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:27, *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”*

Each of us has a role. You can't just stand on the sidelines and watch. God's calling you to step up, to serve, and to carry the load together.

Finally, there's this: **“Play through the pain.”** The great teams don't quit when it hurts. They push through. And Romans 5:3–4 reminds us, *“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”* Pain isn't wasted. God uses it to shape us, to grow us, and to strengthen our faith.

So, Bereans, here's the challenge. Don't rest on yesterday's victories. Don't coast because of past obedience. Like the Lions, we've got to fight every down, every play, and every quarter. Paul puts it this way in Philippians 3:13 -14, *“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

### **Closing Prayer**

Jesus, help us to play all four quarters with endurance. Guard us with Your armor. Teach us to give our best, to step up when called, and to press through the pain. Father, keep us moving forward, eyes on the prize, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Terry B