

SPORT MAD!

Several years ago, there were headlines in the press: “NZ GOES INTO MOURNING” – What tragedy had occurred? A rugby game was lost!

Such a reaction shows sport has developed from an interest into an obsession, a kind of religion for so many. “God” says the Collins dictionary is “*a thing or person to which excessive attention is given*”. They give an example: **the All Blacks in New Zealand are gods.**



How amazing! Sport now so engulfs this country, preoccupying the attention, dominating the headlines, that it has become a prime example for an international dictionary to use! The rugby players are not really gods. But interest in the game is now so passionate, so all absorbing, that we actually make the rugby players into gods.

The result is that these new gods take us away from the true God

But we LIKE sport and we want to enjoy ourselves. A good game is interesting and stimulating to watch. Its harmless, we aren't doing anything wrong. No, we're just self absorbed, self indulgent, self interested. And when we become wrapped up in self, we lose perspective – we even fail to give attention to those we say we love. When we are occupied with self, we are prevented from knowing God. It is the knowledge of God and His purpose that truly satisfies, that gives us balance and perception. It is recognising God's provision that makes us appreciate life and motivates us to reach out to others. “*Let him deny himself take up his cross and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, will find it.*” (Matthew 16:25,26).

If we are satisfied with ourselves, we will lack the insight needed to make the changes necessary for personal growth.

Are you being in danger of being self absorbed and setting up your own gods?

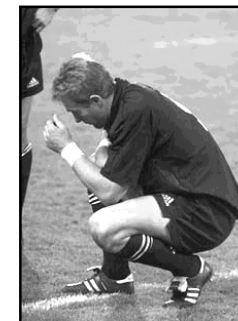
Life will not continue as it is. The Creator has determined a day of account: “*God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness*” (Acts 17:31). How will you stand in that day?



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