

Ephesians 6:12-- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-11-- Finally brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



The Game

When no one's watching

- On April 29, 2015 the Baltimore Orioles and Chicago White Sox played their game in front of empty seats. Zero fans.
- They broke a record that held for 125 years.
- Players eloquently said, "It felt weird"
- (Not entirely a direct quote)



Hilton

LEGG MASON

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MASS PAYMENTS

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A Life following
Christ means you'll
play some quiet
games

We don't "play" for the crowds

Our audience is an audience of

one

Jesus

**Who said the crowd's
are right?**



Acts 19:25-26: These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. 26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.

Acts 19:27-29: 27 And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.

Acts 19:32: Now some cried out one thing,
some another, for the assembly was in
confusion, and most of them did not know why
they had come together.....

We run with purpose, even when no one's
running with us

1 Corinthians 9:24-27--Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, [a] lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (ESV)

Acts 21:7-14--When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. **8** On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. **9** He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. **10** While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

Acts 21:7-14-- 11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews[c] at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" **12** When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. **13** Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

14 And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

The Reality of the Audience

The One that counts is there

Jesus

John 16:33--I have said these things to you,
that in me you may have peace. In the world
you will have tribulation. But take heart; I
have overcome the world.