



Stew Pot: November

Stew On This...

Guess what I get to do this weekend? (trust me – you care) I get to bundle all up, in some SUPER comfy clothes, and watch my absolute favorite team win big out on the field.

I'll tell ya' – it doesn't get much better than football in the fall. Granted, that's a personal opinion. But I know for a fact I share it with millions.

I get to gather with friends. I get to eat some delicious, not-so-healthy-for-me food. I get to cheer and shout and just take a nice, long, 3 hour break from everything else happening in my life – and I get to enjoy some gameday wonderfulness.

Now, wouldn't it be something – I mean, really something – if this is the way we felt about church? I mean, wow! When was the last time you heard a friend say (excitedly) “Guess what I get to do tonight? I get to go to a finance meeting at church!”

In fact, when was the last time YOU woke up on Sunday morning and prepared – really prepared – for church? Put on just the right clothes for the day? Brushed up on the scripture you knew would be focused on that service? Looked forward to seeing all the other Christ-followers in the pews next to you? Anticipated all the greeting and singing you were going to do?

I'm guessing such sentiments haven't crossed your mind or lifted your heart as often as you'd like, huh?

But what if they did? What if we didn't *have* to go to church but we *GET* to go to church? What if we didn't *have* to plan the next church-wide mission trip – but we *GET* to? What if we didn't *have* to bow our heads or sing our songs or meet our brothers and sisters in Christ – but these are all things we *GET* to do?

Are you struggling with this? Not feeling it? Sound too good to be true? Here's what Paul suggests in Romans 12: “God helping you: Take your every day, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering... fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.”

If you're not wanting – truly wanting – to go to church. If you're not excited about serving others or if showing love to everyone in your life is just too hard – give it up to God. Tell Him about it. It's called prayer. God and I have had serious conversations about all the things I know He's calling me to do, but I just don't want to do them. There are definitely some things I feel like I *have* to do- but they are not things that I *get* to do, for Him. So, in these moments, I pray. A lot.

If you think about it, the God of the Universe – the one who created you and me – He's a pretty big deal. And, whenever we want, we *GET* to “sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. Exalt in his holy name; (and) rejoice”! (1 Chronicles 16:8-10)

Remember: We don't *have* to do anything for our God. **We GET to.** So let's, like it says in Hebrews 10:24-25, “think of ways to **motivate one another** to acts of love and good works. And let us **not neglect our meeting** together... but **encourage one another**”. Let's *GET* to sing a praise to God – like we get to shout “WhoDEY!”. Let's *GET* to tell about his wonderful deeds – like we get to recount that game-winning play. Let's *GET* as comfortable with exalting His holy name, as we feel in our favorite jersey. Let's *GET* to “join him in the work he does” (Eph. 2:10) until the clock strikes zero.

- The Stewardship Team