

Armchair Quarterback *Our View from the Cheap Seats*

Even though they are superficial compared to life issues, sports provide many interesting parallels to real life decisions. While it is just a game people do take it seriously. Decisions in a game use a similar thought process to that used in everyday life. Even the right decision doesn't guarantee the results we hope for. There are so many human factors that go into determining winners. The only way you can predict the future is to actually know it.

As I recline on the sofa it is easy to second guess decisions made by coaches and players. Whether or not to kick the field goal or "go for it" on 4th down is a typical example, as is a decision to kick the extra point or attempt a two-point conversion. Games can be won or lost on the decision made. The same is true for baseball coaches who choose pitchers to face certain batters with the game on the line. Professional sports coaches make their decisions based on facts presented by detailed analytical data, which reveal tendencies of players in certain situations. After-the-fact spectators can have a field day if the choice doesn't work out. Watching a televised game from our living room we think we know the best course of action. Even though we are not privy to the information that decisions are based on we are quick to render our opinion. It is easy to second guess from the "cheap seats", only based on emotions or intuition. We have none of the information and none of the responsibility but we think we know what is best.



Our everyday life has its applications, too. We know what we want to happen and sometimes get mad at God if there is a different outcome than we desire. We prayed for something to happen, and it didn't. After all, we think, if God is truly in control, why didn't He do what *we* want. We may also blame God if there is a tragic event that takes away a life or causes great pain. How could a loving God allow something bad to happen to a loved one? We want to be in control, in essence, to play God.

The fact of the matter is that God knows the past, the present and even the future. Analytics only quantifies tendencies and doesn't predict what will happen. God knows the future and His decisions have that in mind. As a result, God may have a different game plan than you. And guess whose plan is the best? *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6)*. The last phrase, "and He will make your paths straight," is an assurance that God's path is correct. Part of that path includes times when God protects us from dangers we never knew were there.

**At some point today,
GOD protected you
from something you
didn't even know was
there to harm you.**

While we may *think* we have it all figured out, God most certainly does. As a result, God may have an entirely different perspective than we do. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isiah 55:8-9)*

God has all the information – past, present and future. Trust his direction and know that he can find good in even in the situations that are most difficult for us now. We just don't understand it at the time. Godly wisdom is certainly better than our intuition.

God has all the information – past, present and most important of all, the future. So trust His judgement.

Question: What examples can you recall when you trusted God for an answer and it turned out well?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. In our attempt to be in control of our life we set our mind on something and stop asking You for the right answer. We pray we can let it go and trust your path for our life. Amen.