

**Sidelined – Standing up for God in an Ungodly Time**  
**Isaiah 6:8**  
**By Russ Earl**

Thesis: I want to show the importance of getting on the field of battle for God and not standing on the sidelines.

Intro: 1. What would happen if players in a game never left the bench? (Nascar, soccer, etc)  
2. As Christians where are we to be for Christ, on the sideline or on the field of battle.  
3. If you are on the sidelines, are you ever going to step on the battle field for Christ?  
4. What will it take for us to get on the field and off the sideline?

- I. Recognizing your position, are you on or off the field?
- A. Are we worshipping God with a whole heart? (**Ps 29:1-2**)
    - 1. Is it just going through the motions? (**Heb 12:28**)
    - 2. Are we here for the right reasons? (**Is it about our friends and family or is it about God?**)
  - B. How or how much do we pray to God.
    - 1. Do we come to Him like we should, as often as we can? (**1 Jn 5:14-15**)
    - 2. Or is God a last resort when things are going so badly for us? (**Lk 21:34-36**)
  - C. Do we recognize the spiritual needs of others?
    - 1. Do we realize others need to be feed spiritually? (**1 Thess 5:14-15**)
    - 2. Are we holding others back from growing in the faith? (**1 Cor 8:12-13**)
  - D. Are we watches or doers?
    - 1. Are we involved with the church as we can and should be? (**Matt 5:16**, are we working for Christ?)
    - 2. Or do we sit back and let everyone else do the work? (**James 1:22-25**)

- II. What happens on the sideline?
- A. Little or no biblical learning.
    - 1. When we do nothing to learn we learn nothing. (**Titus 1:10**)  
You will become idle in your learning, and could cause others to do the same, we must not be idle but always striving to learn more (**2 Tim 2:15**).
    - 2. You will never stop learning, being a faithful Christian is a learning process, we learn from our mistakes, the mistakes of others and from God's word thus we always have more to learn.
  - B. Empty or even vain worship, and little or no prayer time.
    - 1. When we are idle our worship means very little when our heart is not in it. (**Psalms 111:1**)
    - 2. When we don't pray to God we show Him how much we depend on ourselves instead of on Him. (**Psalms 4:8, 9:10**)
  - C. We allow our selves to become watchers and not doers.
    - 1. When we are on the sidelines we cannot do things for the Lord like we should be doing, we must step on to the field of battle and work for God if we want to be doers and not hearers only.

### III. Getting back on the field.

- A. We must realize our situation (**Jer 20:9a**).
  - 1. Realize when and how we got off the field of battle for Christ.
  - 2. We must realize the errors of our ways and our attitude and decided to get to work for God.
- B. We must be willing to get back on the field (**Jer 20:9b**).
  - 1. We must decide what is important; we must realize we are needed by God. (**Ezk 22:30**)
  - 2. We must realize the cause of the kingdom is bigger than us and that the things of the world are only passing away thus we should not be consumed with them. (**Lk 12:15**)
- C. What does it take to get back on the field - a change must occur.
  - 1. To get back on the field for Christ we must change our attitudes and our priorities. God must come first and the needs of the church (**Matt 10:37-38**).
  - 2. Christ doesn't want us lukewarm but on fire for Him. (**Rev 3:16**)

### IV. Why are we needed on the field?

- A. Christ wants us and needs us there!
  - 1. Christ needs us to be His soldiers. (**2 Tim 2:4-5**)
  - 2. It is our duty to stand up for Christ it is only reasonable to do so. (**Rom 12:1**)
- B. Lost souls need us on the field reaching out to them.
  - 1. We need to be on the field of battle because souls are at stake. (**1 Peter 5:8**)
  - 2. We are needed because lost souls will not save themselves. (**Rom 10:17**)
- C. Christians need all players on the field together working with them.
  - 1. The world has all their fighters on the field and so must we also. Satan and the tools of this world are against us, therefore we must have all our soldiers ready and prepared. (**2 Tim 2:3, Eph 6:13**)
  - 2. Being a Christian is not a spectator sport! (**Isa 6:8**)

- Conc:
- 1. No one wins and event by staying on the sideline!
    - A. How many can be saved from their sinful lifestyles if no one try to reach out to them?
  - 2. With God and his world on our side we can do His will. (**Isa 55:11**)
  - 3. Are we willing to step off the sideline for God and get to work for Him!? (**2 Tim 4:7**)
  - 4. Invitation