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C'Mon Man!

On Monday nights, there is a segment on the ESPN show, Monday Night Countdown, that I just love. It's called C'Mon Man. The short show highlights moments in sports for that week - then they say... C'Mon Man. If a referee makes a bad call, the announcer says... C'Mon Man! The idea being, I can't believe you missed that. If a player misses an easy pass, they say C'Mon Man (you should have had that one). It's on my short list of shows to recommend to folks in the wilderness commonly called television.

But, in watching, my mind drifts into other areas. If a preacher preaches a bad sermon, the congregation has every right to say... C'Mon Man, as in I got up on Sunday morning to listen to that??? If a preacher preaches a good sermon, the congregation might say C'Mon Man... as in amen! You are really bringing it. Here's another scenario. If a believer is not living up to his faith we might say C'Mon Man, you can do better. If we get wound up in our "church" life and forget the suffering in the world around us, someone might say C'Mon Man. With all that's going on, are you really that concerned about the church building? Or, are you really that concerned about your hair? We get drawn into the latest technology, while there are people literally starving across our world.

My favorite C'Mon Man is as follows. We can spend thousands of dollars on a Football game, make special effort to find out the times, to be there at the opening kick off, know the player's names and history, and wear special clothing to the game. We can't be at church on time... we complain if it goes long,... we are put off if the subject of money arises,... we know almost nothing about those who "hang out" with us at the church. C'Mon Man! We spend an immense amount of time on church architecture, and are uncomfortable if our pastor doesn't dress right. You know what I mean, if he dresses up too much, or if he dresses up too little. We want the latest technology at church (whatever it costs) but are very unconcerned about those in other places that don't even have a roof over their head. We are apathetic about our church, yet expect God to bless. And... I think even the unbelieving world looks at all that and says C'Mon Man! If our faith is real they know it. If our faith is surface they know it.

Sincerity brings hope! I'm not sure how, but I know it works. If it's real our faith is a moving breathing alive thing in our hearts. If it's real it carries us, if it's not we carry it. If it's real it lifts our burdens, if it's not it becomes a burden. I have great hope for our churches, because God is alive and at work in them. I have great hope, because I have great hope in God!

I love you,

Rev. Jerry Rea