



2008 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

WHEN THE GAME IS OVER, IT ALL GOES BACK IN THE BOX

by John Ortberg

Questions for Thought/Discussion

Many church members who had taken up this summer's "reading challenge" joined us for an excellent discussion at First Church on Wednesday night, June 11. If you weren't able to attend but have read or are reading the book, the following questions may be helpful as you reflect on its message.

1. Overall Experience & Personal Reactions:

- How did you like the book? The author's style and humor?
- How would you describe the book's theme or focus to a friend who might ask?
- What is an idea or insight that will stick in your mind from reading this book?

2. Discussion of Chapters

- Chapter 1: "Learn Rule #1"
What do you think Rule #1 is? How common is it today for people to try to ignore the fact that our earthly lives will end?
- Chapter 2: "Be Rich Toward God"
What is the main point of the parable of the rich fool (retold as a Silicon Valley CEO)? To refute those who think Christianity is only "pie in the sky" escapism, how does p. 27 give practical examples of what it means to "be rich towards God"?
- Chapter 3: "Keeping Score"
What are the common ways that the secular world "keeps score"? How do the example and teachings of Jesus point to a different scoring system (pp. 45-46)?
- Chapter 4: "Master the Inner Game"
How does 2 Corinthians 4 distinguish between the "inner" and "outer" person? How is the aging process a "strange gift from God" (p. 50)?
- Chapter 6: "Resign as Master of the Board"
How important is control to most people? Why does Ortberg believe that surrender is better than control?
- Chapter 8 [the "Stuff" chapter]
What are the main points he makes about our material goods? What is the difference between "Riches of Having" and "Riches of Being"?
- Chapter 9: "Prevent Regret"
What does Ortberg say are the four most common regrets?
- Chapter 10: "Play By the Rules"
How would Ortberg define Integrity? What does he mean on pg. 117 when he says "Technically, I can't break the rules ... I can only break myself against them"?
- Chapter 11: "Fill Each Square ..."
What are the four things he says are most important to make as priorities?

- Chapter 13: “Play With Gratitude”
How is Lou Gehrig used as an example for all of us? What is Ortberg’s “assignment” for developing a grateful heart?
- Chapter 14: “Find Your Mission”
What was the lesson of “Johnny the Bagger”? How do we find our mission?
- Chapters 15-19 [section on HAZARDS]
What parts did you like in those chapters?
- Chapters 20-21 [the final section, TO WIN]
What does Ortberg mean by “Collect the Right Trophies”? How does the story about the painting of the chessboard (“The King Has One More Move”) relate to God’s work in the world?

For Further Reading

If you enjoyed our Summer Reading Challenge selection, you may want to consider reading one of these other books by John Ortberg:

Everybody’s Normal Till You Get to Know Them

God Is Closer Than You Think

If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat

The Life You’ve Always Wanted

These should be readily available at online booksellers (try amazon.com or christianbook.com), or at major bookstores such as Family Christian Stores, Borders, or Barnes & Noble.