HOLD ON TO YOUR PRINCIPLES

 The first definition given for “principle”, in the dictionary, is “the basic truth, law or assumption.” The second is “a rule or standard of personal conduct, and moral or ethical standards.” With that in mind, it seems that there are some in the public eye today that have few or no principles. We have some athletes, who may be like idols to some of our young children, who seem to think that laws do not apply to them. Some of our sports figures have become so idolized by the world, as well as Christians, that colleges, coaches, and the NFL have been soft at times when applying discipline. Colleges are afraid of losing money. Coaches are afraid of losing games. NFL coaches are afraid of losing their jobs. Even Auburn and Alabama fans are afraid their arch rival is going to have a better season than their favorite team. Hold on to your principles! Please, don’t sacrifice them for a game! I heard where a professional football player got caught shoplifting the other day. Surely he had the money to purchase the items he lifted. He had this lawless mind set.

 We are responsible for setting an ethical standard for ourselves. It is up to us have some self-discipline. We may have to pray for help, but God is “setting on ready” to help if we will call on him. I was speaking of college athletics at the first of this devotion. I admire college coaches who truly take the task of developing good character in their athletes to heart. The athlete must be willing to take help from their superiors. Sad to say, but some of the young men and women do not like the fact that they have to submit to someone. They cannot accept authority figures. Some find it exciting to break the rules. To them it is an adventure.

 I’ve spoken of the lawless side of the un-principled. I now want to finish by saying a few words about the moral and ethical side of things. The Bible is being more fulfilled every day. What used to be immoral is the standard today. Much of society has accepted gay lifestyle as normal and okay. I love gay people and want to win them to the Lord just as I would anyone else, but their lifestyle is an abomination according to the Bible. TV shows today portray people living together out of wedlock as a common, moral way of life. Many of our own neighbors practice the same thing. This way of life is wrong! The Bible calls it fornication. It may be convenient, but it is not right!

 Well, I think it is safe to say that we live in a society that idolizes pleasure while sacrifices principles. Please, Church, I plead with you to **Hold On To Your Principles**!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram