



tcS0029

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— “Army of the Lord!” —

Yes, I know this is supposed to be about the Army of the Lord but it's so easy for me to envision the visible church as a magnificent pro football stadium that I feel compelled to share that with you first...

Paying fans fill the bleachers while millions of others enjoy the Sunday morning games on TV. Professional cheerleaders provide the entertainment. Professional players strut onto the playing fields and pretend to *whup thu devuhl* out of "the competition." All go back home after a nice meal and a few armchair quarterback stories...fully satisfied that they have fulfilled their responsibility to support "the team"...until next week's pompous parade, at least.

"How much thinking goes into all that?" you ask. Many parade participants respond (some subliminally), "Hey! We pay our preachers to do all our serious studying and critical thinking for us, ya'know!" The underlying problem with that is this: Well...you know. It's observable evidence of the "what 'we' believe" franchise that every denomination owns. If you aren't fully aligned with "what 'we' believe," well you just don't fit in! It gets pretty lonely for the adults in the room, who choose to do their own studying and critical thinking...members of The Church.

The sporting fight song? Oh, that's "I'm a Soldier in the Army of the Lord!"

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