

Kupp credits his NFL career to the hard work of his wife, Anna, who held a full-time job during college so Cooper could pursue football. After the Rams won the NFC Championship Game last month, [Anna Kupp](#) posted an Instagram video of the on-field celebration. She writes, “This moment. These moments!!! Thanking God for every one of them. We have prayed for a season to glorify our Savior Jesus Christ and you are doing just that my lovey @cooperkupp. SURREAL!!”

Longtime Rams punter Johnny Hekker frequently talks about his faith—and the benefits of being in God’s Word. The 32-year-old, who was named to the NFL 2010s All-Decade Team, attends team Bible studies and has even held baptisms in his backyard swimming pool. “God is on the throne,” Hekker [tweeted](#) on January 30. “Thankful for His love and the blessings that have come with this season.”

Before playing in the Super Bowl three years ago, where the Rams lost 13-3 to the Patriots, [Hekker](#) told a Sports Spectrum reporter: “The depth of knowledge that you get from actually opening up the Word and reading it, and just the experience that you get the more you sit down and really practice that [is amazing].”

Until now, Rams tight end [Kendall Blanton](#) has mostly served a backup role. But the 26-year-old will likely start the big game on Sunday, filling in for the injured Tyler Higbee. “First and foremost, I just want to thank God for my journey,” Blanton said earlier this season, after scoring his first NFL touchdown. “Even being undrafted...was a blessing,” he says, because it led to his current role with the Rams.

In his Twitter bio, [Blanton](#) describes himself as a “follower of 1,” next to a cross emoji. Last week, he posted: “This is the day the Lord has made, so let us rejoice and be glad in it #lookatGod.”

Super Bowl LVI: Team Chaplains Help Nurture Players’ Faith

Both Super Bowl LVI contenders have chaplains on staff who minister to and support players. For Cincinnati, that role is held by [Vincent Rey](#), a former Bengals player. He describes the Bengals as “men of integrity,” adding that football doesn’t define them. “They’re human beings, the crowning creation of God,” says Rey. “I realize that it’s an honor to partner with the Creator of all things. I get to partner with him to put someone’s hand in the hand of [Jesus](#).”

For the Rams, [Kevin Nickerson](#) has served as chaplain since 2016. He strives to be available for players, noting that ministry work “is done outside of chapel” during everyday interactions and conversations. Nickerson says he views the athletes not as “members of my church” but rather as “members of my family.”



February 13, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Right Time

The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God
is at hand:

Repent Ye,
and believe the gospel.

Mark 1:15 KJV

Top-BibleVerses.com

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----**God's Greatness**-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "Faithful God" Zach Neese

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Romans 1:16-17

Song of Praise

"We Believe". Hooper/Fike/Ryan

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

-----**God's Renewal**-----

The Law of God: Deuteronomy 10:16-18, The Message

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 5:17

Song of Renewal

"Oh Lord, You're Beautiful". Keith Green

-----**God's Grace**-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"The Right Time"

Song of Communion

"Oh The Deep, Deep Love". Francis/Kauflin

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----**God's Blessing**-----

Parting Hymn

"Hope is Marching On". Redman/Myrin

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 2/6/2022

Attendance: 45

Offering: \$1690.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

7 Christian NFL Players Set to Take the Field in Bengals vs Rams Super Bowl

By [Stephanie Martin](#)

February 9, 2022

After the confetti falls Sunday at the close of Super Bowl LVI, the victors will accept the coveted Lombardi Trophy. But for some Cincinnati Bengals and Los Angeles Rams players, pursuing a deeper relationship with **Jesus** takes priority over football. The **big game** kicks off February 13 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., the Rams' home field. Here's a look at a few notable Christian athletes who will represent their teams—and their Savior—on football's biggest stage.

Super Bowl LVI: Cincinnati Bengals

As [ChurchLeaders](#) has reported, Bengals kicker Evan McPherson glorifies God through his words and apparel. The athlete, 22, frequently references Bible verses or his faith in his social media posts. The only kicker selected in last year's NFL draft, McPherson has been key to the Bengals' playoff run, helping the team break a 33-year Super Bowl drought.

Bengals defensive end [Trey Hendrickson](#), whose career-high season included 14 sacks, expressed "thanks to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ" upon being named to his first Pro Bowl. Hendrickson, 27, lists [Galatians 6:9](#) in his Instagram bio and shares a link to [Matthew 25:Ministries](#), a local faith-based group.

Defensive back [Michael Thomas](#) had a whirlwind year, from being unsigned in September to joining the Bengals' practice squad a few weeks later. On a new episode of the Sports Spectrum podcast, Thomas, 31, says, "God's plans are far greater than ours," adding that he "wasn't stressing" when he was unsigned. "I wouldn't want to be a part of any other group," he adds about the Bengals. "I'm so glad God graced me with this experience."

Another Bengals player who's open about his Christian faith is [Akeem Davis-Gaither](#). Last summer, the linebacker was baptized by pastor and former NFL player [Derwin Gray](#). On an Instagram [post](#) about his baptism, Davis-Gaither writes: "After 23 years I am so proud to have given my life to Christ and Received the gift of new life! God has done wonderful things in my life, picked me up from my lows and humbled me at my highs. Every step of my life, God has blessed me in so many ways. I'm blessed that i'm able to share his love and let my life be a testimony of his unwavering love for us all."

Super Bowl LVI: Los Angeles Rams

ChurchLeaders recently profiled L.A.'s standout wide receiver [Cooper Kupp](#). This year, the 28-year-old became the first 2,000-yard receiver in NFL history and the fourth player since 1970 to win the receiving Triple Crown. Kupp, an outspoken Christian recently named to his first Pro Bowl, quotes Scripture during press conferences and has a Christ-honoring merchandise line.

(continued on next page)

Jesus' action in confronting Satan, sin, disease and death, and subduing nature is the sign that the end stands as the next act of God in man's future.⁵

Daniel 4:35 (ESV)

all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

(3). **Response by those who hear.**

We are not the ones who have crowned Jesus as Christ and Lord; God did, and God's reign on earth does not depend on the feeble obedience of God's people. All we can do is decide to take our stand for or against God, for or against Satan, and to repent or not to repent in response to God's initiative toward us.

- The Kingdom is now near in the person and work of Jesus Christ; and because of that, it's available and it defines you.
- Gospel of the Good News of the Kingdom must be a call to repentance.
- The Kingdom and its announcement have to be followed by the melting together of repentance and faith; you cannot have faith without repentance, and you cannot have repentance without faith.
- "Repent and believe in the gospel."

Two Questions

Do you believe the radical Good News of the Gospel?

Are you living the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom?

¹English, D. (1992). *The message of Mark: the mystery of faith* (p. 49). InterVarsity Press.

²Walter Brueggemann, *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism: Living in a Three-Storeyed Universe* (Louisville: Westminster, 1993), 16–19.

³Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 62). Zondervan Publishing House.

⁴Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 63). Zondervan Publishing House.

⁵Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 63). Zondervan Publishing House.

"One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as "those evil people" or "those poor people who need our help." Nor must we search for signs of "loveworthiness." Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are."

-Philip Yancey

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 13 6:00 P.M. Super Bowl Party at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Tuesday, February 15 6:30-8:00 P.M. Youth Group will meet at the Deichert's

Saturday, February 19 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick.

Sunday, February 20 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St

Wednesday, February 23 7:00 P.M. Men's Small Group
at the home of Dave Frame

February 25-27 Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Sankanac
Pick up a flyer at the Welcome table.

Sunday, March 6 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting of GCC
Everyone is encouraged to attend. Lunch included.

March 18-19 Men's Retreat

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN CHINA

OVERVIEW: Revival and rapid church growth have characterized China's churches since the 1990s. About 130 million Chinese are Christians, most of whom worship in illegal house churches. Only about 30 million are affiliated with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) — which, as the only legal church, is controlled by the Communist government. Despite continuous pressure and oppression from the Communist government, house church leaders refuse to compromise the gospel by joining government-controlled churches. Because of decades of government oppression, few Chinese Christians have their own Bible or access to discipleship literature.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN CHINA:

In the early 2000s, many unregistered churches enjoyed some freedom from government intrusion and harassment despite their illegal status. However, in recent years restrictive religious regulations and persecution have increased significantly. Hundreds of churches have been forced to close, pastors and church members have been arrested or detained and the online sale of Bibles has been prohibited. A campaign to remove crosses from churches continues in one province. The government has installed more than 170 million facial recognition cameras, many in or near churches, to identify those who attend worship services. Church leaders are under intense pressure to join the government-controlled TSPM. In general, the farther Christians are from Beijing, the more freedom they have. Authorities pressure Christian parents by refusing their children an education; even the grandchildren of Christians are often denied schooling. It is illegal to disciple anyone younger than 18. Christians are often charged with participating in cults or with other spurious accusations, such as "bad business practices" or "intent to undermine the state."

Prayer/Praise.February 13, 2022

- Pray for Deb Breyer, friend of Dawn Fleetman, who is back in the hospital being treated for COPD and COVID. Pray for her healing.
- Pray for Agnes, a coworker of Dawn Fleetman, who had a heart attack at work and is in the hospital. Pray for her recovery.
- Pray for Nic Collins whose school announced they were shutting down this year. Pray for guidance in this next season of Nic's journey.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as they have new navy orders for the end of this month to transfer to a marine base in California. Please pray for safety in moving and God's discerning wisdom in necessary decisions.
- Praise that the mother of Koreen Mace's niece, Julia, is doing much better. Pray for God's continued strength and healing for Julia's mother.
- Pray for Sam Mace's brother, Bob, and his family. The family is experiencing serious health issues, and difficult decisions need to be made. Pray the family would sense God is with them amid all that is occurring in the family.
- Praise that Mike Row is doing well on all his therapy, especially walking. Pray for continued healing and strength for Mike.
- Pray for Eric Barret, whose wife, Lizette, passed away. Pray for God's strength, comfort, and peace for Eric, who is really struggling with the loss of Lizette.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace's friend, Walter, who lost his wife and is struggling at this time. Praise that Walter went to Teen Challenge and received the help he desperately needs.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for healing for Evan and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength, stamina, and a positive outlook with PT using his new prosthetics. Pray for Austin as he navigates his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny has started physical therapy on his arm. Pray that he will soon be able to have the procedure to get the results of his bladder cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy

Crossing Cultures International David and Mindy Nelson

As the island of Bohol continues to dig out from the destruction of Typhoon Odette, **we thank you for your gracious giving toward relief efforts and your continued prayers.** Not only are the relief funds helping rebuild lives, but the funds are creating opportunities to show and share the love of Jesus tangibly!

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden

Pray for the young man from Kutztown University who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.

CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

Pray for Steve and Kristen Scholl as they begin their ministry with CRU.



Message

The Right Time

Mark 1:14–15 (ESV) *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

The Location

Mark says that Jesus came into Galilee. What are the implications of that statement?

Galilee was the center of a humming political and commercial life. It stood at the crossroads of the nations of the ancient world, through which the armies and the traders and the diplomats passed. There some of the greatest battles of the world had been fought. . . . Galilee was the home of a thoroughly cosmopolitan population: Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic would all be heard in the markets; Syrian, Jew, Roman and Parthian mixed freely. It was a land of passing excitements and dangerous fashions, of a barbarous dialect and offensive manners. He began at a place of conflict, threat, racial mixture and busy activity.¹

The Kingdom

What Jesus meant when he affirmed that the kingdom of God had drawn near is nowhere explicitly defined. The emphasis upon the "kingdom," however, links his proclamation to the self-revelation of God in the OT and stresses the continuity between the new and older revelation. In announcing "the kingdom of God," the accent falls upon God's initiative and action. The kingdom of God is a distinctive component of redemptive history. It belongs to the God who comes and invades history in order to secure man's redemption. The emphasis falls upon God who *is* doing something and who will do something that radically affects men in their alienation and rebellion against himself.

The Gospel and the Kingdom

(1). *The proclamation of victory.* Jesus' clash with Satan in the desert clearly did not end in a tie because the preaching of the good news of God that immediately follows is the proclamation of victory.^{2,3}

(2). *The announcement of victory.*

Jesus is confident that God has prepared the end of the age of this world. The kingdom of God has come near and is about to foreclose on the bankrupt kingdoms of this world. Christians need to give evidence of the victories that are being won.⁴