

## Championship Teams

**Who will you be rooting for in tomorrow night's NCAA basketball finals?** Tomorrow night either, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ will be crowned the national champion. The winner will get a trophy, the head coach will probably get a raise and the team's fans will throw a party. Yet after tomorrow night few will remember who won the game apart from the teams fans and those who are basketball fanatics. Can you remember who won last year's championship game? Villanova did but this year they were upset early in the tournament.

We put a lot of emphasis on winning and especially winning championships. In fact many of the past NCAA champion teams ultimately fired their coaches for not winning enough. At some schools simply having a winning record is not good enough. You have to win it all, every year.

The reality is that out of the 347 Division 1 schools that have basketball programs only 68 get to play in the tournament that decides the one winner. So, 346 schools are ending their year in disappointment for the team and for their fans. For those 346 their battle cry is, Next Year!

All 347 Division 1 teams started the year practicing hard and with high hopes. Only one will see that dream fulfilled. Yet even that team's trophy will ultimately gather dust and their legacy will be forgotten in a few years. Tomorrow's champion will last only as long as the next season. In fact have you ever seen a fan wearing a champion shirt that is faded and worn because the championship was years ago? Tomorrow night's championship shirts will be just like that in a few years.

One of my favorite biblical sports analogies is in I Corinthians 9:25, 26 that says, "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air."

The winning team tomorrow night will have spent literally millions of dollars developing the best program for the best results. They do this all for a trophy that will tarnish and fade. Yet their fans never complain and keep pouring their own money into the program buying tickets, hats and T-shirts.

We here at YOUR CHURCH NAME are about making true champions, champions for Christ! All that we do from missions to every day ministry is designed to reach that goal, the crown that lasts forever. Every time you give here your gift goes to help us make champions for Christ. You might not realize this but you are a member of the ultimate championship team. While the book of Revelation might be hard to understand one thing is clear, OUR SIDE WINS the eternal championship game!

So for today's offering give like a champion so that we can continue to develop champion players for Christ!