

# Keep YOUR Eyes on the Lord!

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Our family, and especially my son Peter, really likes the Indianapolis Colts football team. We are not so fond of the Chicago Bears. So we were cheering for the Colts during the Big Game on February 4.

The main reason we like the Colts is because we are really Tony Dungy fans. Tony Dungy is the Colts' head coach. He is a man you can admire. He has a deep and heartfelt commitment to Jesus Christ. He puts his hope in the promises of God. He is a family man and has a leadership role in the ministry called "All Pro Dad" ([www.allprodad.com](http://www.allprodad.com)).

Mr. Dungy's unshakeable faith touched many lives in the aftermath of his son's suicide a little more than a year ago. Many remember what he said at that time about his boy: *"James was a good young man with a compassionate heart, and we were glad to have him for 18 years. We are also glad that he accepted Christ as his Savior, so that God has him now for the rest of eternity."*

When Coach Dungy was with the Buccaneers, he sent an 8-by-10 picture to my son Peter, in response to a note I'd written to him. In the picture, Coach Dungy is looking up, probably toward the scoreboard, and his eyes are fixed on something. The inscription he wrote says this: *To Peter – Keep your eyes on the Lord! Tony Dungy Proverbs 16:3* (Proverbs 16:3 says *"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."*)

When our 2004 vacation trip took us through Indianapolis, Mr. Dungy took time out of his day (a *game day* in the 2004 preseason, no less!) to say hello to our family at the team hotel. He talked about school and interests and history. He asked about our family and we talked about his father's recent death. We didn't "talk football". He talked about things that matter most. When he autographed Peter's Colts pennant, he wrote "Matthew 16:26" next to his name. That verse says, *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"* Coach Dungy is a man with his priorities in order.

Now here's another interesting thing. His counterpart on the Bears sideline is a man named Lovie Smith. Mr. Smith was an assistant coach under Mr. Dungy in Tampa Bay. They are close friends and talk together three or four times a week during the football season. They support and encourage one another. And they are brothers in Christ, too. Lovie Smith has a very real and personal walk with Jesus. The night before the Colts played the Kansas City Chiefs in this year's playoffs, Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith and Chiefs coach Herm Edwards enjoyed dinner together and a two-hour talk. These three men share common values, all informed by their personal faith in Christ. Here is what Coach Dungy said about their evening: *"We talked about how we really got started in 1996 in Tampa. Some things don't change, the things that Lovie, Herm and I believe in. That's the exciting thing for me. I'm so happy Lovie got there because he does things the right way. He's going to get there with a lot of class, no profanity, no intimidation, just helping his guys play the best that they can. That's the way I try to do it."*

Coach Dungy and Coach Smith had the spotlight shining on them during the run-up to the Big Game. It was interesting to hear them both try to turn the spotlight away from themselves. Did you notice? They both tried to turn the spotlight toward Jesus. And they both would say to everyone: ***Keep YOUR eyes on the Lord!***