**These Perilous Times**

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**“How Are Your Math Skills?”**

**(Counting the Cost)**

 On July 16, 1969 (51 years ago) NASA launched Apollo 11 into space with three astronauts on board (Neil Armstrong, “Buzz Aldrin,” and Michael Collins). At that time NASA had one agenda in mind, walking on the moon. It happened 4 days after “lift off,” July 20, 1969. Astronaut, Neil Armstrong was the first to relish the historical moment. Many of us can still remember those profound words that he spoke: *“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”*

A magnificent accomplishment to say the least. On the other hand, I find it absolutely bewildering that our government was willing to spend approximately **25.8 billion dollars** on the Apollo 11 mission project over half a century ago. The main objective. Who will be first? The U.S. was competing with Russia and the rest of the world over “bragging rights.”

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 It’s fascinating friends, how through the years with the passing of time how many things still remain the same! If I’ve said it once I’ve said it a *hundred times*. What price are “*We”* willing to pay for one saved soul for Christ’s kingdom?

 What *“Small Steps”* for Jesus have we taken to point our neighbors (anyone we come in contact with) to God’s heavenly Kingdom?

 Our Lord doesn’t ask us to make *“Giant Leaps”* into the unknown to win people for Him. Just follow in “His” footsteps. If we would involve ourselves, and our God-given talents in a *contest for winning souls*, wouldn’t that be a mighty endeavor? Hopefully, we are not competing with Republicans or Democrats! We are not competing with other ethnicities! But “...against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12). Satan has been in the competitive soul-winning business since his fall from grace! His strategy is to claim all the souls he can before God’s people can reach them with the everlasting gospel! When will God’s remnant people learn this lesson, that the competition we are involved in, is a matter of eternal life or death?

People on this planet may not applaud you as they did the “Apollo 11 astronauts and the success of first moon-walk mission, but the Scripture states that there will be “joy” in heaven over one sinner who repents more than over 99 who need no repentance.

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance… I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:7, 10

 Which do you prefer? The applaud of the crowd, or that of heavenly angels? If you need to, please use your calculator to figure it out!

