**These Perilous Times**

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**“Signs of the Times”**

As some of you may know, the term, “March Madness” is all about NCAA Division I basketball. Over sixty regional teams will compete in an elimination process to determine who will become the national champions. During the month of March, the sports-betting community will be in an ecstatic frenzy, (“madness”) especially, now that sports betting is legal-there will be a lot of money made by local gambling casinos.

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

“There is coming rapidly and surely an almost universal guilt upon the inhabitants of the cities because of the steady increase of determined wickedness. We are living in the midst of an ‘epidemic of crime’ at which thoughtful, God-fearing men everywhere stand aghast. The corruption that prevails is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. **Every day** brings fresh revelations of political strife, bribery, and fraud**; every day** brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering; of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life.

**Every day** testifies to the increase of insanity, murder and suicide. The cities of today are fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. Holidays are numerous; the whirl of excitement and pleasure attracts thousands from the sober duties of life. The exciting sports-theatergoing, horse racing, gambling, liquor drinking and reveling-stimulate every passion to activity.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

Do we sometimes get caught up in the *excitement* from watching TV, YouTube, and Facebook entertainment? Do we *calculatedly* *consider the time* that we spend on these “insignificant “pursuits or time that can never be re-called?

**Do the math!**

If we were to spend an average of two hours daily (a conservative estimate considering most *secular* Americans) for one year, viewing our favorite sports or any other trivial program, it adds up to approximately **730 hours** a year! Which **equals 30.4 days** or about one month. Over the course of ***ten years,* it would equal 304 days** or **almost one year** of time that can never be redeemed!

As God’s remnant people, we can certainly find more productive ways to spend our time than staring at a screen for several hours a day, (of course I’m not speaking about work-related screens).

I know that “March Madness” is just a figure of speech. However, think of how much happier and productive our lives would be if would spend the time spent on trivial pursuits, perhaps actually exercising, and winning souls for our Lord! Staring at, and screaming at a screen (which is truly “madness”) doesn’t really accomplish very much for God’s service.

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

“Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore, ***he invents every possible device to******engross the mind***… “ [[2]](#footnote-2) (Italics supplied).

“There is great need for *zealous*, workers in God’s cause. One Christ-loving, devoted member will do more good in a church than one hundred half-converted, unsanctified, self-sufficient workers. It is impossible for the church to be a living, active church unless its members shall be willing to bear burdens and *assume responsibilities*… Satan is constantly at work to drag down and demoralize. It is the business of the adversary of souls to weaken and destroy every organization which, if prospered, would glorify God.” [[3]](#footnote-3)

“And when this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end will come.” Matt. 24:14 NKJV



1. White. Testimonies For The Church, Book IX, p. 89. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E. G. White. The Illustrated Great Controversy, p. 519. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. White. Testimonies For The Church, Book V, p. 114. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)