



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 18, 2019

MARCH MADNESS

PASTOR ANDY

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR THAT SPORTS FANS CALL "MARCH MADNESS". THE COLLEGE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BEGINS THIS THURSDAY, AND EVEN FOR A GUY LIKE ME, WHO DOESN'T REALLY CARE FOR BASKETBALL, THIS IS A FUN TOURNAMENT TO WATCH.

OF COURSE THE TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT THE TEAMS, BUT THE FANS HAVE FOUND A WAY TO ENJOY IT AND BE ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE 3 WEEK PROCESS. EVEN MY SISTER-IN-LAW WHO GREW UP ON A TINY ISLAND IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND NOW LIVES IN THE DESERT IN THE MIDDLE-EAST CAN ENJOY THIS TOURNAMENT BY SIMPLY FILLING OUT A 64-TEAM BRACKET.

THE MADNESS BEGINS WITH FINDING OUT WHO IS IN THE TOURNAMENT (MAYBE YOUR FAVORITE TEAM – GO BUCKEYES), BUT THEN COMING TO GRIPS THAT ALL REALITY WILL BE THROWN OUT THE WINDOW COME THURSDAY AT NOON.

FOR MANY PEOPLE, LIKE YOURS TRULY, THEY WILL PRINT OFF A BRACKET, STUDY THE TEAMS METICULOUSLY, TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE REGION THEY WILL PLAY IN, THE FAN BASE THAT WILL TRAVEL, WHO WILL HAVE A PEP-BAND PLAYING FOR THEM, WHO HAS INJURIES, WHO HAS BEEN ON A HOT STREAK THAT IS BOUND TO END, WHO HAS JUST GOTTEN BEAT AND IS DUE FOR A HOT-STREAK, AND WHO IS BEST MATCHED-UP AGAINST THE COMPETITION.

FOR OTHERS, THEIR STRATEGY IS MUCH DIFFERENT. THEY CHOOSE WHO IS GOING TO WIN BY THROWING DARTS AT THE TEAM NAMES, OR ASKING THEIR 2 YEAR-OLD TO POINT. THEY MAY DECIDE WHO WILL WIN BY THEIR FAVORITE COLOR, BEST MASCOT, OR WHO HAS THE CUTEST UNIFORMS. THEY MAY DECIDE WHO WILL WIN BASED ON EYE COLORS OF THE PLAYERS, WHO HAS THE BEST HAIR, OR BY SIMPLY FLIPPING A COIN.

THE TRUTH IS, ONCE THIS TOURNAMENT STARTS ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN. ALL REASON OF WHY CERTAIN TEAMS SHOULD WIN OR LOSE GETS THROWN OUT THE WINDOW – ITS MADNESS. IT'S A LOT OF FUN. THE ENJOYMENT OF SEEING GREAT COMPETITION, WATCHING THE UNDERDOG WIN, AND ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE/TEAMS PLAYING THEIR HARDEST TO WIN.

AND IF IT IS A BLAST FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST WATCHING, HOW MUCH MORE FUN IS IT FOR THE TEAMS PARTICIPATING? 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24 SAYS, DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THOSE WHO RUN IN A RACE ALL RUN, BUT ONLY ONE RECEIVES THE PRIZE? RUN IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOU MAY WIN.

YESTERDAY WE TALKED ABOUT HOW GOD DID NOT CHOOSE MANY WISE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, NOT MANY MIGHTY, NOT MANY NOBLE; (1 CORINTHIANS 1:26). THIS RACE IS NOT ABOUT WHO IS THE STRONGEST, THE SMARTEST, OR WHO IS THE MOST NATURALLY EQUIPPED (I.E. KING SAUL). THIS RACE IS ABOUT FAITH AND HUMILITY (I.E. KING DAVID).

THIS IS A RACE FILLED WITH REDEEMED PEOPLE WHO, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD'S EYES ARE UNDERDOGS AND HAVE NO BUSINESS EVEN IN THE RACE, BUT BECAUSE OF JESUS, THROUGH GRACE AND MERCY, HAVE THE ENDURANCE TO RUN THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US (HEBREWS 12:1B), AND STIR THINGS UP.

WE COULD BE A CHURCH WHO IS PREDICTABLE AND BLEND IN TO THE WORLDS VIEW, OR WE COULD SHAKE THINGS UP A BIT AND IT JUST MIGHT GET A LITTLE EXCITING AROUND HERE.