

## Is Your Bracket Messed Up?

**We are only days into the NCAA basketball tournament that is affectionately called, March Madness and for many of you your bracket is already messed up.** For the uninitiated of the world every year the NCAA picks 68 teams to play towards a national championship game scheduled for Monday night April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Teams are ranked and divided into various regions. That produces brackets of who is playing who with the winners moving on in the bracket to play other winners.

So, people attempt to pick the teams they think will win. They fill out their picks on the brackets. Some even place bets on that either at their office, among friends or other places.

**Over \$9 BILLION will be spent on legal and illegal bets for this year's NCAA basketball tournament!** Let's put that into context by considering that that amount is...

- About \$1.30 for every person in the world.
- About \$40 dollars for every adult in the U.S.
- More than the Gross Domestic Product of Haiti.
- It's four times the amount of all NBA players combined.
- It's three times Oprah Winfrey's net worth, and
- You could pay off the average student loan debt of about 270,000 graduates!

That's a lot of money on the **chance** that you **might** win! Few will win because just like some of you your bracket WILL get messed up. The odds are simply not in your favor. My advice is to have fun with your bracket but to put your money where it will get you a better return. Guess what? I have just the place for you, right here at YOUR CHURCH NAME!

When you give here you help us reach YOUR CITY with the love of Christ. Every day we are about proclaiming the love and hope of Christ. Not only are you helping others but giving in return gives you the blessings of God. God says that when we give he will open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing upon us. That is a promise from God and you can't beat those odds!