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LA PLATA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELECTRONIC ADDICTIONS

There are all kinds of addictions these days — drugs, alcohol, sex, tobacco, etc. All forms take issue with the characteristic Peter identified as "self-control" in II Peter 1:5-9. No man or woman who is addicted to anything is in control of self. We have now entered into an age of electronic addictions. It was bad enough when the only electronic addicting device known to man was the TV but now it's a whole new ball game. These addictions steal our time and hinder purposeful, productive thinking. No wonder people are no longer interested in the gospel; no wonder people cannot reason and arrive at a valid conclusion — people no longer think.

Are you addicted to "electronics?" How can you tell? Well, the dictionary defines an addiction as — "to devote or surrender to something habitually or obsessively". What are some of the "electronics" that I can become addicted to?

- 1. Computer** — I know that most people have to use computers today, however, how much time do you spend on the computer that is NOT work-related? (i.e. Facebook, My Space, games, pornography, gambling, ebay, shopping, etc.)
- 2. Cell phones** — Texting, talking, browsing, e-mailing, etc. Some is necessary but are you addicted? (see definition above)
- 3. iPod/MP3** — It takes some time (a lot of it) to build a library full of songs and then save them to your iPod/MP3 player or to burn them onto a CD.
- 4. Xbox/PS3** — How much time do you spend playing video games a week. How does that compare with your personal Bible study time?
- 5. DVD/BluRay** — A lot of people spend time watching movies. So much so that there are stores dedicated to doing nothing but renting movies.

Ask yourself one simple question: "Am I habitually or obsessively devoted to any or all of these "electronic" devices?" It may be time for you to take a good long look at how you spend your time!