

# School of Theology



## Technology



### Part 2 – The Christian Story of Technology

Sunday 9 March 2025

#### Introduction

##### Questions

Put yourself on the scale below as a ‘Tech-Lover’ or ‘Tech-hater’. Feel free to add reasons.



**Tech-Lover**

**Tech-Hater**

List as many bits of technology that you have used today. (Think outside the box.)

How would you describe the internet to someone from 100 years ago?  
(Consider what words you would use.)

If you were here last week, try to recap the ‘bible’s story of technology’? If you weren’t here listen in to the recap!



## Recap: Week 1- The Bible's Story of Technology (2 March)

### (a) Creation (Lego)

*All raw materials, inventors and inventions are from God*



### (b) Rebellion (Apple)

*Tech is part of common grace to survive the broken world, but often used to increase rebellion*



### (c) Salvation (Better Technology)

*All tech promises (connection, healing, life) is fulfilled in Jesus's Salvation*



### (d) Consumation (Babel and the Basket)

*God will destroy Tech-tropolis and his people will live in his city*



**Tech-trends:** towards becoming a 'god'

**Tech-trends:** towards man-made greed

**Tech-trends:** towards being used by believers for God's work

**You asked:** If adam and Eve had not sinned, would we have the technology we have now? What tech did Jesus use? Will there be tec in heaven? Will we be wearing anything in heaven; if yes, what? (Revelation 7:9,13-14)

## Overview



### Week 2 – The Christian Story with Technology (9 March)

Reflecting on a Christian's (our) view and use of Technology

### Week 3 – A Specific Story of Technology (16 March)

Considering a specific case study of smartphone technology. Its costs/curses + blessings/benefits



# 1. What is the story of Christians and Technology?

*Tech can illuminate the unseen, amplify our reach, heal the sick, connect the distant, and unlock the mysteries of creation<sup>1</sup> (and come up with this quote)*

**But** ‘Tech does not self-critique’<sup>2</sup>

<sup>7</sup>The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

*Proverbs 4:7*

## ***A story of careful thought behind our technological use (Wisdom)***

Where from?

### **Hi-Tech Slido Question Box**

*We are aware how some modern technology is really good at holding our attention, at times to levels of distraction. So to help in this series, we’d love you to write questions you have thought of during the talks in this box. Then add them to Slido in the break.*



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<sup>1</sup> Chat-gpt, from request ‘Give a short compelling quote of all the things Tech can do.’

<sup>2</sup> ‘God Technology and the Christian Life’, Tony Reinke, P242

# The Search for the Most Valuable thing on Earth

## Job 28

- <sup>1</sup> There is a mine for silver  
and a place where gold is refined.
- <sup>2</sup> Iron is taken from the earth,  
and copper is smelted from ore.
- <sup>3</sup> Mortals put an end to the darkness;  
they search out the farthest recesses  
for ore in the blackest darkness.
- <sup>4</sup> Far from human dwellings they cut a shaft,  
in places untouched by human feet;  
far from other people they dangle and  
sway.
- <sup>5</sup> The earth, from which food comes,  
is transformed below as by fire;
- <sup>6</sup> lapis lazuli comes from its rocks,  
and its dust contains nuggets of gold.
- <sup>7</sup> No bird of prey knows that hidden path,  
no falcon's eye has seen it.
- <sup>8</sup> Proud beasts do not set foot on it,  
and no lion prowls there.
- <sup>9</sup> People assault the flinty rock with their  
hands  
and lay bare the roots of the mountains.
- <sup>10</sup> They tunnel through the rock;  
their eyes see all its treasures.
- <sup>11</sup> They search the sources of the rivers  
and bring hidden things to light.
- <sup>12</sup> But where can wisdom be found?  
Where does understanding dwell?



Underline all the  
'raw-materials' that  
are being mined for.

How does the  
picture of deep  
mining fit with  
current technology?

<sup>13</sup> No mortal comprehends its worth;  
it cannot be found in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> The deep says, "It is not in me";  
the sea says, "It is not with me."

<sup>15</sup> It cannot be bought with the finest gold,  
nor can its price be weighed out in silver.

<sup>16</sup> It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir,  
with precious onyx or lapis lazuli.

<sup>17</sup> Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it,  
nor can it be had for jewels of gold.

<sup>18</sup> Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention;  
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.

<sup>19</sup> The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it;  
it cannot be bought with pure gold.

<sup>20</sup> Where then does wisdom come from?  
Where does understanding dwell?

<sup>21</sup> It is hidden from the eyes of every living  
thing,

concealed even from the birds in the sky.

<sup>22</sup> Destruction and Death say,  
"Only a rumour of it has reached our ears."

<sup>23</sup> God understands the way to it  
and he alone knows where it dwells,

<sup>24</sup> for he views the ends of the earth  
and sees everything under the heavens.

<sup>25</sup> When he established the force of the wind  
and measured out the waters,

<sup>26</sup> when he made a decree for the rain  
and a path for the thunderstorm,

<sup>27</sup> then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;  
he confirmed it and tested it.

Can all the materials found in the earth be used to buy wisdom?

What does this mean about modern technology?

What are some other places where wisdom is not found (v7-8, 14, 22)

So where is wisdom to be found? What is the root?

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*And he said to the human race,  
“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,  
and to shun evil is understanding.”*

**(Job 28:28)**

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***New technological possibilities can be wooed from  
creation by humans. But the wisdom we need to thrive is  
not wooed from creation by humans.***<sup>3</sup>

*The internet simply has not been designed ... to promote slow,  
deliberate, sustained, and disciplined thought*<sup>4</sup>

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*‘If God is the centre of our life, technology is a great gift, If  
technology is our saviour, we are lost.’*

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***A story of careful thought behind our technological use (wisdom)***

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<sup>3</sup> God Technology and the Christian Life’, *Tony Reinke, P234*

<sup>4</sup> ‘Modern Technology and the Human Future’, *Graig M. Gay, P37*

## 2. Truly Biblical Wisdom for Christians and Current Technology

### 1. Distinguish technology's value (even when it's shiny and new)

#### With Stereo Authority

#### ❖ (General Revelation), Creation's Speech

*<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Ps. 19:1)*

*We should never be more cautious than with technologies that seal us off from the natural world, that noise cancel nature from our electrified lives. <sup>5</sup>*

Therefore: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ❖ (Special Revelation), Bible's Speech

#### Golden Tech rules:

*<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt. 22:37-39)*



Therefore: \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Christians have a history of driving 'good' tech progress.
- b. Tech has a history of economically driven 'bad' progress.

*The spiritual dilemma of the tech age is deep because our modern economy is built on the false promise that new innovations are the key to satisfying the heart's longings.<sup>6</sup>*

Wisdom for me might be: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>5</sup> 'God Technology and the Christian Life', Tony Reinke, P266

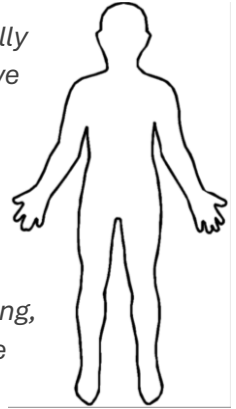
<sup>6</sup> 'God Technology and the Christian Life', Tony Reinke, P289

## 2. Commit to the physical, when much is virtual

*Rather, the nature, of online presence itself powerfully reinforces the sense that we are not our bodies, that we have total control over our identity and our story, and that any threat to this feeling must be deleted'<sup>7</sup>*

*I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong (Rom. 1:11)*

*not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb. 10:25)*



## 3. Rejoice in fleshy limits, in a machine age

*My concern, of course, is that automatic machine technology is pushing society and culture away from ordinary embodied human existence, and at considerable speed. Our technologies are forcing us to become more and more machinelike, in spite of the physiological, psychological, and social toll this appears to be taking on us.<sup>8</sup>*

*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.  
(Exodus 20:11)*

***Ours is not a religion of mechanics and hydrostatics: it is spiritual, and must be sustained by spiritual means.<sup>9</sup>***

**Wisdom for me might be:** \_\_\_\_\_

**You asked:** Should we be worried about future tech developments particularly AI

What is the biblical perspective on AI?

Can you trust AI.

<sup>7</sup> Digital Liturgies, Samuel D. James, P31


<sup>8</sup> 'Modern Technology and the Human Future', Graig M. Gay, P59

<sup>9</sup> 'The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons, vol 13, C.H Spurgeon



## Artificial (Apparent) Intelligence - Digression

Hi Chat-gpt. On Sunday I'm going to be doing part 2 of my 3 part series on the theology of technology to a church group. During it I'm going to be doing an 'AI digression', answering if we should be worried about developments in AI as Christians. What would you like to reply?

 Memory updated

That sounds like a fascinating discussion! From a Christian perspective, concerns about AI can be approached in a few ways:

1. **AI as a Tool, Not a Being** – AI is a human-made tool, not a conscious entity. It doesn't have a soul, moral agency, or intrinsic value beyond how it's used. Like any technology, it can be used for good or ill, depending on human intentions.
2. **Ethical and Moral Use** – Christians should be concerned about how AI is used, ensuring it aligns with biblical ethics. Issues like bias, privacy, and automation replacing jobs should be considered through a lens of justice, compassion, and stewardship.
3. **AI and Human Uniqueness** – Scripture affirms that humans are made in God's image (Imago Dei), with creativity, moral responsibility, and eternal significance. AI, no matter how advanced, does not share this status.
4. **Fear vs. Faith** – While some worry about AI leading to dystopian futures, Christians are called to trust in God's sovereignty rather than fear technological progress. Responsible engagement, rather than avoidance or panic, is the best path forward.
5. **Discerning Truth** – AI-generated content, deepfakes, and misinformation can challenge truth. Christians should be vigilant in seeking wisdom and discernment, ensuring that AI serves truth rather than distorting it.

A balanced perspective acknowledges both the opportunities and risks of AI while keeping our ultimate trust in God, not technology.

Would you like me to refine any part of this to fit your audience better?

## 4. Love People, not Technology.

*He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'* **(Exodus 32:4)**



*We often end up, in effect, becoming slaves to mechanical masters.*<sup>10</sup>

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*So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.* **(2 Tim. 1:8)**

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*Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* **(1 John 3:18)**

**Wisdom for me might be:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Being Tech-Wise is an All-age Project

**(a) All generations are bad with new technology (for different reasons)**

*It's crazy to think that there was a time in history when books and reading were viewed in a negative light. Something that would make you dumber, in a sense. According to several sources, the famous Greek philosopher Socrates was against writing because it would weaken the memory and mind.*<sup>11</sup>

***Teach the older men to be temperate... Similarly encourage the young men to be self-controlled.*** (Titus 2:2,6)

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<sup>10</sup> 'Modern Technology and the Human Future', Graig M. Gay P31

<sup>11</sup> A Student's Guid to Technology, John Perritt P55

**(b) All generations have need of the others to consider technology carefully**

*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction  
and do not forsake your mother's teaching (Prov. 1:8)*

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but  
set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love,  
in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)*

## 4. Conclusions

Try and summarise what we've seen about the Christian's use of technology in one sentence or one picture?

**Tony Reinke Summary:**

## 5. For Continued Wisdom Mining

### 14 implications from 'God Technology and the Christian Life', Tony Reinke

1. We respect the gifts of science and non-Christian innovators
2. We expect human innovation to serve an ecosystem
3. We expect to witness technological overreach and commit to correct as we go
4. We expect technological progress to honour God's design for the body
5. We commit to our chief vocation of love
6. We make space for unnecessary innovation
7. We show patience with poisons
8. We get comfortable with tech minimalism
9. We expect God to guide, squelch and hack human technology at will
10. We commit to wielding innovations in faith
11. We open ourselves to God-centred wonder over the gifts of technology
12. We refuse to concede our Sabbath rest to the demands of technology
13. We use innovation best when it serves our communion with God and others
14. We submit our innovations to the wisdom that subverts the power of man.

## Reflection Questions from Nathan Weston's Keswick Seminars <sup>12</sup>

1. Does my use of technology express my freedom as a new covenant Christian to turn away from sin, or am I being enslaved by passions and pleasures?
2. Is my use of technology driven by a God-given, Christ-centred purpose, or am I letting my purposes be shaped by my tech?
3. Could someone learn something about the character of God and the order of creation through observing or benefitting from my use of technology?
4. Does my use of technology promote love for God and love for others, such that my relationships with God and neighbour are deepened because of it?
5. Does my use of technology demonstrate that I am living for the world to come, or that I am seeking satisfaction and meaning from this world alone?

Passage	What's the Tech-Wisdom?
1 Cor. 9:19-23	
Ephesians 5:15-16	
1 Corinthians 7:31	
Revelation 18:4	
John 17:15	
Mark 6:31	
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12	
Romans 1:30	

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*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our  
God. (Ps. 20:7)*

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<sup>12</sup> Seminar 14.1 | Nathan Weston | Being Human in a Digital Age: Understanding digital age | KesCon23, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBGGaaG7o6U&t>