



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP LESSON #14

SOCIAL MEDIA TV, Movies, THE INTERNET & The Future

As you go through each lesson, look up the Bible verses and answer the questions in the blanks provided. When you are finished with this lesson you and your mentor will meet to discuss your answers and any questions you may have. This is not a pass/fail test, so answer honestly as you understand things. We want you to understand, not just to give the “right” answer.



Life in our technological world changes very quickly. We now have a variety of ways to become more distracted than ever before from the Christian life.

How may we use technology for good while avoiding pitfalls that go with it? Bible principles apply.

Daniel, the Old Testament prophet who stood for the Lord in a pagan kingdom spoke of ...*"the end of time"* when *"many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."* (Daniel 12:4)

It's hard not to think that we could be in those days because of today's technology. Because of the advances of the last century, it is now possible to travel the world in computerized airliners, to communicate with anyone on a video phone over the Internet, a cellphone tower, or Wi-Fi. The godlike qualities of technology can quickly cause us to substitute our faith in God with a new faith in the powers of technology.

FIRST, we will take a look at the idea of technology itself.

Technology is more than just what a person can do on a computer. Is it good to use technology? Is it bad? How could a Christian use it? Does God have anything to say about it?

THEN, we will narrow our focus to the technology of MEDIA. How might a Christian be able to use it for spiritual growth, edification, and ministry? How might technology be a hindrance to one's spiritual life?

***"Technology is applied science and amplified power."*¹**

Technology is basically any kind of tool that mankind uses to enhance strength, dexterity, speed, accuracy, etc. when trying to do a job. It is the God-given ability for man to advance His creation beyond the original creation through the use of tools and other means to make life easier, to learn new things, to bring healing, to make life more pleasant, or to demonstrate superior power in times of war.

Technology has been around since the dawn of creation.

1. Read Genesis 4:1-8. This could be the first reference to technology (*farming implements*) in the Bible. *Abel* was a shepherd. *Cain* was a farmer. While the Bible does not say specifically, what kind of technology do you believe *Cain* could have used to murder his brother?

2. Read Genesis 4:17. *Cain* had a son named *Enoch*. (*Incidentally, Cain had to marry his sister; because nobody else was around!*) *Enoch* is said to have built a city named after himself. What kind of tools (*technology*) do you suppose *Enoch* used to build his city?

¹ Reinke, Tony. *God, Technology, and the Christian Life*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway) ©2022., p. 14.

3. Read Genesis 4:20. What technology do you think *Jabal* invented?

4. Read Genesis 4:21. What technology do you think *Jubal* invented?

5. Read Genesis 4:22. What technology do you think *Tubal-Cain* invented?

6. Read Genesis 6:9-22. What technological project did God instruct *Noah* to take on? What technological advancement did God give to *Noah* to complete the project? (see *verse 14*)

7. Read Genesis 7:1-16. What did God do to partner with Noah in using his technology? (see the end of *verse 16*)

8. Do you see how God's action in Genesis 7:16 show God's approval of the technology Noah created under God's direction?

YES _____ NO _____

9. Read **Genesis 11:1-3**. What kind of technology did the builders of the Tower of Babel use?

10. Read **Genesis 11:4-5**. Were the intentions of the builders of the Tower of Babel good or evil? (Compare to **I Corinthians 10:31**)

11. Read **Job 28:1-11**. What technology is *Job* describing in these verses?

12. Read **Ecclesiastes 10:10**. How could technology be an aid to accomplishing a God-honoring task?

13. Read **Proverbs 14:4**. Tools for accomplishing a task can be "messy." Technology and tools can be good or are they can be bad. Does this verse encourage the use of technology, or does it discourage the use of technology?

14. Read **I Samuel 17:4-11, 31-37 & 40**. In this passage, we see two forms of technology used for a famous battle. Goliath had one form of technology; but David defeated Goliath (*who was bigger and stronger than David*) with another kind of technology. What kind of battle technology did Goliath have in his hand; and what kind of battle technology did David have in his hand?

GOLIATH: _____

DAVID: _____

15. Read I Samuel 17:38. What technology did King Saul try to pass along to David?

16. Read I Samuel 17:39. Why did David refuse to use Saul's technology?

17. Consider David's refusal to use Saul's technology. Is technology always helpful to us? Why would technology sometimes be a hindrance? (*I Samuel 17:39*)

18. Reconsider I Samuel 17:41-45. What was evil about Goliath's use of technology; and what was good about David's use of technology?

GOLIATH: _____

DAVID: _____

19. Read Psalm 20:7-9. What technology is mentioned in these verses?

Who has the ability to override the power of human technology?



In September of 2022, a man tried to kill Argentina's politically powerful Vice President Cristina Fernández outside her home, but the handgun misfired... The pistol did not discharge when the man tried to fire it. *"A man pointed a firearm at her head and pulled the trigger,"* the president said in a national broadcast following the incident. He said the firearm was loaded with five bullets but *"didn't fire even though the trigger was pulled."*²

20. Do you think it is possible that God caused the September 2022 "misfire" to happen?

YES _____ NO _____

21. Read **Isaiah 28:23-29**. This passage describes various methods of farming. Varied technologies for sowing, reaping, and grain preparation are mentioned. Who gives the farmer an understanding of which technology to use and when he should use it? (See **Isaiah 28:29**)

22. Read **Isaiah 54:16-17**. What technological tool is "the smith who blows the fire of coals" creating?

23. In **Isaiah 54:16-17**, who do we see using the technology created by "the smith who blows the fire of coals"?

24. In **Isaiah 54:16-17**, Who created both "the smith who blows the fire of coals" and the one who used "the smith's" technology?

Who therefore is sovereign over both the creation of and the use of technology?

² <https://time.com/6210544/argentinas-vice-president-cristina-fernandez-survives-assassination-attempt-after-gun-misfires/>

NOW, we will narrow our focus to the technology of MEDIA. How might a Christian be able to use it for spiritual growth, edification, and ministry? How might technology be a hindrance to one's spiritual life?

Media is *"the means of communication, as radio and television, newspapers, magazines, and the internet, that reach or influence people widely."*³ **Synonyms for media are** *news, publishing, radio, television, announcement, cable, communications, correspondence, disclosure, expression, intelligence, etc.*

We are specifically look at ways to communicate information through various forms of technology like radio, recordings, movies, computerized presentations, videos, television, or the Internet.

25. Read Zechariah 4:6. Today's computerized images have become more complex and more eye-catching than older technology. It is easy to be conditioned to think that the best-looking images are evidence of greater truth than something that is not as flashy or appealing to the eye. **According to this verse, what is more important, how something looks or feels, or the truth being represented?**

26. Read Ephesians 6:18. This verse speaks of the need for constant prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. **How could the power of media technology become a substitute for the power of God in ministry?**

³ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/media>

27. Read **John 17:17**. What is more powerful than technology for bringing sanctification (spiritual growth) to a Christian?

28. Define "Social Media" in your own words.

29. Read **I Corinthians 6:12**. The Apostle Paul stated that all things were "lawful" for him, but that all things were not "profitable" for him. What other concern did he express that could apply to the use of media like television, movies, or social media, etc.?

30. Read **Ephesians 4:17-19**. How could these verses describe much of the content seen in movies and television or the Internet?

31. Read **Ephesians 4:20-24**. How is the Christian life supposed to be different from to what was mentioned in **Ephesians 4:17-19**?

32. Read **Ephesians 4:25**. What does this verse have to say about our communication online?

33. Read **Psalm 1:1**. How could this verse apply to much of what is experienced in today's media?

34. Read **Psalm 1:2**. What should dominate our thinking more than focusing on media?

35. Read **Psalm 1:3**. What is the benefit for those who focus more on God's Word than on the philosophies of this world that are communicated through the media?

36. Read **Psalm 1:4-6**. What is the consequence for those who focus more on the philosophies of this world that are communicated through the media than on God's Word?

37. Read **Joshua 1:8**. What is the key to spiritual prosperity and good success in our walk with God?

38. Read **Proverbs 22:3**. What should we do when we see or read something evil online?

39. Read **Proverbs 1:1-4**. What is the purpose of the Proverbs of Solomon, and how could these verses describe many who spend their lives following the various forms of media rather than focusing on the Scriptures?

40. Read **Proverbs 1:22**. How could this verse describe many people whose lives are dominated by the media?

41. Read **Proverbs 26:4-5**. What could be confusing about these two verses?

The answer to this dilemma is to understand that there is no one pat answer to the problem of a foolish person. Some people who love to argue have already made up their minds and refuse to listen to reason; while other are simply ignorant of truth and need to be instructed.

Be careful how you converse with people online through social media, email messages, or texts. You may be right in what you say, but wrong in how you say it. Sometimes silence is the best response to a fool. Consider your reason for corresponding with the person on the other end and what you perceive their response will be to your message.

The hard-headed fool may never change his thinking and come to an understand of truth, while the ignorant fool may simply not know anything else other than what he has heard or been taught.

42. Read **Proverbs 26:4** *alone this time*. What is the danger of answering a fool without praying before you respond to him or her?

43. Read **Proverbs 26:5** *alone this time*. What is a possible positive outcome that could come from answering a fool's argument biblically and after praying before you send your message?

44. Read **Proverbs 1:7**. Where can wisdom be found, and what is the response of a fool to the source of all wisdom?

45. Read **Proverbs 1:22-23**. What advice do these verses offer for the simple or naive ones or scoffers who claim ignorance of God's truth?

46. Read **Proverbs 1:25**. What do willful fools do with God's truth?

47. What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know?

48. How can you make this a part of your everyday life?



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH



MEMORIZE THESE VERSES for Lesson 14

(Choose the translation that works best for you)

Title to verses: Technology, Media and the Christian

Proverbs 22:3 (KJV) A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 22:3 (NASB) The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naive go on, and are punished for it.

John 4:24 (KJV) I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 101:3 (NASB) I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me.

ACCOUNTABILITY PAGE

My Name: _____

My Mentor's Name: _____

Date I completed Lesson Ten: _____

My Mentor's Signature: _____

A Pastor's Signature: _____



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Remember:

It's important to be at church whenever you are able, so you can continue to grow in the Lord!

SUNDAYS

9:45 am – Bible Study or Sunday School

10:50 am – Morning Worship Service

Lunch & Mingle

1:30 pm – Afternoon Church Service

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

DIGGING DEEPER

OPTIONAL: Extra information



Read **Colossians 1:15-17**, **John 1:3** & **Ephesians 1:18-22** which define Jesus Christ as the creator, originator, and sustainer of everything that exists.

In his book, **GOD, TECHNOLOGY, and the CHRISTIAN LIFE⁴**,
Tony Reinke lists *12 Myths About Technology*.

We will also insert other Scripture verses to help you to ponder each of these myths; and explain why they are indeed *myths* rather than *truth*.

Myth 1: Human innovation is an inorganic imposition forced onto the created order. (*John 1:3*)

Myth 2: Humans set the technological limits and possibilities over creation. (*Ephesians 1:22*)

Myth 3: Human innovation is autonomous, unlimited, and unchecked. (*John 1:3; & Ephesians 1:22*)

Myth 4: God is unrelated to the improvements of human innovation. (*Isaiah 54:16*)

⁴ Tony Reinke. *GOD, TECHNOLOGY, and the CHRISTIAN LIFE*. (Crossway: Wheaton, IL) ©2022, pp. 28-29.

Myth 5: Non-Christian inventors cannot fulfill the will of God. (*Isaiah 54:16*)

Myth 6: God will send the most beneficial innovations through Christians. (*Isaiah 54:16*)

Hint for Myths 5 & 6. *Was it the will of God for Jesus Christ to be nailed to the cross and die for our sins?*

Myth 7: Humans can unleash techno-powers beyond the control of God. (*Acts 17:26*)

Myth 8: Innovations are good as long as they are pragmatically useful. (*Colossians 1:16; & I Corinthians 10:31*)

Myth 9: God governs only virtuous technologies. (*Isaiah 54:16*)

Myth 10: God didn't have the iPhone in mind when he created the world. (*Colossians 1:16; & John 1:3*)

Myth 11: Our discovery of atomic power was a mistake that God never intended. (*Isaiah 54:16*)

Myth 12: Christian flourishing hinges on my adoption or rejection of technology. (*I Timothy 6:17; & Ecclesiastes 5:18-19*)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, READ: *God, Technology, and the Christian Life; 12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You; or Competing Spectacles: Treasuring Christ in the Media Age* - all written by Tony Reinke - available online at Amazon.com



HAMILTON SQUARE
BAPTIST CHURCH

THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COURSE

Lesson Schedule

Lesson #1	What Happens When One is “Born Again?”	Salvation
Lesson #2	What to Do When You Fall	Confession of Sin
Lesson #3	What About Baptism?	Baptism
Lesson #4	How to Pray & Why Should I?	Prayer
Lesson #5	Bible Study: Making it Personal	Bible Study
Lesson #6	Obedience Brings Blessing	Obedience
Lesson #7	Church Membership Matters	Membership
Lesson #8	Tithes & Offerings: Bible Principles	Giving
Lesson #9	Overcoming Sexual Sin & Temptation	Victory
Lesson #10	Our Lord’s Commission	Witnessing
Lesson #11	Putting Anger & Bitterness to Rest	Bitterness
Lesson #12	Alcohol & Other Addictive Substances	Addictions
Lesson #13	Music and the Christian	Music
Lesson #14	Social Media, TV, Movies, The Internet & The Future	Media
Lesson # 15	Biblical Separation: The Dangers of Compromise	Separation
Lesson #16	Bloom Where You’re Planted! Staying in the City	City Ministry
Lesson #17	Happiness Forever: The Fruit of Faithfulness	Heaven

If you have questions, ask your mentor to help you.
If he or she can’t help you, they will help you set up an appointment
with a pastor at our church. They are here to help you!