

Welcome back on our final Sunday evening...

- This is week three — the **final message** in our series **It's Getting Weird**. (*has it been helpful?*)
- Two weeks ago, we looked at the **Rise of Islam**.
- Last week, we looked at **Reports of aliens**.
- And tonight, we land the plane with the **Advance of AI (artificial intelligence)**.
 - *Is that an **oxymoron**? Artificial all natural sweetener certainly is!*

Message Title: The Advance of AI

- Here's what I've said each week; My goal is not to **scare** you. It's to **prepare** you! *When the world is falling apart, you are not!* That's been the heart of this whole series. **ABIDE IN HIM!**
- AI has been around for a while behind the scenes, but it is now **front-facing** (*workplaces, hospitals, schools, in your pocket!*)
 - Many are **more qualified** from a tech component... (*many emails... varying!*)
 - **Movies**: Terminator (SkyNet), Matrix, iRobot, War Games, etc
 - **And, the church should not be silent...** (*way more than I could say in an hour!*)

That said, tonight, I want to help us **think biblically, not react emotionally**.

- **Paul warned** us that 1 Timothy 4:1 - "The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons**."
- Also spoke to Thessalonica, "by the activity of Satan with ...false signs and wonders... wicked deception... a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false..." (2 Thess. 2:9-12)
- Now, that **does not mean every new technology is evil**. But it does mean **deception is a real spiritual concern**, and **Christians must be discerning** about any **technology, weapon, or tool** that can magnify falsehood, confusion, or counterfeit authority.
 - **AI is simply a tool**. But like any tool, it can be used for both good and for evil...
 - *It depends on who's programming it and who's using it, for what purpose...?*
 - Let's dig in...

PRAY

The Setup - Defining AI

Alan Turing, in 1950 asked "*Can machines think?*" For decades... **AI winters happened...**

- **ChatGPT's 2022 launch** changed public awareness. Over 100,000,000 users in two months.

Artificial Intelligence is **an umbrella term** (*though there are much more than this...*)

- **Narrow AI** - AI built for one task. Your spam filter, GPS, Siri. Been around for decades.
- **Generative AI** - AI that creates — text, images, video, code. ChatGPT launched in 2022. (*currently*)
- **Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)** - Theoretical AI that reasons across any domain just like a human. (*close*)
- **Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI)** - Hypothetical AI that surpasses human intelligence entirely. (*no longer in control*)

Common Grace - A Fair Witness

Before we talk about the dangers of AI, we need to **be fair witnesses**.

- **AI is doing some genuinely good things throughout the world!**

Accelerating Medical Advancements

- Surgical robotics, cancer detection, medical research, pharmaceutical breakthrough...

Translating languages

- **Rapid translation** into any language ([missionaries/bible translating](#) - unreached peoples)

Processing and Research

- Processing, spelling, grammar checks, syntax, etc (I've used it in this capacity many times)
 - Even time saving things like [speedy concordances](#) (**cool faith tools out there for sure**)

Productivity and Accessibility

- **Self driving capabilities** (*lady in our church!*)
- **Planning a trip** for my family (*saved me a few hours!*)

Creativity and Entertainment

- **Sample decorating at the new facility** (*colors, furniture, etc*)
- **Silly videos** - making your [dog do gangster dance moves](#)...

Christians should not fear every new tool (in some ways, we should **use them for His glory**)

- **Genesis 1** informs us we were made to **"Have Dominion"** (*create, cultivate, steward, build*)
- **Tool-making is part of how God wired us**. From the [plow – printing press – microscope!](#)
- Christians should **not fear technology**; we should seek to **use it under God's authority for human flourishing**. (*do your own research through the ages - so many Christians!*)

Dangerous Pitfalls - Areas to Be Careful

Alright. Here's where it starts **getting weird & potentially dangerous**. (*shaping our world...*)

Economies and Militaries (ethics involved)

- **Economies** - **CEO of Anthropic** (*new tech always disrupts, God always provides*) (*unusual*)
- **Military** - **Lethal Autonomous Weapons** ("Killer Robots") - The [UN currently having debates](#)...
 - *Mass surveillance, facial recognition, voice ID - China social credit scores...*

Information Integrity (falsehoods, fallibilities, and deep fakes)

- Basically, **seeing is no longer believing** (*collapse of information integrity*)
- **Simple tests** (*car wash, strawberry etc*)
- **Fallible** (*I've tested it, and AI admits it*)
- **Hallucinations** (*cites books that don't exist, invents info and stats...*)
- **Deepfakes** (*video, images, voices, news, authority, consensus, etc*)
- **Scams** (*pastors voices, kids voices, political weaponization, fraud*)
- **Think about all that...** *If the enemy can fake reality/authority, he can control the masses...*

Synthetic Relationships (bots & beauties)

- **Romantic/Sensual Relationship** - *millions of people...*

- **AI therapists** (counseling/therapy (good/bad advice? ...depends on coding/training))
- **Jesus chatbots** (confessing their sins to) - **did you hear that?**

Confirmation Bias (algorithms & pride)

- We already live with **confirmation bias**. (and we most often don't know where they are)
- **AI is trained to feed that** (i.e a social media or ad algorithm designed to **produce profit**)
- **AI and algorithms** don't create confirmation bias, they simply **scale & amplify** what we want.
- They're **coded and trained** to do so, and **you keep using the platform**...
 - Analyze your preferences
 - Reinforce your biases
 - Feed you what you want to believe
- **AI chat bots in particular** give back in the **most convincing, eloquent arguments possible**.
 - **Why is this dangerous?** You're getting a personalized version of reality...
 - If you don't like... ask to rewrite, and it gives the other way **just as convincing!**
- Basically, (without you knowing) to tell **you're right**, even though you may be **flat wrong**
- Resulting in a **"spiritual pride"** where **you feel your opinions are "factually" confirmed**. Christians scroll and suddenly feel spiritually superior... **Pride disguised as revelation**...
 - And over time: **it can shape your worldview without you realizing it's happening**
- **2 Tim 3:1-7** - "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves... having a form of godliness but denying its power... **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**" Remember, knowledge puffs up, but love edifies

That point ties to this next one...

Over-Reliance & Authority (cognitive decline & spiritual formation)

- There is currently **a whole generation being raised** to one degree or another by AI tech.
 - Their understanding of **truth, authority and relationship** is with a computer "mind"
 - **Worldviews are being** formed by something that has no soul; no allegiance to Christ.
 - **Parents, pay attention** - Alexa, Siri, ChatGPT, social media, etc (**powerful tools**)
 - **Who's shaping your children's minds and hearts?** The Spirit of God or an algorithm?
- **But, what about you? Who's your God? Functionality speaking? Be honest...**
 - How many times a day do you pray and ask God for wisdom vs ask Chat GPT for...?
 - Roughly one-third of practicing Christians now consider AI-generated spiritual advice to be as trustworthy (or more) as advice from a pastor — and the number is even higher among Gen Z and Millennials. (in some cases, that may necessarily be true, but...)
- This is creating **a new authority structure**. A new **"god"** - let me put it for you simply. **An Idol.**
- And, **remember, "your functional god" AI is fallible**. I came across **a verified story** of a man who was hospitalized for weeks after replacing table salt with sodium bromide following ChatGPT dietary advice, which led to bromide poisoning and hallucinations, and near death.
- Not just that, but **cognitive decline studies** are starting to emerge more and more recently regarding **"cognitive offload"** - the more you ask AI to do something for you, the less you use your **critical thinking skills**. In some ways, it is **making us more dumb**. Give it a few years...
- **I have big concerns** when **Pastors & Christians** begin to **over use AI** (even in simple tasks, data lookups, or email responses) - **are we looking to God and His Word and His Spirit?**
 - **Not to be legalistic**, I think there are times to use tools for productivity, but **pray first**.
- **Too many people** (especially Christians) are beginning to use AI as some sort of Oracle.

- **AI is not an Oracle. It's a machine.** It *computes and predicts*. It's *not a God or a Spirit*.
- **But you can certainly treat it like one.** And *I think Satan loves it when you do*.
 - *"Hey ChatGPT, how should I counsel so and so?"*
 - *Hey Grok, is this a sin?*
 - *Hey Claude, what does the Bible say about...?"*
- The deeper issue I'm getting at is **not just information**. It is **spiritual formation**.
 - *Are you being disciplined by the Lord, or a machine?*
 - *Who do you look to more often? We all need to ask that in today's age...*

AI is created, limited, and fallible.

God is personal, holy, faithful, and true.

Theology Time - Heart of the Matter!

When we talk about AI, **we are not just talking about what it can do**.

- We are talking about **what it may tempt us to forget about ourselves**.

First, I want to talk about **the image of God**.

- *Genesis 1:27 - "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
 - That means **people are not simply information-processing units**.
 - We are **not just biological machines**. We are **relational, moral, spiritual beings created** to *know God, reflect God, and live under God's authority... supported...*
- *Genesis 2:7 - "The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.**"*
 - Church, **what makes you human** is *not your ability to process information. It's not just your intelligence. It's not your language or your reasoning.*
 - *A machine can do many of those things now, **and faster/better than you!***
 - What makes you human is that **God breathed into you**.
 - **You have a soul. You bear His image. You were bought by the blood of Christ.**
- **No matter how advanced AI becomes**, it will **never bear the image of God** (*personhood*)
- **The breath of God is not an algorithm.** *Psalm 150:6 - "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."* (*very interesting in light of the **AI worship music scene** emerging...*)

Second, regarding **Creator and creature**.

- **I'm **not being overly dogmatic** here, but I think **there's a connection**...*
- In some form or another, **humanity has always tried to build its way up to God**.
- In *Genesis 11*, the **entire earth spoke one language**. And, the people gathered in the plain of Shinar and said: *"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves..."* (*Genesis 11:4*)
- It was an attempt to **achieve spiritual supremacy!**
 - ...through *mathematics, architecture, and alignment with the stars (heavenly powers)*
- This was *not just architecture*. **It was a rebellion**. *Let's ascend and access power ourselves.*
- **That's the ancient story**. And it **keeps repeating**. *Alchemy. Eugenics. Now silicon electronics.*
- *Not because advancement or tech is evil*, but because the *human heart is wicked and deceitful*
- We want...

- **knowledge without obedience...**
- **power without holiness...**
- **authority without accountability...**
- **AI can become another Babel-like activity if we are not careful in how we treat it...**
 - Even the *rapid rate of language translation* is interesting. **Babel restored...?**
- Listen to what **tech leaders themselves are actually saying** about this...
- **Sam Altman, leader of OpenAI**, speaks openly about *systems that may surpass human intelligence* - **"We are past the event horizon; the takeoff has started. Humanity is close to building digital superintelligence..."** (Sam Altman, "The Gentle Singularity," June 2025)
 - The **point of no return**... **Chat GPT 5.3** first model *instrumental in creating itself*...
- **Elon Musk** has compared advanced AI... **"With artificial intelligence, we are summoning the demon. You know all those stories where there's the guy with the pentagram and the holy water, and he's like, 'yeah, he's sure he can control the demon'? Doesn't work out..."** (MIT Aeronautics Centennial Symposium, October 2014)
 - **To be fair**, Elon *didn't appear to mean actual demons*, but the **example of control**
- **Speaking of possession** - *no biblical accounts of demons possessing inanimate objects.*
 - So I don't think we should **go as far as saying AI is demon possessed.**
 - We do have an account of the *pigs in Matthew 8, Mark 5 and Luke 8 (non human)*
 - We do have concerns with *totem poles, Shrines, meat sacrificed to idols* etc...
 - But there is **not enough evidence in the Bible to say dogmatically**, though **we also don't know exactly what the spirit world can and cannot inhabit in our material world.**
- *I would say demonically influence is certainly possible and happening, but not possessed per se*
- **One more thought...**
- **Yuval Harari, part of the WEF**, and a *leading voice in the globalist tech class* - **"Having raised humanity above the beastly level of survival struggles, we will now aim to upgrade humans into gods, and turn Homo sapiens into Homo deus."** (Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow (2016)) - *speaking concerns about some builder's desires for Divinity & immortality itself..*
- *This area of AI = "Digital immortality" (digital replicas of people) Human-brain computers...*
- For some, *the Spirit of AI* is an attempt to **create a "God-like" intelligence without God.**
- **The same temptation as the Garden:** *Genesis 3:5 - "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil..."*
- Scripture tells us *how that scene ends... with curse... and Babel... with crushing...*

Third, idolatry wearing new clothes.

- *I want you to think about this in a particular and strange vein... In the Bible...*
- **Idols were never just statues**, they were the *gods/spirits being represented by them*
- **With that in mind, consider a couple verses with me... (God prohibiting some sources)**
 - *Leviticus 19:31 - "Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God."*
 - *Deuteronomy 18:10–12, NIV - "Let no one be found among you... who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord..."*
- Hear me clearly, **I am NOT making a direct equivalent** that *using AI is "seeking divination"*
- A **"medium"** is a *channel to a non-human intelligence*. AI is **not inherently spiritual.**
- But, *depending on how and why you use it*, I think it *touches that border...*

- **AI companions** designed to simulate relationships with deceased loved ones.
- **Chatbots built to simulate the personality** of a dead person using their texts, emails, and voice recordings. 'Grief tech' startups are marketing these tools now...
- At minimum, this is **spiritually dangerous territory** — and possibly falls within the prohibition...
- Additionally, some AI systems are being trained to channel occult traditions, pagan spirituality, and New Age ideologies. (reports of trying to open “Alien portals to summon them” huh?)
- The boundaries between '**AI as tool**' and '**AI as spiritual guide**' in some areas are clear to me.
 - **Forms/tools change** over the centuries/ages...
 - **Spiritual powers and principalities do not...**

Fourth, **wisdom versus knowledge**.

- We live in a world **drowning in information and starving for wisdom**.
- A machine can produce content and predict probability, but it **cannot replace revelation!**
- Proverbs 9:10 says “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”
 - That is why the **believer’s first question** should never be, **“What does AI say?”**
 - The first question should be, **“What has God said?”** -
 - **Did you hear that, church? (temptation)** - That is **a massive difference**.
- This is a **huge danger of AI for the Christian**: it can give you the appearance of wisdom...
 - It can make a shallow soul sound deep.
 - It can make a prayerless Christian sound theological.
 - It can fill your mouth with the right words while your heart is empty of the right fire.

Fifth, **the transhumanist push**.

- This is **just a brief note** — we touched on this a little already... (not all evil, some good)
- There is **a growing movement to merge man and machine**. (“2045 Initiative...”)
 - Neurolink implants, genetic editing, consciousness uploading (avatars/holograms).

Beloved — **what makes you valuable** is not that you have or can find information... What makes you valuable is that you are made in the image of God & bought by the blood of Jesus Christ.

- **Something a machine cannot and never will be able to do for you!**

End Times Speculations - Knowledge & Deception

Let me **speculate carefully** (won't spend too long...) **Not overly dogmatic**.

- This is **trajectory, not predictory**

I want to show you an **interesting verse about Knowledge increasing** at the end of the age...

- Daniel 12:1-4, NLT - “At that time ... many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.” Another says...
- Daniel 12:4 (AMP) - “Many will go back and forth and search anxiously [through the scroll], and knowledge [of the purpose of God as revealed by His prophets] will [greatly] increase...”

- There are a few different possible interpretations there... *(that may not apply to AI)* - *Whatever Daniel meant in his context, we are watching a "knowledge" explosion* unlike anything in human history. *Just an observation that I find intriguing...*

Next, you will probably already have and will continue to hear a lot of convo about AI and the Mark of the Beast in Rev. 13 (global economic currency and world order). *First, a note of caution...*

- People have been guessing at the Mark of the Beast for centuries. Most recently...
- *...barcodes, credit cards, SSN's, RFID chips, microchip implants, COVID vaccines, now AI.*
- So we shouldn't claim it IS AI, but we also shouldn't claim it's definitely not either (*not sure*)
- **In that chapter, there is a second beast**, AKA: the false prophet, who performs signs and deceives those who dwell on the earth... AI presents some interesting thoughts to the convo.
- **AI as a tool**, has the ability to help build a world where people no longer know what is real, and when people no longer know what is real, they become far easier to lead into deception.

For those of you who want to go deeper on this...

- *"God, AI, & The End of History: Understanding the Book of Revelation in an Age of Intelligent Machines" (by John C. Lennox) (he has other books on AI as well...)*

Whatever the eschatological truth to be discerned here, this much is clear:

- *...the spirit of antichrist is already at work (1 John 4:3) and it has just been handed the most powerful tool it has ever had to deceive the masses. **Stay sober, church... Stay alert.***

Shepherding the Sheep - The Biblical Response

Application time...

Do Not Fear

- *2 Timothy 1:7, CSB - "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."*
- **Fear is not from God**. Anxiety over AI is not what Christ has for us...
- *1 John 4:3-4, NLT - "If someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."*

Do Not Over Rotate (in either direction)

- *We do not need to "go monk-mode" and throw away our iPhones. **AI is an incredible tool.***
 - Don't demonize all of it. There are great uses... *Time saving for sure!*
 - Refuse it where it violates conscience. - this is a big one. *Pray. Obey. (audio book)*
 - Don't worship any of it. - *already beginning to happen* - looking to as an oracle..
- We do not need to become the church of endless suspicion. *Not everything is a secret plot.*
- People are off the rails! But not everything is safe either. **Wisdom knows the difference.**

Guard Your Heart & Home

- *AI is a wonderful "hammer," but it is a terrible "god."*

- Use AI as **a servant, never a master.**
- If you spend three hours a day on Chat GPT and three minutes a day in the Word, **I can tell you right now what's discipling you... Abide more than you consume.**
 - **An algorithm cannot replace abiding in Christ.**
- **Don't forget to be human.** Teach your children that. Build a real life community. Gather in person. Put the screens down, look someone in the eye. **AI cannot replace human presence.**
 - **Serve someone in bodily form. Engage in laughter. Love, eat, hug, hold hands...**

Be on Guard Against Deception

- That's been **the whole point of this sermon.**
- 1 John 4:1 - "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God"
- **Always double check. (be a Berean!)** When it flatters your theology, double-check with the Bible. Seek the council of mature spirit filled believers. **Discernment is the key.**

Our Glorious Hope - Christ is Lord

Closing time...

We've covered **heavy ground for three weeks.** **Don't leave anxious...**

Paul ended his warning to the Thessalonians — the **passage that has anchored this whole series** — with these words: 2 Thess. 2:13–15 - "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth... So then, brothers, stand firm"

- The **antidote to a strong delusion is a strong foundation.**
- **Spirit & truth! Those two weapons are more than sufficient** for every deception of the enemy.

Now for the **recap of the whole series:**

- Islam offers you a false prophet from the desert...
- Aliens offer you a false savior from another realm...
- AI offers you a false god from the machine...

And yet, all three of them bow to the same Name...

- **Revelation 19** describes **Jesus returning. King of kings. Lord of lords.** And the **man of lawlessness** — whoever, whatever, whenever he is — is **destroyed utterly...**
 - Not by the sword, Not by an algorithm, but. **by a breath! (2 Thessalonians 2:8)**

My final remarks: **God is sovereign over all things.** All things were created through Him and For Him.

- **He is not surprised by Islam, Aliens, or AI...**
- **Nor is He threatened by them, He rules over them!**

If you are **here tonight (or watching later)** ...and you've been looking for meaning in the cosmos, in other religions, or in the glow of a screen **instead of from God** — tonight is the night to **come home.**

- Acts 4:12 - "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"

- *The One who made the stars...*
- *The One who breathed life into mankind...*
- *The One who defeated death and is coming back...*
- He invites you to **know Him, personally**. *Look to Christ!*

PRAY - *"Lord, keep us grounded. Keep us discerning. Keep us faithful. Let us not be deceived. Let us stand firm until the day you return. In Jesus' name, Amen."*