



# Wise Use of Technology

COTR Sunday school

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*Epiphany, 2020*

# The Goodness of Technology

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- ❖ “A Bright stroke of sunlight has broken through the clouds that used to darken life. What the preceding generation did not know has been revealed to us. Through the microscope our eyes see what theirs did not see, and our arm reaches ten times as far as theirs. Distances have shrunk; separation between one country and another has been undone by various means of powerful communication. Almost every barrier that used to offer resistance has been broken through. We stretch out our wings in all directions as never before.” -Abraham Kuyper

# The Misuse of Technology

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- ❖ “God has arranged things such that sin can misuse these instructions for its benefit. Chemistry, for example, teaches us how to counterfeit foodstuffs; the thief and swindler makes use of the telegraph the way you do, but for his evil plans; technical arts can deliver to the murderer a refined weapon, so much deadlier in his hands. So all this common knowledge will be a common commodity for humanity for good and ill. It is and remains “common grace”, and on the day of judgment, the individual and humanity both will be held responsible for whether they used the treasures of “common grace” to repel or exacerbate misery and trouble.” - AK
- ❖ Jacques Ellul’s *The Meaning of the City*, and Jordan’s Enoch Factor

# Distracted Thinking

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- ❖ A “pre-occupation with all things”
- ❖ Newspapers are full of details which “grips and interests you, and a part of your mind is once again unwillingly and imperceptibly occupied by something that lies beyond the sphere of your life.” It becomes a “mountain of information.”
- ❖ Our “minds are inundated, occupied by the sheer amount of knowledge and information about all sorts of things that bombard them day after day.”

# Our Responsibility

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- ❖ “Each of us must, on the one hand, exert ourselves to participate in the life of our time, while on the other hand we must continue to protect the freedom of our mind force it to concentrate on what matters.” -AK
- ❖ Ephesians 5:15 and Colossians 4:5: Paul instructs these congregations to walk in wisdom towards outsiders and to make the best use of the time.

# Our Frantic Use of Time

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- ❖ The paradox of technology: advances are supposed to give us more time, and yet we have become more frantic.
- ❖ Kuyper lamented “The loss of the calm and quiet in which the pious life used to flourish so abundantly.”
- ❖ “Nearly everyone is chased out of the house early every morning, many no longer even take their meals at their own table, and so we no longer enjoy the atmosphere of the home or gather together around the Word of God when we ought to give thanks to him for what we just enjoyed.”

# The Frantic Effects of Technology

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- ❖ “But now every perimeter of rest has been dismantled. Electrical wires connect cities and towns to each other, and one country to another. Rail tracks span an entire continent. Mail ships cross all seas...People in villages do not notice this, but visit a world city and you will see how thousands upon thousands gallop through it during the day time, as well as throughout the evening with the help of lights. They even add a part of the night to that already tumultuous day. There was a time when mail was delivered at most once per day, but now as many as eight to ten daily deliveries constantly inundate you with new messages and new questions. The telegraph overwhelms you with urgent messages. The telephone distracts your attention from your work. It is no longer possible to walk calmly through big cities, but electric trams are waiting to transport you from one side of the city to the other in one large sweep. Everything is done in haste without leaving you time to think...”

# Aspects of Time

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- ❖ Time in your work.
  - ❖ Does your phone or facebook email prevent you from deeply focusing on your work?
- ❖ Time in with your family.
  - ❖ Does your phone interrupt your meal times and other social times with your family and friends?
  - ❖ What is the best use of time with your family?
- ❖ Time for rest and recreation.
  - ❖ Does your phone interrupt your worshipping of God?
  - ❖ Is being on your phone or watching TV the best way to rest?
- ❖ The time of waiting.
  - ❖ What are the effects waiting with a phone?
- ❖ How do our phones make us frantic?
- ❖ Do you have time to think?



# Some Practical Suggestions

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- ❖ Get an alarm clock (for you and your children)
- ❖ Think about times in which you will ignore your phone, or, better yet not have it with you.
- ❖ Parents: Discuss this together—for yourselves and for your children.
- ❖ Parents: discuss appropriate guidelines for phone / tablet usage for your children