

ARTIFICIAL pt 1 - Pastor John Kupitz

Artificial Flavors: What is AI really?

Tools, Truth, and the Human Heart

SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

MATTHEW 10:16, MATTHEW 15:17–18, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:19–22

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

"Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person." (Matthew 15:17–18)

"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:19–22)

SERMON SUMMARY

Throughout history, every major leap in communication technology—from the invention of the alphabet and the printing press to the radio—has provided new opportunities for God to reveal Himself to humanity. Today, the rise of Artificial Intelligence represents another monumental shift.

While society toggles between utopian promises of ending disease and apocalyptic fears of killer robots, the biblical reality is much simpler: AI is not a conscious entity, but a sophisticated calculator and a tool. Like any tool, its impact depends entirely on the human heart wielding it. Drawing from Jesus' warning to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" and the cautionary tale of the Tower of Babel, this message challenges us to examine our hearts, reject technological idolatry, and actively use these tools to bless others, spread truth, and glorify God.

SERMON FOCUS & KEY POINTS

AI is neither a savior nor a monster—it is a tool that amplifies the condition of the human heart, calling believers to exercise discernment, avoid prideful self-reliance, and redeem technology for God's glory.

KEY POINTS:

- 1. Redeeming Communication Revolutions:** God historically uses human technological leaps—from the written alphabet used by Moses to Gutenberg's printing press and radio—to record, print, and proclaim His Word.
- 2. Tools Are Extensions of the Heart:** AI does not have a will or consciousness; it is an extension of human intent. A tool cannot defile or save us; righteousness and evil flow from the human heart (Matthew 15:18).
- 3. The Danger of Modern Babels** (Genesis 11): The threat of technology is not the hardware, but human pride—using our achievements to build comfortable, godless kingdoms and make a name for ourselves rather than seeking God.
- 4. Practical Good vs. Real Evil:** From helping brain-injury survivors work to accelerating Bible translation across hundreds of languages, AI offers immense good when used intentionally, even as we guard against abuse.
- 5. Test Everything, Hold Fast to Good** (1 Thessalonians 5:21): Christians should neither embrace tech uncritically nor reject it out of fear. We examine all things, stay grounded in eternal truth, and use every tool to advance the Gospel.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Reactions to New Tech:** When you first hear about major technological advancements like AI, do you tend to lean toward optimism (utopia), fear/skepticism (dystopia), or indifference? How does a biblical perspective balance these views?
- 2. Tools and the Heart:** Pastor John emphasized that AI is simply a "sophisticated calculator" and an extension of the human heart. How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 15:17–18 shape how we evaluate the tools we use every day?
- 3. The Spirit of Babel:** In Genesis 11, humanity built the Tower of Babel out of pride and a desire to make a name for themselves without God. In what ways do modern promises about technology (e.g., curing aging, total self-sufficiency) mirror the mindset of Babel?
- 4. Redeeming Technology for Good:** We heard examples of technology being used for good—from Moses' alphabet to modern Bible translation tools. What are some practical, positive ways you or your family can use technology to serve others or grow in your faith?
- 5. Testing All Things:** Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22. What does it look like in practical daily life to "test everything" and "hold fast to what is good" when consuming digital content or interacting with new technology?

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

DAY 1: WISE AS SERPENTS, INNOCENT AS DOVES

Read: Matthew 10:16; Proverbs 4:5–9

Reflect: When Jesus sent His disciples into a complex world, He didn't tell them to hide or run away. He called them to be sharp, discerning, and culturally aware ("wise as serpents") while remaining morally pure and uncorrupted ("innocent as doves"). As Christians navigating rapid technological change, we are called neither to fearful retreat nor naive acceptance, but to spirit-led wisdom.

Question: In what area of your digital life do you need more "serpent-like" wisdom or "dove-like" innocence?

Prayer: Lord, give me a discerning heart. Help me to navigate the tools and technology of this world with wisdom, using them for good while keeping my heart pure and anchored in Your truth.

DAY 2: THE CONDITION OF THE HEART

Read: Matthew 15:16–20; Luke 6:43–45

Reflect: It is easy to blame external tools, social media platforms, or technology for the problems in our society. But Jesus reminds us that the true source of evil and corruption is not what enters from the outside—it is what originates within the human heart. Technology simply amplifies what is already there.

Question: How does examining your heart before reaching for your phone or computer change how you use technology?

Prayer: Father, search my heart today. Create in me a clean heart, O God, so that everything I produce, say, and do through my words and my technology reflects Your love and grace.

DAY 3: THE PITFALL OF SELF-RELIANCE

Read: Genesis 11:1–9; Psalm 20:7

Reflect: The builders of the Tower of Babel had incredible technology for their time. Their error was not in building with bricks, but in their motive: "Let us make a name for ourselves." Whenever humanity uses technological leaps to replace God, eliminate our need for Him, or seek ultimate security in human achievement, we fall into the trap of Babel.

Question: Where are you tempted to place your trust in human systems, tools, or wealth instead of relying on God?

Prayer: Lord God, forgive me for the times I rely on my own strength, intellect, or human creations instead of You. Remind me that You alone are my refuge, my security, and my salvation.

DAY 4: REDEEMING THE TOOLS FOR GOSPEL GOOD

Read: Romans 10:14–17; Acts 17:22–28

Reflect: From Moses recording the Law on stone tablets to Paul writing letters

on parchment and early believers broadcasting over the radio, God's people have always repurposed the communication tools of their era to share the Good News. Technology is neutral, but the Gospel message is transformational.

Question: How can you use the communication tools available to you today to encourage someone or share God's truth?

Prayer: Jesus, You have placed me in this modern era for a purpose. Show me how I can use the technology and resources at my disposal to bless others, encourage my church family, and share Your Gospel.

DAY 5: TESTING EVERYTHING, HOLDING FAST TO GOOD

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:14–22; Philippians 4:8

Reflect: Paul's instruction to the Thessalonians provides a perfect roadmap for living in an information-heavy world: "test everything; hold fast what is good." We don't have to fear new things, nor should we believe everything we read or see. Through the Holy Spirit and Scripture, we evaluate every message, embrace what builds up, and reject what leads to evil.

Question: What is one habit you can form to "test" the media and information you consume before accepting or sharing it?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You that no technology, system, or cultural shift can ever separate me from Your love. Give me the grace to hold fast to what is good, true, and noble in all things. Amen.