

(12-6-12)

PATIENCE: VEXED BY TECHNOLOGY! (Part 2)

TEXT: Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience...

Last week, we looked at how urbanization (and the lack of direct experience with nature) is taking its toll on the patience of many, and ruining a whole generation of children. This week, we will examine how technology (i.e., primarily computer/Internet/TV, etc.) is likewise hindering patience and deforming the youth.

For years, we have warned against video technology in regard to children, on the basis of - not only the godless immorality present, etc. - but the actual manner in which it hinders learning, language, attention, and cognitive development. Numerous pediatricians and psychologists around the world, now agree, and have issued their own warnings.

But before we take a look at several ways in which technology in general is deforming this generation, it would be irresponsible not to begin with how it has made provision for the horrible sins of pornography addiction:

"Generation XXX...Is the Internet Driving Pornography Addiction Among School-Aged Kids?...a University of New Hampshire study reports exposure begins young, for some, as young as 8 years old...it's available on our smartphones and tablets - or at the click of a mouse...Saldivar and Haug now work with a group called Fight the New Drug...The more chemicals released - the more you want....Your brain starts needing even-raunchier images...!'"

(<http://abcnews.go.com>, May 8, 2012)

These children begin to withdraw from people, and wear the hypocritical mask. Obviously the sin leads to lying, depression, etc:

"Forty-two percent of Internet users aged 10 to 17 surveyed said they had seen online pornography in a recent 12-month span..."

(CBS, March 11, 2010)

Actually, numerous books and articles claim that 90% of children ages 8-16 have viewed pornography online!

Instead of waiting in patience for marriage, etc., these young people are robbing, cheapening, scarring, and perverting their precious lives.

Professor Frank Partnoy has written that technology drives us to follow our short-term animal instincts. It has certainly made provision for the flesh, and mankind has used it to become like brute beasts (Jude). The Holy Bible warns us that whatever cannot be controlled, had better be "cut off" (Matthew 18:8)!:

2 Peter 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

We should pause here and admit that there are many types of "technology" - and we do not deny that some of it can be used for much good. New technology is often rashly attacked:

"Faust...is a name memorable alike in truth or fable. Marlow and Goethe, in undying verse, have immortalised their hero; but the Faust of history is no less famous...With John Guttenberg, did Faust, an eminent and enterprising citizen of Mentz [Germany], associate himself as partner in the **first printing press**...his own energies and...resources...immediately rendered it famous throughout the world...John Faust...amassed considerable wealth...For some years Faust and Guttenberg laboured together. Though not the inventors, they stamped this art with a utility that rendered it universal. It was, in many senses, a fearful innovation...[Our Faust] wielded a power which shook the conventional world to its foundations...Gradually, the admiration of the public yielded to a sort of superstitious wonder; then, to fear - to hate. Many, too, were personally interested in denouncing the new art. Fanaticism and ignorance set earnestly to work...[Faust] had introduced coloured inks; in many of his books the red hue predominated...little further proof was required by his enemies; for here was displayed the very signs by which he had contracted his compact with the Evil One... his house was invaded, his presses were destroyed, his business suspended...Faust lived to witness many of the mighty effects of the science which he had so materially promoted. He was undoubtedly a man of energy - a master-spirit in his time..."
(*The Working Man's Friend*, 1833)

"A man named John Faust...became associated with Guttenberg and did much to improve the art the latter had invented...In 1462, Faust went to Paris to sell the Bibles he had printed, when the monks fearing his business would so interfere with theirs as to render their copying labors unnecessary, opposed him bitterly and appealed to the prejudices and superstitions of the people, by declaring that he was leagued with the Father of lies...hence arose the tradition that Satan mysteriously conducted the printer to his invisible kingdom...Faust invented printing-ink and Guttenberg constructed a rude printing press...Printing was regarded with marked suspicion by the powers of even cultivated England...The men who came to the shores of New England in the Mayflower, had more enlarged ideas of the power and usefulness of printing..."
(*The Country Gentleman*, 1854)

"The red ink used in the printing was said to be his blood, as an article of his compact with Satan, without whose aid it was decided he could not have executed so stupendous and so extraordinary a work: hence most probably the German story of Faustus..."
(*The Art Union*, 1841)

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It is clear, therefore, that new technologies can certainly be unfairly attacked. But it is equally true that they can be blindly accepted without any discrimination! Because some tools are useful (Jesus once used a ship for a pulpit), does that mean that *every* new technology has a limitless, Divine endorsement?

For what it is worth, we have, in other sermons, traced the history of the first computer to a man who once tried to sell his soul to the Devil in a Satanic ritual [Charles Babbage]. We have also seen how Thomas Edison was a Luciferian (Theosophist). Certainly, these facts should give us some pause! But such patience is greatly lacking today - and, ironically, many technology insiders believe it is a result of new technologies!

Notice how many researchers and observers are warning (or at least, admitting) that many of today's new technologies are hindering patience, and many other virtues:

"...the truth is, that technology can dramatically affect the way we behave...actual news nuggets being reported are of little practical or intellectual value...We become like jumpy newsroom reporters..."

(David Shenk, *The End of Patience: Cautionary Notes on the Information Revolution*, 1999)

"*Internet, Technology Fuels Our Lack Of Patience...*We want things fast. Really fast. We don't want to wait for websites to load or for service or for romance to blossom. Worse, if we're made to wait, we'll walk away never to return...If Amazon could potentially lose \$1.6 Billion thanks to a one second delay, you know speed has become our new god..."

(<http://www.themarketingbit.com>)

"...Alvaro Retana, a distinguished technologist with Hewlett-Packard, expressed concerns about humans' future ability to tackle complex challenges. 'The short attention spans resulting from the quick interactions will be detrimental to focusing on the harder problems...The people who will strive and lead the charge will be the ones able to disconnect themselves...'. Melissa Ashner, a student at the College of William and Mary, observed, 'People report having more difficulty with sustained attention (i.e., becoming immersed in a book). Today, we have very young, impressionable minds depending on technology for many things. It is hard to predict the ways in which this starves young brains of cognitive ability...'. Dana Levin, a student at Drexel University College of Medicine, wrote, 'The biggest consequence I foresee is an expectation of immediacy and decreased patience among people. Those who grow up with immediate access to media, quick response to email and rapid answers to all questions may be less likely to take longer routes to find information, seeking 'quick fixes' rather than taking the time to come to a conclusion or investigate an answer'...Richard Forno, a long-time cybersecurity expert, agreed with these younger respondents, saying... 'My sense is that society is becoming conditioned into dependence on technology in ways that, if that technology suddenly disappears or breaks down, will render people functionally useless...'. Many anonymous respondents focused their responses

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on what one referred to as 'fast-twitch' wiring. Here's a collection of comments along those lines: 'I wonder if we will even be able to sustain attention on one thing for a few hours...'... 'Communication in all forms will be more direct; fewer of the niceties...'... 'Increasingly, teens and young adults rely on the first bit of information they find on a topic, assuming that they have found the 'right' answer...'... 'Constant broadcasts don't make it easy for the individual to step away and work through an issue or concern without interruption'... 'My friends are less interested in genuine human interaction than they are at looking at things on Facebook'... 'Parents and kids will spend less time developing meaningful and bonded relationships in deference to the pursuit and processing of more and more segmented information competing for space in their heads...'... 'they're raised in a culture increasingly focused on instant gratification with as little effort as possible'... 'Who needs original research when you have Wikipedia?'... 'Much of the communication and media consumed in an 'always-on' environment is mind-numbing chatter'... Robert F. Lutes, director of Valley Housing and Economic Authority, says technology is taking humanity down a harmful path. 'We have, by-and-large, created a 'feed-me/fix-me' generation of sound-bite learners. They are not given the skills to retain anything more than short bits of information... Stagnation of the whole population will come as a result of lack of the skills of innovation, deep thinking...'... Keith Davis, a team leader for a US Defense Department knowledge-management initiative, noted, 'Technology is taking more and more of our children's time, and not much of the internet time is spent learning. Time once spent outside (as a child) is now spent on computers. Our children are becoming sedentary and overweight at an alarming rate. Weight gain and that type of lifestyle causes apathy in our children. Social skills will be lost, and a general understanding of common sense will be a thing of the past...'... Eugene Spafford, a professor of computer science and engineering at Purdue University, responded that many young adults are unable to function in a confident and direct manner without immediate access to online sources and social affirmation... Megan Ellinger, a user experience analyst for a research organization based in Washington, DC, noted that **it is becoming more difficult to find truth.**"

(Pew Internet, Feb 29, 2012)

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves**, covetous...

3...**incontinent**...

4...**heady**, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 **Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

"*An Ugly Toll of Technology: Impatience and Forgetfulness...*Are your Facebook friends more interesting than those you have in real life?...exposure to technology may be slowly reshaping your personality...more **impatient, impulsive, forgetful and even more narcissistic...**"
(*New York Times*, June 6, 2010)

"Dec. 4 (HealthDay News) - Can an obsession with your cellphone rise to the level of an addiction? Two researchers who headed a recent study think so...study co-author James Roberts, a professor of marketing at Baylor University in Waco, Texas...'That's particularly true when we use them excessively in public...because when we do so we're signaling that we've got this shiny object, this status symbol, our iPhone or Android or Blackberry, and that we've got important people to talk to or text, who are maybe even more important than the people right in front of us. And that we're so important that we have to talk everywhere and all the time in front of others. And all of that is an expression of materialism'...studies show young adults check their phones an average of 60 times per day..."
(<http://health.usnews.com>)

"Washington, Dec 4 (IANS/RIA Novosti) Cellphones - Americans can't seem to live without them, or even with them, according to some recent studies that looked at the growing trend of cellphone addiction in the US and **the impact compulsive use has on relationships...**Another recently released study, published in the Journal of Behavioral Addictions, found constantly checking for messages **can ruin personal relationships**. Researchers there likened compulsive cellphone usage to other addictions including drugs and alcohol..."

3 John 1:13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:
14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and **we shall speak face to face**. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

"*Negative Effects of Technology on Children* - According to a New York Times article this January, the average kid, ages 8-18, spends over 7 ½ hours a day using technology gadgets equaling 2 ½ hours of music, almost 5 hours of TV and movies, three hours of internet and video games, **and just 38 minutes of old fashioned reading** according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, which adds up to 75 hours a week! These statistics are not just mere numbers; they are a reflection of the way our society is heading. There is a direct correlation of amount of hours spent with gadgets and obesity, poor grades, **impatience**, violence, and **a loss of family interest...**Impatience goes hand in hand with the laziness kids are starting to develop. Due to the ease of access to the internet kids now expect immediate responses and rely on the internet to give them all of the answers. They expect answers before they take time to think about solutions. According to an article in the New York Times this January, new technology is creating mini-generation gaps and **are most visible in communication and entertainment choices**. Dr. Rosen said that the newest generations, unlike their older peers, will expect **an instant response** from everyone they communicate with, and won't have the patience for anything less. 'They'll want

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their teachers and professors to respond to them immediately, and they will expect instantaneous access to everyone, because after all, that is the experience they have had growing up,' he said...Families are being hurt as well by all of the new technology. When a group of 4-6 year olds were asked to choose between watching TV and spending quality time with their fathers, 54% of them would rather watch TV. Also, according to the same survey reported by the A.C. Nielson Company the average parent spends three and a half minutes A WEEK having meaningful conversations with their children. Technology is creating **a generation gap** that makes parents feel as though they can't relate to what their kids are doing."

(<http://www.personal.psu.edu>, March 21, 2010)

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

6 And **he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers**, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Zechariah 8:5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

"I like to play indoors better, 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are.' (4th grader in San Diego)...In many classrooms, I had variations on that statement...[As to playing basketball, and such like in the neighborhood] Community Association[s] reminded the residents that such activities violated the covenants they had signed...indoors went the kids...Game Boy and Sega became their imagination...Their kids were getting fat...Today, more than 57 million Americans live in homes ruled by condominium, cooperative, and home-owners' associations...the untold consequence is the discouragement of natural play...Not long ago, the sound track of a young person's days and nights was composed largely of the notes of nature...Today, the life of the senses is, literally, electrified...[Even windows are often no longer opened]...The Information Age is, in fact, a myth...[Even in cars] rear-seat and in-depth multi-media entertainment products...are quickly becoming the hottest add-on...The target market: Parents who will pay a premium for a little backseat peace...The children can watch Sesame Street or play Grand Theft Auto...without bothering the driver...[When we traveled as children,] the landscape we watched...was *our* drive-by movie...What I see in America today is an almost religious zeal for the technological approach to every facet of life...it can become delusional...we are beginning to lose the ability to experience the world directly...Little is known about the impact of new technologies on children's emotional health, but we do know something about the implications for adults...People who spend even a few hours on the Internet each week, suffer higher levels of depression and loneliness [than those who refrain]...Fran Wilson, professor of neurology at Stanford University...says: 'We've been sold a bill of goods - especially parents - about how valuable computer-based experience is'...Something's missing...[yet] many...develop a wired, know-it-all state of mind...Children's hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle, maintains

that each hour of TV watched per day by preschoolers increases by 10 percent the likelihood that they will develop concentration problems and other symptoms of attention deficit disorder by age seven..."

(Last Child in the Woods)

"I'm not thinking the way I used to think. I feel it most strongly when I'm reading...I get fidgety...The deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle...the Net seems to be...chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation...Bruce Fieldman [a pathologist on the faculty of the Univ. of Michigan Medical School], who blogs about the use of computers in medicine [says]...'I now have almost totally lost the ability to read and absorb a longish article on the web or in print'...Duke University professor Katherine Hayles confessed, 'I can't get my students to read whole books anymore'...the students she's talking about are students of [English] literature...[T]he linear mind is being pushed aside by a new kind of mind...I missed my old brain...Our ways of thinking...we now know...[are changed] through the way we live...We become neurologically, what we think...It seemed ludicrous to think that fiddling with a computer...could alter in a deep and lasting way what was going on inside my head. But I was wrong...it is our intellectual technologies that have the greatest and most lasting power over what and how we think...Reading a book was a meditative act, but it didn't involve a clearing of the mind...[Faust] was run out of town...on suspicion of being in league with the Devil...[But] in one fascinating study, conducted at Washington University's Dynamic Cognition Laboratory...researchers used brain scans to examine [book reading]...Deep reading, says the study's lead researcher...'is by no means a passive exercise'...[However,] after 550 years, the printing press and its products are being pushed from the center...the pathways in our brains are...being rerouted...as Net use has gone up, television viewing has either held steady or increased...most Americans [2009]...spend at least eight and a half hours a day looking at a television, a computer monitor, or the screen of their mobile phone...[book reading is declining]..."

(Nicholas Carr, The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains)

We do not have time to review the following books (I have read them, or most of them). But their titles alone are instructive:

-Digital Vertigo: How Today's Online Social Revolution is Dividing, Diminishing and Disorienting Us.

-iDisorder: Understanding Our Obsession with technology and Overcoming Its Hold on Us.

-Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other.

Likewise notice the following headlines and excerpts:

- "Is Social Media to Blame for the Rise in Narcissism?...Over the last couple years, a plethora of research has been pouring in that makes connections between Facebook and narcissism..."

-Are the Media Creating a Generation of Narcissists?

-Social networks and the narcissism epidemic - CBS News

-Facebook's 'dark side': study finds link to socially aggressive narcissism

-STUDY: Social Media Is for Narcissists

-How Social Media Made Us Narcissists - Life - EBONY

-Is Facebook Making Us Lonely? - Stephen Marche - The Atlantic

-The Loneliness of Social Media

-Social media 'no cure for loneliness', study says

-Social Media and Our Epidemic of Loneliness

-Lonely Planet...Social-networking sites like Facebook and MySpace may provide people with a false sense of connection that ultimately increases loneliness...

Multitudes of other headlines link social media, etc., to aggression, impatience, and everything else that is associated with selfishness:

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.