

# How Artificial Intelligence is Changing the World...and the Church

Saturday, Aug 12, 2023 6:12PM • 53:59

**Host: David Wheaton 00:08**

How Artificial Intelligence is Changing the World...and the Church. That is the topic we'll discuss today, right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported radio ministry. You can connect with us by visiting our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org), calling our toll free number 1-888-646-2233, or writing to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

No doubt you've heard about "Artificial Intelligence," also known as "AI." Simply put, artificial intelligence is when a computer program, designed by humans, collects vast amounts of data on a given subject, then sorts through and learns trends from that data far faster than any human mind could, and then makes recommendations or even takes action based on analysis of that data. You likely are already using AI even if you don't know it. For example, when you go online, AI programs are tracking the websites you visit, the products you research, the content you search for online. Once the AI program collects this data about you and compares it with the patterns of others, product ads or content recommendations start appearing on the internet pages you visit because AI has concluded that you want or need something and so it takes action to meet that want or need. This is why when you do a search for new car tires, all of a sudden ads for car tire started appearing on every website you visit.

Of course, there are some positive uses for artificial intelligence. If you were to get cancer, AI can analyze everyone in the world who has the same cancer. If their doctor has inputted the data into a database, it can narrow the field to those around the world with similar biological makeup to you, then recommend treatments that were successful in others similar to you. No doctor could possibly process all the health data of millions of people and offer such a quick database recommendation. AI is powerful because of its ability to collect, process and learn from vast amounts of data and then provide recommendations or solutions that it deems best.

But "best" according to whom? What happens when the government or the CIA uses AI to identify those who oppose the leaders and policies of those in power and then takes away your ability to buy, sell, speak, or travel? What happens when the military uses artificial intelligence to conduct war, allowing computer programs instead of commanders on the ground to make decisions. These and countless other scenarios have the potential for leading the world right into authoritarian rule. . .right where Scripture states it will under the Antichrist. Speaking of the Antichrist, there's a man that we've played audio from on the program named, Yuval Noah Harari. He's not the Antichrist, but he's certainly anti-Christ. He's an intellectual. He's a World Economic Forum influencer, a best selling author from Israel, and He's also a homosexual. He says this on Piers Morgan's program about artificial intelligence.

**Audio Sound Bite: Piers Morgan 03:57**

How worried should we be about artificial intelligence actually taking control?

**Audio Sound Bite: Yuval Noah Harari 04:03**

We should be very worried. Because what we need to understand about AI, Artificial Intelligence, is that it is the first tool that can make decisions by itself. All previous inventions in human history always empowered us. They always gave us more power because the decisions were always made by humans. If you invent a knife, the knife cannot decide whether to use it to cut salad or to murder somebody or to save their life in surgery. If you invent an Atom bomb, singularly the Atom bomb cannot decide who to attack when and where. AI is the first technology that can actually make decisions by itself, can make decisions about its own usage and development. Nukes cannot make better nukes, but AI can make better AI. Also, AI can make and does make decisions about us. Increasingly, when you apply to a bank to get a loan, you apply to get a job, its AI making crucial decisions about your life and we haven't seen anything yet. AI is just making its first tiny baby steps. It's something like 10 years old. To really think about it, think about it like this is the beginning of organic life. Four billion years ago, this is the first ameba crawling out of the organic soup. Can you imagine how a T-Rex would look like, or how homosapiens would look like and what we would be able to do?

**Host: David Wheaton 04:05**

Well, you get a clearer picture into Yuval Noah Harari's worldview in that clip. He thinks there is no God, we descended from a pond of goo and this is how artificial intelligence is. We're in the early stages of development. Then Piers Morgan asked him the obvious follow up question.

**Audio Sound Bite: Piers Morgan 05:56**

How do we save ourselves from the T-Rex of AI?

**Audio Sound Bite: Yuval Noah Harari 06:00**

First of all, it can also of course, be used for good. So far, we are still in control. But we don't know for how many years. Therefore, we need to first of all understand the capabilities of AI and slow down its deployment, to make sure that we use it wisely and safely. You know, the same way that a drug company cannot just release a new medicine to the public without going through very rigorous safety checks. It should be the same with AI.

**Host: David Wheaton 06:32**

How ironic that he would use the example of the pharmaceutical companies not releasing a drug until it has thorough testing. Well, that certainly isn't what took place during the COVID pandemic, when they released an experimental use vaccine that they had no idea of the efficacy or the safety for human beings, that was forced on hundreds of millions of people around the world. Do we really think we, whoever we is that controls artificial intelligence, is going to hold back and have a moral compass that can only be used in good and godly ways?

**Audio Sound Bite: Yuval Noah Harari 07:08**

In the hands of the wrong people, AI could be the end of democracy. AI could also be the basis for the worst totalitarian regimes in human history. Dictators always dreamt about following everybody and monitoring everybody all the time, but they could never do it. Because, even the Soviet Union, you have 200 million Soviet citizens. Stalin didn't have 200 million KGB officers to follow everybody

around all the time. Then to analyze, you need millions of analysts to analyze all the data you collect. Now it is becoming possible. You don't need human agents to follow us around.

**Host: David Wheaton 07:48**

One thing about Yuval Noah Harari, even though he has a diametrically opposed worldview to The Christian Worldview, is that he's very transparent about his humanistic worldview. He says things out loud that others of his same ilk, who believe in the same anti God perspectives that he has, try to hide. But he's correct in his estimation of the power of artificial intelligence. AI is and will greatly impact the world. It also is going to greatly impact the church from using language artificial intelligence programs, like ChatGPT, to generate newsletters, worship service formats and even create the sermon. It doesn't take much squinting how data driven computer programs will drive the church rather than spirit filled qualified men, which of course, Noah Harari recognizes. He had this to say about how AI could write a new Bible.

**Audio Sound Bite: Yuval Noah Harari 08:51**

You know, the printing press, radio, television, they broadcast, they spread the ideas created by the human brain, by the human mind. They cannot create a new idea. You know, Gutenberg printed the Bible in the middle of the 15th century. The printing press printed as many copies of the Bible as Gutenberg instructed it, but it did not create a single new page. It had no ideas of its own about the Bible. Is it good? Is it bad? How to interpret this, how to interpret that. AI can create new ideas. It can even write a new Bible.

**Host: David Wheaton 09:33**

Of course a Christians jaw should drop when someone proposes writing a new Bible based on artificial intelligence. But such is the humanistic worldview of Noah Harari. The Bible is inspired the canon is closed. Don't add or take away from the words of Scripture, lest you be accursed by God. But this is the worldview where man determines our own destiny apart from the accountability to God.

**Audio Sound Bite: Yuval Noah Harari 09:59**

Throughout history, religions dreamt about having a book written by a superhuman intelligence, by a non human entity. Every religion claims our book, all the odd books of the other religions, humans wrote them, but our book no, no, no, came from some superhuman intelligence. In a few years, there might be religions that are actually correct, that just think about a religion whose holy book is written by an AI, that could be a reality in a few years.

**Host: David Wheaton 10:32**

You can see how much he's looking forward to this day where artificial intelligence can create a new Bible. The fallen world is going to love artificial intelligence because it's human intelligence multiplied exponentially. It's like having millions of minds working together, but not coming to different conclusions, which is divisive, but coming to the same conclusion.

The division that occurred at Babel will be lessened by AI. Mankind always wants to get back to Babel, where God came down and saw the city and tower that man had united to build and said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do, will be impossible for them.

Artificial Intelligence gets man one step closer to that unified globalistic rule by man apart from God. James Spencer is our guest today on the program to talk about how artificial intelligence is changing

the world and the church. He has written a guide for the Moody Center entitled, *Twenty Questions: Christian Resistance, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence*. James, welcome to the program. Before we get into artificial intelligence, tell us about the D.L. Moody Center.

**Guest: James Spencer 11:59**

We manage a 280 acre property out in Northfield, Massachusetts, where D.L. Moody, a 19th century evangelist was born and then did a lot of ministry after the Chicago Fire. Dwight Moody was a worldwide evangelist. He did a lot with discipleship. He started several schools. So our role, our mission is really to promote and preserve his legacy, to echo that legacy in today's world as we engage with issues pertinent to the church and contemporary society.

**Host: David Wheaton 12:36**

Thank you for sharing that background with us. James Spencer is our guest today. He and the Moody Center have released a guide titled, *"Twenty Questions: Christian Resistance, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence"*. That's what we're going to talk about today, the issue of artificial intelligence. In the guide you write, Christians should be aware of technologies such as artificial intelligence or AI, and be informed before adopting AI models, the Metaverse, social media and other digital technologies. Technology is not essentially evil. Still, technology is not neutral either. We need to take care that we do not diminish our capacity to testify to Christ by utilizing technology as the context in which we exist, adopt new ideologies and ways of seeing God, humanity and creation.

We must be aware that artificial intelligence models are not necessarily neutral tools. They may well be reinforcing an understanding of the world that will hinder us from conforming to the image of Christ. The concepts of artificial intelligence, AI, and one of its subsets called ChatGPT, which stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer that is, according to one website is an AI or artificial intelligence chat bot that is designed to provide human like conversational interactions. Let's inform all of us about what we're talking about today. What is AI? What is ChatGPT?

**Guest: James Spencer 14:19**

Artificial intelligence really is a set of models and a way of designing computer systems that mimic human thought. I say mimic because really what these artificial intelligence engines are doing is not thinking. It's not truly intelligence in a way that humans have intelligence. It's based largely on probability and statistics, pattern recognition, and the development of an ongoing broad algorithm that allows these machines to be very good guessers. That's the way I think of it. They are able to fill in blanks that previously, machines were not able to fill in. They are essentially guessing, based on large amounts of data and high processing speeds, what exactly what word needs to come next, what sentence needs to come next, what paragraph needs to come next, so that they seem as though they are conversational.

ChatGPT specifically is what's usually referred to as a large language learning model. These deal more exclusively with language. These artificial intelligence models work largely the same way. From a layman's perspective, they are reading essentially patterns within large amounts of data, and then reconstructing those patterns in images or video.

**Host: David Wheaton 15:43**

Some of the other things I've seen, let's say ChatGPT. This is a more conversational AI, where you can ask it a question and it immediately gives you an answer in writing content, I think you mentioned.

Let's say an organization wants to write a marketing message to their followers. They can say, write a six paragraph message to our followers about a new product we're releasing in March. Have some humor in it and make the last paragraph rhyme or something. Within 20 seconds, they will have this six paragraph message ready for their followers. It's actually quite incredible what the potential is here, from a convenience and efficiency standpoint, but as with any technology, there's always some downsides as well, which we'll get into today.

James Spencer of the D.L. Moody Center is our guest. Today we're talking about how artificial intelligence is changing the world and the church. We'll take a brief pause for some ministry announcements. You're listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program, I'm David Wheaton.

**Audio Sound Bite: Essential Church Movie 16:52**

God's truth is enduringly true throughout all the generations. It transcends culture. The church is always going to be an embattled people. If it's swimming with the tide, it's not being the Church of Jesus Christ. Look to the past, learn from the past, because the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

**Featured Resource: The Essential Church 17:16**

That was from the just released documentary, The essential Church, which chronicles how three churches followed God's command to gather during the pandemic rather than comply with arbitrary government mandates. Normal retail is \$12.99 plus shipping for this two hour film. For a limited time, you can order the DVD for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Order at [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call toll free 1-888-646-2233 or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

**Host: David Wheaton 17:51**

You may recall that last year, The Christian Worldview had the opportunity to expand to new markets such as Salem stations in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, Atlanta and Washington, DC, Life Changing Radio Network in the Northeast, and American Christian Network. We expanded for one purpose. To reach new listeners with the biblical worldview and the Gospel. If you listen to the program on one of the stations, we are asking for your help as we are well behind recouping our cost of airtime through listener support. We are praying for new Christian Worldview Partners who will help us remain on the air in these markets. The next few months are critical as we evaluate whether to continue or discontinue on these stations. We are trusting God, whatever is His will. If you'd like to help, please call us toll free at 1-888-646- 2233 and tell Rosie you'd like to become a Christian Worldview Partner or go to [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) and click on Donate.

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry.

Our guest today is James Spencer, President of the D.L. Moody Center. He's written a guide titled, Twenty Questions: Christian Resistance, Technology and Artificial Intelligence. James, in the guide you say, according to technology expert, Chirag Shah, at the University of Washington, he's quoted as saying in an MIT Technology Review, "language models are not really knowledgeable beyond their ability to capture patterns of strings of words and spit them out in a probabilistic manner. It gives a false sense of intelligence." Now you've touched on this already, but really, whether it's AI or ChatGPT, they're super computing. They're capable of gathering tons of data processing really

quickly, faster than the human brain could possibly compute all of the these things, and then giving out a result or content based on that.

Many Christians are going to compare the use of AI and ChatGPT to basically using the internet, like a search engine or like using a cell phone. "It's just a tool that can be used for good or bad." I've already seen ads on the internet from Christian organizations saying you must be up with AI, where it's going, use it, don't get left behind. You're seeing these ads all the time. We can use this in redemptive ways. Are AI and ChatGPT, are they different than these previous or current technologies like the internet itself, or Google search engines or cell phones? Are they different than those technologies? And if so, how?

**Guest: James Spencer 20:59**

They are different than those technologies. The way that they're different is, what I'll call the intensity with which they work. Artificial intelligence has the capacity to truly replace human interaction, if we let it. Google, the internet, previous to this, I think has made important steps toward us replacing human interactions, or replacing particularly physical interactions. For instance, when I was a kid, instead of Googling something, we would often pull an encyclopedia off the shelf and look it up. Well, that's a physical interaction. It has certain benefits, it has certain upsides to having an actual physical interaction, but Google makes that largely unnecessary.

We can basically search google and find whatever we're looking for. AI begins to ramp that up or intensify this problem. As it becomes more and more conversational, what I see is that yes, there are going to be certain efficiencies and conveniences, but if we're thinking that we need so many efficiencies, and so many conveniences that people no longer matter, that's where we're going to step across lines.

What I would caution Christian organizations and Christian people of is, yes, right now, AI is another tool, but we have what we could think of as a typology of tools. For instance, we don't think that artificial intelligence is the same as a hammer. A hammer has a different influence over our life than artificial intelligence might. We have to think of these tools in the way that they influence our lives, the way they influence our thinking, and the way they change our behaviors. Yes, it's still a tool. I think there is human agency behind it. AI does not have agency in the sense that it determines what it does and where it goes, but at the same time, it's a tool that is extremely influential. It's a tool that can be extremely deceptive in a lot of ways, not only in the information it provides, but in the potential that it suggests.

My encouragement would be let's make sure that as we're encouraging Christians to use artificial intelligence and not to be left behind, that we're also saying, look, we are a people who are called to love God and love neighbor. We don't love neighbor, if we completely disconnect from neighbor. We have to still have human to human interactions even if AI makes life so efficient that we don't actually have to do this.

**Host: David Wheaton 23:35**

James Spencer is our guest today here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program. He is the President of the D.L. Moody Center. We are talking about how artificial intelligence is changing the world and the church. I want to get into how it's changing the church because the things we've been discussing, creating newsletters efficiently in 15 seconds to go out to church members, you think

about the possibilities, the realities of students, let's say in school, being able to ask ChatGPT, Can you please write me a three page paper on some country in Europe? And it spits it out in 30 seconds.

Well, you can see how that would quickly turn into a pastor or someone at church developing a sermon based on content generated by artificial intelligence or ChatGPT, which in fact, is plagiarism because they're not developing that sermon, but who would ever know? How do you see AI being used right now in the church? What are some of the problems where you see it overstepping the lines of what God would intend for how church would operate or how pastors should prepare and deliver sermons?

**Guest: James Spencer 24:49**

There are a couple of ways. Number one, just sermon research. Forget whether a pastor is going to ask AI to write a particular sermon, but just using ChatGPT to do some research. At this point, I would say that trusting ChatGPT to give you exactly what you're wanting for a lesson plan, or a sermon outline, or any sort of resources, and information is going to require as much time as if you used any other sort of digital tool that's out there stuck with Google, looking into an academic database, something like that.

Basically, ChatGPT is not providing at this point, unadulterated truth. It's producing answers. Anything that produces answers generally means that we need to check it. There is a such a thing as an AI hallucination, usually what it's referred to. Basically, AI is so excited, let's say, to provide you with the information that you've asked for, that will make up an answer that fits your question. But a lot of the references, a lot of citations, a lot of the answers that it provides, aren't actually true. They're not real. I think it's important to understand the ChatGPT, just from a sermon research perspective.

Going to ChatGPT for answers regarding the Bible and theology is not a an automatic, honest answer. It's not automatically true. You're not actually leveraging all of the data that everybody would say when they talk about the positives of AI that are actually there. I've gotten wrong answers from ChatGPT. So we need to approach these tools and AI models, in a similar way as we would anything else, be a little bit suspicious, and make sure that what it's telling us is actually correct. That's one way researching biblical and theological sort of answers. The other way, I think, is the sermon preparation.

I do not believe that artificial intelligence is the right place for us to be going for sermons on God's Word. The reason I don't think that has nothing to do with the honesty of the machine or anything like that, but I do think that there is something that we need to be supporting as a Christian community, that a human person has so studied God's Word and constructed a sermon, that not only are we hearing from God's Word, but we're also recognizing that there is a formational element in the crafting of that sermon, that should be important to us. When we lose that element with the artificial intelligence side, we're losing more than we think we are.

**Host: David Wheaton 27:32**

James Spencer with us today here on The Christian Worldview, talking about artificial intelligence. In this guide, it's interesting because you give some of the interaction that you've had with ChatGPT. You'll ask it a question and one of the questions you asked it was, How will AI, Artificial Intelligence impact the human brain? Here's what ChatGPT told you. This is beyond going to Google. Google will bring up some article that someone's written about how it will impact the human brain.

How this is different is that ChatGPT is going to tell you itself. It's writing an article for you in some ways, how it's going to impact the human brain or any other question you're asking of it. ChatGPT's response to your question of, How it will impact the human brain? It gave you five ways.

- Number one. It said addiction, negatively impacting the brain's reward system, and overall well being because it's so immersive.
- Number two. It contributes to decreased attention spans and distractibility.
- Number three, socialization. There's an over reliance on AI technologies. It may lead to decreased social skills and emotional intelligence.
- Number four, the way it will impact the human brain, it may exacerbate existing societal biases, which can negatively impact individuals and communities.
- Number five, it can impact the human brain negatively based on dependence, there's an over reliance on it. People don't develop good decision making and problem solving because they just go to ChatGPT and say, What should I do?

It reminds me of the old Wile E. Coyote cartoon when he's trying to get Bugs Bunny. He's got the supercomputer genius trying to tell him, you know, he inputs and says rabbit is in the hole, what should I do? And it spits out a little piece of paper and says, try setting up a little catapult system which launches a rock at him or something. That's what this seems like, except much beyond this. The question is, How will the use of artificial intelligence negatively impact not only the human brain, ChatGPT probably gave a pretty good answer on that one, but how is it going to impact humans having jobs? Lots of jobs will be put out of existence by this. How will it be able to spread, let's say false information or what's called the deep fake, where they can project the image of a person who may not even be in existence and have them talking so realistically that you actually look at this video and think it's a real person. Another way it can be used negatively is the amount of data and computing power. Governments have to be licking their chops at the way this could be a perfect tool for controlling populations.

**Guest: James Spencer** 30:20

I think it's really interesting. When I say AI is a tool, but it's not neutral, I think part of the reason it's not neutral is because the human agents who are utilizing it are always going to use it in nefarious ways. Anything that we look at, any technology that's come out where we can say, well, there's a benefit to it, there's also a really deep, negative dark side to it. That isn't me saying we should never implement a new technology. That's me saying that we should be really realistic about this. My big concern with artificial intelligence is that we are running down the same path we've run down with the internet and with social media, without really considering any of these negative social consequences.

You reference jobs. I think the the job market, everybody points to history and says, Well, we've gone through these sorts of technological innovations before, so there will likely be jobs created that will allow people to shift jobs as opposed to lose jobs. Well, that's a good idea. I suppose it's a possible outcome, but the other possible outcome is that a lot of people will lose their jobs. The real challenge for me on that, my worst case scenario in that scenario is that usually, when people run into financial and economic trouble, the government does a bailout. So what we end up with is a lot of people who are dependent on government subsistence in order to live. That's a really bad place for humanity to be. Humans are built to be productive. When we've come to be dependent, get our checks in the mail and live our lives, I think that's a detrimental state for humanity. And no one knows what's going to happen with the AI job market. Part of the problem is that when AI comes out, nobody's regulating it, looking at it, or considering these angles. There's a lot of unknowns.



You either get positive people on one side or negative people on the other. I have a feeling that if we just paced ourselves a little bit more on artificial intelligence and the release of these different models, we could probably figure out how this is going to affect jobs to a much more reasonable degree. Now, the other aspect of this, when we think about negative side effects, the American Psychological Association, recently put out an advisory on social media. Social media has been with us for well more than a decade now. We've had likes and shares and retweets and all of those kinds of fun, interactive tools for more than a decade. Instagram launched just under a decade ago, and 10 years later, the American Psychological Association is now recognizing the detrimental mental health impacts that social media may have on certain populations within our society.

We should not wait that long with artificial intelligence. I don't think we want to wait another 10 years to decide if we do have all these problems, such as addiction, attention, socialization, bias, independents, that ChatGPT fed back to me as potentially negative side effects of artificial intelligence. There's a lot about artificial intelligence that is being pushed out really fast right now. It does not have the public good in mind. So to me, as the public, that's where we need to think about what it is that we're adopting, what it is that we're playing with, and recognizing that we've suffered negative side effects to these things in the past, whether it be the internet or social media or any other technology. There's always a downside. If we can't calculate what that downside is, to some reasonably accurate extent, I think we should take a step back and say maybe I shouldn't use the tool as much as I'm using.

**Host: David Wheaton 34:22**

James Spencer of the D.L. Moody Center joins us today on the program. Call me a skeptic, but I don't see those who stand to gain financially or to gain control will be willing to hold back on the growth of artificial intelligence. We'll take a brief pause for some ministry announcements. You are listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton.

**Audio Sound Bite: Alex Newman 34:43**

There is a war ongoing. There are two sides in this war. There are those who are with Christ and there are those who are against Christ and sometimes it's not always easy to see the difference. But as we go through this information about The Great Reset, I think you'll find out very quickly what side these great resetters are on. Their own words condemn them. Know that this has implications for everything. For education, for health care, for your job, for business, for government, for law, for property rights. The social contract as Klaus Schwab will explain.

**Host: David Wheaton 35:14**

That was journalist, Alex Newman, speaking at our recent Christian Worldview Speaker Series Event on being informed and prepared for The Great Reset. Alex's presentation is full of sound bites from those who are seeking to transform the world into a godless dystopia. You can download the audio of the event or order a USB thumb drive by going to our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or calling toll free 1-888-646-2233.

**Upcoming Event: TCW Golf Event 2022 35:44**

David Wheaton here inviting you to The Christian Worldview golf event on Monday, September 18th at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minnesota. This is a rare opportunity to experience a classic course in immaculate condition with challenging greens in a beautiful setting, all in support of The Christian Worldview Radio Program. Golfer Registration includes lunch on the lawn, practice range,

player gift, and 18 holes with cart followed by appetizers and awards. Bring a foursome or we can fit you into a group. Also, contact us about sponsor opportunities, whether or not you are attending or local to Minnesota. We hope to see you Monday, September 18th. Registration deadline is Labor Day. To find out more and to register, visit [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) or call 1-888-646-2233. That's 1-888-646-2233 or [The ChristianWorldview.org](http://The ChristianWorldview.org)

**Host: David Wheaton 36:51**

Welcome back to the Christian real view. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org) where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry. James Spencer, President of the D.L. Moody Center joins us today on the program. He has written a guide on artificial intelligence which we have linked at our website.

James, in the guide you quote a man named Bostrom. He has this hypothesis called, the vulnerable world hypothesis, which is, "If technological development continues, then a set of capabilities will at some point be attained, that make the devastation of civilization extremely likely, unless civilization sufficiently exits the self anarchic default condition." He goes on to describe the self anarchy default condition as having limited capacity for preventive policing, limited capacity for global governance, and diverse motivations of human agents, which would likely include those motivated by perceived self interests.

In other words, that's sort of a doomsday scenario. You can see how artificial intelligence will be used in the military. You've seen these drones flying in the air. We'll get 250 drones in the air flying in perfect symmetry, they're all communicating with each other. It is something to behold. You just think, Whoa, as this becomes more advanced into warfare, and they will take the decision making away from actual human beings because artificial intelligence can compute, and taking the data and information to make decisions so much more quickly. This hypothesis of a vulnerable world hypothesis seems like an end time scenario, like we're moving toward the end times. I don't know your eschatology, James, but it seems like this is going to be used by the Antichrist to be able to consolidate power in the world.

**Guest: James Spencer 38:56**

What I find interesting about the vulnerable world hypothesis is this. Bostrom defined civilizational devastation, so the destruction of all civilization is any event that is at least as bad as the death of 15% of the world population, or reduction of global GDP by 50%. He also says there are other ways to define what the devastation of civilization looks like. From a Christian perspective, what I would say is that the devastation of civilization really does look like people being led away from a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

It means that there is such a strong, deceptive and distorted influence on the stories that we're telling ourselves and the technologies that support our own independence from God, that we no longer feel that we need Him. I would liken what Bostrom is saying here in the vulnerable world hypothesis is something like what happened at the Tower of Babel, where it's just the unrestrained capacity of humanity that creates a problem that God has to step in and solve.

As we think about this, yes, I agree, I think that there are end time scenarios here that we need to be cognizant of, but what I would say is that this pattern is repeating itself over and over again. That's how I think that Biblical eschatology works. We see the wars and problems and greed and all these different difficulties that make the world into the image of humanity, as opposed to allowing people to reflect the image of God. As I look at Bostrom, what I see is someone from a secular perspective, recognizing the dangers of technology, and setting the bar too low on what it means to destroy civilization. At the end of the day, I really do believe that what artificial intelligence will contribute most to is leading people away from a dependence on Jesus Christ.

**Host: David Wheaton 41:02**

That is really well thought out and well said. You can feel it the last several years, with COVID, and the whole movement after the death of George Floyd here in Minneapolis. It just seems like it's very difficult. I know that people have told me this, it's very difficult to know where to get truthful news and reporting, analysis and what's going on. There's the uptick in control and information. Propagandizing has been so strong that people can't trust anything in society, where to get the news. So you're right about that. It's not just the way the Antichrist will likely use one of these technologies in the future, it's the fact that since it's human based, and man has fallen, it will be used as such an overwhelming information control to lead people away from the only gospel that can save them, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I want to end here with one more question in that framework. You say in the guide that, AI has a downside but does not mean there's no upside. Think of the internet. The internet has many downsides. There's lots of terrible information and pictures and pornography and everything else on the internet, but at the same time, the gospel and sermons and videos have gone on all over the world, as no one could have done before the internet. So there's that. You talk about societal changes and trends to which Christians will likely need to adapt to this. Yet adaptation is different than adoption. We should consider whether using AI, Artificial Intelligence, will help us deepen our faith, or simply make it more convenient for us to fit God into our lives, rather than give our whole lives to Him. What would be your final word of exhortation to listeners today about this coming AI technology?

**Guest: James Spencer 42:58**

Christians are not responsible for fixing the broken world. We are responsible for being faithful in a world so broken that only God can fix it. As we evaluate artificial intelligence, we cannot become consumed by the efficiencies that it provides. We're not here to be particularly efficient. Efficiency is a convenient thing that we get to do, that we get to take advantage of on occasion. It makes our lives a little bit easier. It allows us to share the gospel a little bit more effectively. At the end of the day, we are here to be faithful agents of the gospel. We need to start there. To the extent that artificial intelligence draws us away from things like I mentioned earlier, we're to love God and neighbor. If artificial intelligence so separates us from our neighbors, that we are no longer able to engage with other human beings in specific ways that would show the love of Jesus Christ, AI is getting in the way of our Christian mission.

We've got to start thinking of this not as, oh, boy, this will make our lives that much more efficient, "and then I could..." because often, "and then I could..." never actually happens. We almost always get distracted by something else. We've got to be careful about how we think about artificial intelligence and really root it pretty deeply in being and making disciples which is our primary Christian vocation, just being and making disciples. To the extent that artificial intelligence can help us be and make disciples, I think it can be a great tool. To the extent that it distracts us from being and

making disciples, I think we need to set it aside and allow ourselves the opportunity to be inefficient as we're faithful to the calling that Christ has given us.

**Host: David Wheaton 44:49**

I think that's very, very good advice, James. We appreciate the deep thought put into this and putting together this guide as part of the D.L. Moody Center. We have that linked at our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org). Thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview Radio Program today. All of God's best to you and your family.

**Guest: James Spencer 45:07**

Thanks very much. Thanks for having me.

**Host: David Wheaton 45:09**

Again, our guest today has been James Spencer, the President of the D.L. Moody Center. We have that guide that he wrote linked on our website, [TheChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org). Well, I have a little bonus content from our recent guest, Pastor Travis Allen. During the interview I had with him, I asked about artificial intelligence and what he thought the impact might be on the church.

Travis, the organization or company that promoted the, "He Gets Us Campaign," you remember that from last year, \$100 million went into it and just reinterpreting Jesus as some social justice warrior and so forth. Well, the marketing company that promoted that called Gloop, G-L-O-O, I've been seeing some of their ads on the topic of artificial intelligence, that it needs to be used within the church. Use it or you're going to be left behind. How AI is going to be something that's revolutionary for the church. I'm wondering if you could help us understand how artificial intelligence or ChatGPT, which is a subset of artificial intelligence, which generates language content, influences us. I'm sure you probably use the internet as you prepare for sermons and you do online study tools. What are your thoughts on this emerging technology as it relates to the church?

**Guest: Pastor Travis Allen 46:32**

I do use technology. I do my sermons on a computer. I use a Bible software in order to get me into the language and use language tools and things like that. They're aides to speeding up my study and things like that. I'm not anti technology. I see its place and its role. But when you're talking about entering into ChatGPT, such as, give me a 20 minute sermon with three jokes, three points in a poem, and an altar call, and it churns out something in 45 to 50 seconds, I see this is yet another way that the world is going to disciple its own. It's still very early to tell what good and bad is going to come out of it.

You need to back off and give it some time to see what it's going to be useful for and not useful for. I can tell you what it's not going to be useful for is for a lazy pastor, to input a couple of things that they want in there and have it generate sermons for him. I am concerned that that's what's going to happen. I can say no true pastor is ever going to do that. Because they understand the ministry of the gospel. They understand the pastoral ministry, the ministry to the church is something that is done on a spiritual level, by somebody who is a pastor who is indwelt by the Spirit of God, who actually has the gifting and the calling by God, to preach to the people of God in his own local church. Nobody who's inputting into ChatGPT is, as far as I know, qualified by 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, as elders, as pastors. They're not qualified. If they're not qualified, they shouldn't be churning out sermons. Paul says in 1 Timothy 2, he's describing his own ministry and really the ministry of all gospel preachers, elders, pastors, he says, *Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from*

*God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.* Why is it important for Paul and his fellow apostolic ministers and his fellow missionaries that he works with that they understand the things freely given to him by God? Because we impart this he says, not in words, not taught by human wisdom, but words taught by the Spirit.

And then there's this phrase, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The language there in the Greek is talking about joining or wedding together, knitting together spiritual truths to spiritual people. So things that are taught by the Spirit, come through the pastor, through the preacher in that pulpit ministry in the local church, and they're joined to spiritual people regenerate church members, and they're received by them so that they can learn spiritual wisdom.

It says in chapter 2:14 in 1 Corinthians, *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they're spiritually discerned. But the spiritual person judges all things, but he himself is judged by no one. Who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

ChatGPT, AI does not have the mind of Christ. It does not capture the spirit of God and channel the Spirit of God to God's people. Only the Scripture does that and only through his prescribed means of preaching and teaching in and through the ministry of the local church.

**Host: David Wheaton 50:10**

Very wisely put Travis. You read an article about how AI is already being used at a church in Europe.

**Guest: Pastor Travis Allen 50:17**

Some researcher in England who was working with, I think it was a liberal seminary, but he went and set up this experiment in Germany. I believe it was a Lutheran congregation in Munich. They conducted the whole service, the sermon, and everything through ChatGPT. It was a ChatGPT, AI sermon and there was an AI image, like an avatar, preaching the sermon to a bunch of people sitting there listening to this. So it's already being done. They talked about how much benefit was there, how edified they were, how encouraged. So I do agree with you that this is only the tip of the iceberg and we have more of those to come.

**Host: David Wheaton 50:58**

That was Travis Allen of Grace Church in Greeley, Colorado. Artificial Intelligence is about more than convenience and efficiency. People will like some of the benefits for sure, but ultimately, it's about elevating the limited minds of men to be more like God who is of infinite intelligence. This is the description of Satan who wanted to be like God. It says in Isaiah chapter 14, Satan says *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High God.* But intelligence is not the same as wisdom. Wisdom is the skill of thinking and living as God intends. Wisdom can be developed by only the true believer who's been born again, and then sanctified by the Holy Spirit. It's very easy to see how it will be tempting for a church to design their service based on artificial intelligence. You collect data from all the other churches out there as to what format and programs attract the most numbers, which songs and what types of sermons drive engagement, attendance and giving.

But if artificial intelligence is not overseen by spirit filled believers, it will just be more human reasoning applied to the church. Somehow, Jesus Christ spread the faith around the world without artificial intelligence. We don't need artificial intelligence, we need Godly wisdom. That kind of wisdom comes from above when we come to saving faith in Christ and follow him.

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