

## Bellefield Presbyterian

4001 5th Avenue  
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*"God Is Most  
Glorified in Us  
When We're Most  
Satisfied in Him"*

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**Rev. R. Geoffrey  
Brown, Ph.D.,  
preaching today  
[Pitt Grad]**

### 3. The Christside of Technology

**Hebrews 1:10-12** "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain...." We cannot let technology make us lose our way. For Jesus declares, "I am the way"—*John* 14:6. The world is founded on Christ, by whom all things were created, in whom all things hold together—*Colossians* 1:16-17. From Jesus Christ we can have eternal life in fellowship with God: "I am the resurrection & the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die"—*John* 11:25-26. His

Here are some possible actions to take:

1. Memorize *Hebrews* 1:3a,b & reflect pointedly on it this week in prayer.
2. Determine within that you will savor the beauty of God in all scientific advances as being the manifestation of Christ's creative and sustaining glory. Give him praise.
3. Fight the impulse to reach for a technological "fix" to assuage the sensed core loneliness within; instead, acknowledge *Romans* 8:22-23 as a realistic & inescapable part of life this side of heaven. Pray hard.
4. *Be in missions*: talk to someone about your grand presupposition & share how Jesus helps you see life.

power, manifest in His resurrection, is the foundation for all science & technology—*Heb.* 1:3. His upholding sustains the regularities on which technology depends. His wisdom is behind its beauty. To see this is to be grateful, to glorify Him with a right technology appraisal.



The waves roll in with regularity because of God's sustaining hand.

## Me, Myself & iPhone\*

—Glorifying God in  
Technological Times

### Today's Sermon Helps

**Hebrews 1:1-12**  
Vs. 1 reads: *He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God & the exact imprint of His nature, & He upholds the universe by the word of His power.* The grand presupposition of all existence is the second by second

sustaining power of Jesus Christ. Christians easily admit to God's creation of the world, but in our technological times it's not so easy to grasp that apart from Christ's ceaseless preservation, all would instantly disappear. This goes double for technology: no *staccato*, only *sustenato*.

### The Great Race

10 years ago a few visionaries predicted the era of "ubiquitous" computing, when all kinds of appliances would contain computerized links to the rest of the world. It's now upon us, in the form of the

*iPhone*. Do you have yours yet? I don't have mine. A capable *iPhone* today has more computing power than the computer that took the Apollo astronauts to the moon. You keep-ing up or falling be-

Bellefield  
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### Worship

9/21/08

#### Sermon Moves @a Glance

- *The Upside of Technology;*
- *The Downside of Technology;*
- *The Christside of Technology;*
- *Glorifying Christ in it.*



What insures  
His glory here?

\*Please note: This phrase, *Me, Myself and iPhone*, is not original to me. Dr. Vern Poythress came up with it in a one page article for *World*, July 26/August 2, 2008. This sermon leans heavily on that article & credits Dr. Poythress for his insights.

## 1. The Upside of Technology —for Christ's Glory

**Proverbs  
8:22-31**

If we don't lose sight of the wisdom of Jesus Christ behind all science, we will & should approach science by loving it as the display of His glory. Science keeps spinning out these great gadgets. They bless us and free us to exercise a wise & green dominion over the earth. This is part of the cultural mandate of our being made in the image of God

(Genesis 1:28-30). This capacity for self-transcendence has us overcoming limits before us. It shows us what great gifts God has given, and our hearts abound in gratitude for significant advances.



*The image of God & our capacity for self-transcendence. You can't hold us back; we'll get to the moon and back if we want.*

## 2. The Downside of Technology— Impugning Christ's Glory

**Hebrews 1:6**—"Let all God's angels worship Him." It's the supremacy of Christ's glory in all things for the joy of all generations that must be maintained. To forget His supremacy is to slide into the propaganda of scientism. Its worldview batters us subtly and relentlessly. Scientism rejects supernaturalism.

### The Great Presupposition in Action

If science harnesses nuclear fusion to produce clean power, the result will be different according to the heart's alignment. If the heart begins with *Jesus Christ upholding the universe by the word of His power*, it will cause praise to God. But, to begin without Christ will cause pride to man.

*"You can have 200 friends on Facebook & still be very lonely."*



**Angels worship Jesus.**

## 2. Downside—continued

It is assumed we are in a closed mechanistic universe with fixed natural laws that are inviolable. We supposedly inhabit a faceless, lonely, materialistic universe that is heading only toward ultimate death. So the attraction of technology is its offer of Band-Aids to cover spiritual wounds & salve empty hearts. *Give me that new electronic game or one more "chick-flick" DVD or Bruce Willis Die Hard or one more*



**Technology & me-me-me**

*technically digitized pop song to hold back my slide into boredom and depression.* But where is the courage to face the hollow inside, the inner core loneliness?

We can be awash in technology and still be hate-filled or empty inside.

## Dealing with the Downside

**Galatians 6:7**—"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." If you sow a "Me" centered life, you will reap a harvest of emptiness. If you hope in the human wisdom of science, it will fail you.

*"Sometimes science only increases the problem by fostering escapism."*

## Do Not Detach from the Grand Presupposition

**Hebrews 1:8-9** "Your throne...is forever and ever." Science will offer knowledge by the truckload. But when such knowledge is detached from the God Who gave it, it cannot give you wisdom to know yourself or to know God. The technology in which you hoped apart from God will mock you & testify to your ingratitude to God. *U R made 4 worship.*



**Worship—a constitutional joy & necessity.**