

1Tim 24-05-22a

Greetings, fellow members of Grace and Truth Bible Church. It is Wednesday, the 22nd of May, 2024, and we're continuing our sort of combination study of scriptures, both Old Testament and new, some from Proverbs, some from Psalms, following the thread of our study in 1st Timothy chapter 4, which has led us to take a look at the latter days. The Spirit expressly says in latter times, certain things will happen, and it's important for us to keep our finger on that pulse, and we're endeavoring to do so.

Let's ask God's blessing on our study, and our time of fellowship will begin. Father, it is such a privilege to live at this time and to experience the wonderful presence, and power, and peace that comes from Your Holy Spirit, the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, our opportunity to have fellowship with Him and with You through the Word. We thank You for the passages that are before us, and the perspective, and the security that they grant to our souls.

We pray that as we look at these truths and our current circumstances together, that the Holy Spirit will find us ready and able to learn, to grow, and to put into practice the exhortations, the principles, the promises that we have from Your Word. We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Well, let me begin by pointing out a couple of current events in light of our recent survey of the rise of simulated intelligence, artificial intelligence. If you were watching the news, you saw that there is an AI summit in Seoul, Korea, where world leaders have gotten together because of concerns about the burgeoning, and expansion, and implementation, both positive and negative of this powerful new technology. And the upshot is, as you would expect from an international summit, they all came together.

There were many flowery words and analyses. The European Union was represented, 10 other countries. They're discussing AI's risks, capabilities, and limitations.

And they have a solution. This includes the EU, France, Germany, Italy, the UK, the United States, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Canada. So, all the biggies showed up in Korea for this.

The United Kingdom has created, last fall, the world's first AI safety institute. They put this thing together last November, and made an initial investment of about 100 million English pounds. I don't know how up-to-date my conversion rate is, but the last time I was dealing with anything in the UK, it was roughly two to one.

So, that would be 200 million US dollars, give or take. Other countries, like the United States, Japan, and Singapore have also launched their own safety institutes. So, the answer, all these other countries have said, well, we're going to make a safety institute too.

Kind of like the Wuhan Institute of Virology, we'll study it and make the world safe for viruses, now we're going to make institutes and keep the world safe for AI. I found a little face thing. You know, when you're typing a text on your phone, you can put a little smiley face.

I forget what those are called, but. Yeah, an emoji, is that it? An emoji. I found an emoji today because the bank is making its fourth attempt to send me my corporate credit card.

It has failed the previous three times after the initial one went astray. And so, this time they sent it via FedEx with a tracking number and our accounting gal watched it all the way across the country, got to Dallas, they said it was delivered, she didn't have it, she called FedEx, and this time, the fourth time, they delivered it to the wrong building and somebody signed for it over there. So, anyway, they're going to send a courier tomorrow to go back to where they delivered it and see if they can pick it up and bring it to the right office.

And I found an emoji that is a human hand with a thumb and finger extended and I said, my expectations are this much. There's about an inch apart between my thumb and my first finger. That's my expectations.

That is also my expectations for the success of these AI safety institutes. I have a feeling the AI is going to drag them down to its level and beat them with experience. At any rate, just to be aware, we don't have to freak out or be paranoid or unduly concerned, but it is something to note and to watch and to understand the ways that it can and has ambiguated itself into daily life.

I pulled up an article. As you know, I'm always keeping an eye on Turkey and President Erdogan. And here's an article from a few months ago.

AI content is meddling in Turkey's election. Experts warn that it is just the beginning. Misleading AI-generated content can swing voters, AI experts say.

Keep in mind, you know, we've been seeing examples in scripture that represent and are metaphors for many things. Turkey's election is something of a representative election for things that could happen anywhere in the world, including our own country. Sunday's presidential election in Turkey is the first major vote to face this challenge.

Turkish internet users were surprised to discover that Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main challenger in the election, spoke perfect English in a video posted online two weeks ago. The guy doesn't speak a word of English. A Twitter user commented, I promise you, Grandpa, we're going to make you president, sharing the video of the 70-year-old candidate.

Two days later, the independent Turkish fact-checking website Tayyip revealed the video

had been fabricated. The AI-generated video was not intended to fool anyone and was initially posted with a disclaimer. But as has happened in any number of cases since then, these videos are quickly copied and reposted without their disclaimer.

And they go viral. It was initially posted by a guy who made it for fun and shared it with his 11 followers. And within minutes, it went viral and shot through the entire country of Turkey.

The recent boom in access to AI tools is fueling these kinds of situations, according to deepfake specialist Henry Adjder. When something designed to be satirical is taken out of context, it can be mistaken as real, especially if you are talking to an audience that has certain biases, he told Euronews. Famous individuals and politicians are particularly at risk because they do a lot of speaking to the camera, staying still, looking straight down the lens, as I am doing now.

That's an easier form of video to manipulate than if they're moving around and their profile is changing, he explained. This next section, which I won't read in its entirety, is subtitled Flooding Social Media with Deepfakes. On the same day, the doctored video of him speaking English was released, mostly earning him supporters.

Kilik Dirooglu warned his social media followers of possible election interference. Playing Cambridge Analytica is beyond your capacity, boys, he told government officials on Twitter, referring to the unauthorized use of personal data and targeting campaigning on social media to swing the 2016 presidential election. Eight years ago, this was already a tactic.

Think how far this technology has come. And they go on from there. But if you start researching this online, in fact, it's an interesting exercise to go to ChatGPT, go ask an AI, what are the potential misuses and abuses of AI? And ChatGPT will tell you, here's what I could do in the wrong hands.

It's really quite fascinating. It does have its good uses. It isn't intrinsically evil, as with anything you want to name, whether it is food, guns, anything has its good uses.

I ended up with a machine infected with a ransomware virus. My antivirus caught it and prevented it from doing damage, but I could not get rid of it. I kept getting alerts, your software has quarantined.

Another attempt by Win32RansomLocky.v, Roman numeral five. And anytime I used a browser, two different browsers, I would get this alert, quarantine, quarantine. I was getting dozens of these attempts to plant this piece of code that would encrypt all of the files on my machine and then go on the network seeking others.

This is a network savvy thing that can travel across and find other endpoints and infect them. So I tried several approaches that I found on standard websites like Komodo and

so on. None of them worked.

So I went to ChatGPT and I said, I have this infection. This is the message I'm getting. What steps can I take to disinfect? And it gave me four and a quarter pages of steps to follow.

I finished the first page and the infection was gone. So thumbs up for ChatGPT. It knew how to eradicate this infection and that's a good thing.

So it isn't something to necessarily fear. In fact, I think it is useful to know what the benefits are. And this has a purpose.

I am covering this because our Bible study tonight addresses these issues and this kind of issue. GPT 4.0 has been very recently introduced. It is the newest generation of ChatGPT.

This new model makes ChatGPT smarter, easier to use, and accessible to all users, including those without a paid subscription. There have been demonstrations that show its new capabilities like advanced analysis of visual inputs, solving complex math equations, and interpreting facial expressions. It is also capable of generating content and understanding commands in voice, text, or images and offering real-time responses.

It can process spreadsheets and conduct data analysis in as little as 30 seconds. With just a single prompt, GPT 4.0 enables users to quickly transform raw data into insights and it works as a tool for generating charts, graphs, and statistical summaries. It can generate these things meaningfully and helpfully in less than a minute.

This feature can also generate 3D models from text prompts in less than 30 seconds. Rapid prototyping, creation, and visualization of detailed models without requiring specialized software or extensive technical knowledge. There are examples here.

Someone said, show me a flat table twice as long as it is wide with four legs at the corners. And it instantly created a 3D model of a table that could be rotated in any direction. There are all kinds of prompts that you can give it.

It's limited only by imagination. It can give me tips to overcome productivity limitations, help me overcome writer's block, give me ideas for what to do with my kid's art. It can also transcribe historical texts.

Someone took an 18th century handwritten letter on faded paper and it transcribed it with only a couple of small errors. And this is script handwriting way beyond what normal OCR software can do. It can analyze facial expressions.

There's a picture of a guy sitting on a couch between a couple of other people and it zoomed in on his face and they said, chat GPT, analyze this face. And it said, all right,

you look a bit weary. Maybe indicating some mental or emotional fatigue.

The slight smile suggests you're trying to be positive or approachable, but there's a sense of underlying stress or concern. The slight furrow on your brow and so on. It analyzes the face and seems to be pretty good at it.

It can do real time translations. So you're talking to someone and neither one of you speaks the other's language. You can turn on chat GPT, say your sentence.

It will instantly translate it into any of several hundred languages in real time. And the other person can speak and it will translate their response back into English. So it is as though you have an interpreter standing there going both directions in real time, just on your phone.

There are videos that you can find for all of these on YouTube or X or whatever you want to see them on. It's impressive. It's impressive how good it is.

It generated a video game in seconds based solely on a screenshot. Wrote the entire thing in Python. And it's a workable, playable video game.

And all it started with was, here's the screen. I got a fully working breakout game code using a shortcut to pull up the app with GPT 4.0 and a simple screenshot of my screen. It has visual assistance features.

It can make the world more accessible for people with low vision by offering real time visual assistance. In other words, you have a little camera mounted somewhere on your person. You're blind.

Chat GPT can describe what it is seeing in real time. You are approaching a curb. There is a pedestrian walk wait sign.

There is a lamppost. There is a trash can to your right. There is a doorway to a cafe to your left.

And it can just talk its way with a description of everything that you're encountering. There's a homeless man in the doorway. Swerve to your right.

I mean, it's amazing what it can do. There's an app called Be My Eyes that uses Chat GPT 4.0. And there's a video of this on X. A guy said, make me a copy, make me a program that's exactly like Facebook Messenger. And it did so.

It's workable running code that emulates Facebook Messenger with all of its features. It gave it a single prompt and it made a working copy of Facebook Messenger. Another example is a user who generated HTML and CSS cascading style sheets based on just a hand drawing of what he wanted his webpage to look like.

It parsed the drawing and wrote the code. And I've heard of some of these personally. I think my cousin's son has an OpenAI personal assistant.

And if you text him, the assistant negotiates times and decides what's on the schedule. And can you meet me for lunch? And when would you like to meet? And it'll go prompt the user and then make all of the responses and organize a schedule and so on. So it's not supposed to be scary and doomsday, post-apocalyptic, nuclear, nightmare, fearful.

It's a very powerful tool. It's usable. I've used it for two or three things already.

But we always want to be aware of the limitations of the dangers. Watch the results in your searches. There's fine print at the bottom that says this was generated using AI.

Double check the responses. Double check the facts that it gives you. And the reason for that is that there are many ways in which the data can be skewed, can be altered, both intentionally and unintentionally.

There are people who poison the pool of data from which it's drawing its results and so on. But all of this brings us back to the biblical challenge for us to not be deceived, to be able to distinguish truth from error, to be able to operate in the realm of reality, not be fooled, not be misled, not be manipulated, not be subverted, and have our good intentions redirected and co-opted by doctrines of demons, by those who are speaking lies in hypocrisy, who have their own conscience seared with a hot iron, and so on. In that light, if you turn to 1 Timothy chapter 4, Paul, in warning about this express condition that the Spirit warns of in latter times, Paul counters these false notions of forbidding to marry and ordering people to abstain from foods.

These are just representative of people who say, you've got to either commit or not commit certain actions in order to be righteous and in order to be spiritual, to live a life that pleases God. These are the do's and the don'ts, as though we were still under law and not under grace. There are hundreds and hundreds of stipulations in the law that say do this and don't do that.

And this is a description of righteousness, but it is not the means of obtaining righteousness. They are expressions of righteousness by those who are in fact righteous internally, who are laying hold of God's righteousness by faith. You can't simply emulate the actions, any more than AI by emulating human actions of creating pictures, driving cars, composing essays, writing poetry, generating computer code, or any of the other things that it is able to do as well as, or even better than a human, doing these things doesn't make it human.

Emulating consciousness by sounding empathetic, sounding sympathetic, sounding interested, being patient, expressing gratitude, and so on. This is an artifice. It doesn't make it real.

It doesn't make it a genuine human being. And emulating righteousness doesn't make a person righteous. It, in many cases, makes them a hypocrite because there is a facade on the outside that does not represent the true thought and motivation of the heart on the inside.

So notice though how Paul counters this. He says, I'm warning you from the Holy Spirit. There are going to be deceptions.

There are going to be hypocrites telling lies. They are going to try to deceive. They are going to try to manipulate.

Notice, forbidding to marry and to abstain from foods in verse three, this is an effort to manipulate and to control others. It doesn't say they abstain from marriage. They don't eat foods.

They want other people to do this. Well, this is the malicious and malevolent use of any sort of technology, especially in this day and age, social media, artificial intelligence, communication over streaming media, and so on. It is specifically being used to manipulate others into desired behavior on the part of the bad actor.

I want you to vote this way. I want you to think this way. I want you to support this cause and withdraw support from that cause.

Manipulation is what Paul is talking about that the Holy Spirit warns of. That is exactly the situation in which we find ourselves. So what is the antidote? What is the solution? What is Paul's answer to this issue? Because we are facing it right now.

What do the scriptures say? How does Paul counter this forbidding to marry and abstain from foods? He responds with truth, not just scientific truth, not just reality-based truth, evidentiary truth. It is biblical truth. It is spiritually revealed.

It is something the Holy Spirit can enable and empower in our souls. God created people and food products in nature to be received with thanksgiving. How? By those who believe and know the truth.

If you know the truth and you believe it, you are insulated. You are vaccinated. You are inoculated against the infection that this deception is trying to plant.

Every creature of God is good and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving. To receive something with thanksgiving, think about a recent time when you received a gift. Birthday, Christmas, anniversary, some occasion.

You got a gift and you received it with thanksgiving. What is the nature of that thanksgiving? I got \$2 in the mail from the Nielsen TV ratings people. That was a gift.

And they gave it to me because this is a type of ploy that creates a, it's called

reciprocity. I've done something for you. Now you should do something for me.

I've sent you these two crisp dollar bills. Please take a few minutes and fill out my program watching survey online. And by giving me something, it prompts me to be a good guy and even the scales.

Now that was a gift of \$2, but I don't know these people. I understand that it is intentionally designed to get a response on their survey. Not necessarily a bad thing, but it's a ploy.

It is an effort to manipulate me into doing something. I probably wouldn't normally take the time to do. When you got a gift in the recent past and you were thankful for it, what is the substance and the nature of that thanksgiving? Did you receive it with thanksgiving? Why were you thankful? Oh boy, I always wanted a new toaster or whatever it was.

Why? It is an expression of love and interest and relationship from someone near at hand. Someone you know, someone in your family, someone close to you and has made an effort to give you something meaningful. They know something about you and they want you to have something that they're pretty sure you will enjoy, that you can use.

So if you were going to summarize all of that, what would you say? The giving of such a gift is an expression of healthy, positive relationship. Right? So when Paul says here, every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused. If it is received with thanksgiving, thanks for the sandwich.

Is that what we're saying? Thanks for the fruit. Thanks for the quinoa. Thanks for the green pepper.

Thanks for the, you know, whatever it may be. Received with thanksgiving is an acknowledgement that there is reciprocity of a positive nature by way of relationship with God. God has given me this.

I see it as from God. I thank him for it. He cared enough to supply all my needs according to his riches in glory.

He has made good on Jesus' claim that I need to take no thought for what I will eat or what I will drink or what I will wear because my father in heaven knows I have need of these things. And it isn't about the item that is received or the person that is received, the food that is received. It is an expression of and an invitation to appreciate and be thankful for relationship.

Right? It is sanctified by the word of God and prayer in verse five. What do you think about that? In the light of what we just noticed, what do you think of verse five? Which direction does the word of God flow? Who originates it and who receives it? It's the word

of God. So it comes from God to us, right? What is the direction of flow for prayer? It originates from us and goes to God.

If you're having a two-way conversation of thanksgiving and gratitude and promise and assurance, that's an expression of a healthy, positive relationship, isn't it? And it is sanctified. If it is in fact something I'm not supposed to eat, because this is not a blanket claim, this would be like saying, well, you can play with snakes and drink poisons because everything was made by God. The point here is not that every creature is good for food.

The point is when you have a relationship characterized by thanksgiving and concern and care and communication of a positive nature, what's going to happen? My father in heaven will not let me eat a rock or a snake or a scorpion. I will receive it as from him. And in communication with him, his word coming my way and my prayers going his way.

If there's anything wrong with this person or this food or this situation or this option or whatever it may be, this piece of news, this issue as it is communicated by the world to me, my father in heaven is going to let me know. And I will be thankful to him for blessing to my nourishment and my health and my positive forward progress in life, those things which are truly good and warning me away from that which is not. I thought about turning there, but I'm just going to allude to it because you know this story very well.

Do you remember when the wise men saw a star in the east and came to worship the newborn king of Israel? And they stopped in to see Herod because you would expect a newborn king to be at the palace. What does Herod do? Herod feigns positive interest. When you find him, let me know so that I can come worship him also.

It is a flat out hypocritical, seared conscience lie. Demons would love to find the Christ child and wipe it out. Nothing would make Satan happier.

And Herod is their willing complicit minion, factotum, servant. So what happens when the wise men do find the house and the child considerably older than manger days? They give him the gold frankincense and myrrh and then what happens? They say, well, guess we better pack up and go back and let Herod know. What happens? They are warned in a dream not to go back.

Think about that. Obey those that have the rule over you. Honor the king.

The king said, come back and let me know if I'm going to obey the government. What happened? God warned faithful men who were positively disposed and wanted to worship the Lord Jesus not to do something that would be harmful. In this case, it was a supernatural revelation.

We get supernatural revelations every time the Holy Spirit helps us understand the word

of God. Psalm 55, 22. With this, we will close and go to the break.

Psalm 55, 22 cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you. He will never suffer the righteous to be moved. If you look at the preceding verse to which this promise is a response.

This enemy, his speech is smooth as butter, but war is in his heart. His words are softer than oil, yet they are unsheathed swords. Someone is flattering.

Someone is speaking smooth, buttery words, but they are swords coming out of the sheath, deadly. Cast that burden of the potential for deceit on the Lord. He will sustain you.

He will never let the righteous be shaken. The promises of God are almost entirely presented on conditions. There are conditions for claiming them.

If we're not going to be moved and God is going to hold us and sustain us, what is the condition? What is the adjective in verse 22 that makes all the difference? He will never suffer an Israelite to be moved. He will never suffer a Christian. He will never suffer a well-meaning, sincere fool to be moved.

Who is it that doesn't get moved? The righteous. For me to claim and have confidence in this promise, what do I need? Righteousness. Where does that righteousness come from? I'm trying to remember.

We lay hold of righteousness, how? By faith. Faith in what? Faith in the Word of God. Trusting God.

Prayerfully submitting our requests to God. Sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. If I'm sanctified, what's another word for that? Righteous.

There's no remaining sin. Sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. God will never suffer the righteous to be moved.

How relaxed can I now be? If there's something coming my way that I need to make a decision about, that I need to ward off, that I need to say no to, that I need to flee from, to eschew, will I know it? If I'm righteous, I will. If I am engaged in a healthy communication relationship with my Father in heaven, the Word of God is going to come to me, my prayers are going to go to Him, and I shall not be, I shall not be moved. Like a tree planted by the waters, I shall not be moved.

Which makes observing the world and its foibles and its developments kind of fun. We are secure on solid ground. Our house is built on the rock.

Our feet are set on a rock. We're not going to be shaken. We're not going to be moved.

We're not going to be upended. We're not going to be subverted. We're not going to be misled, deceived, neutralized.

It rests on the power of God. We rest in the promise of God and the righteousness that comes by faith. Well, more about this when we come back from the break.