

Theme: The blessed life for which we were created is not found in the technology of the iWorld and the glow of its screens, but in the Presence of God and real human relationships.

I. Intro – Everyone Under His Own Fig Tree

- A. Recent quiet time - every person sits under his own fig tree, tends his own vine
- B. The prophets picture of the blessed life
- C. Sci-fi/tech movies - the blessed life looks quite different!
- D. How do we experience a blessed life here in the iWorld?
- E. How does technology fit into a blessed life?

II. The Blessed Life

- A. The context - Psalm 20
 - 1. A prayer/blessing for protection in battle
May the Lord answer you when you are in **distress**; may the name of the God of Jacob **protect you**.
²May he send you **help** from the sanctuary and grant you **support** from Zion... ⁵ **We will shout for joy when you are victorious** and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord grant all your requests. Psalms 20:1–2, 5
 - 2. Blessing is found in God - not technology
Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. Psalms 20:7
 - a. Facing needs, we are tempted to look to technology
 - b. Horses and chariots - ultimate technology of the day
 - c. Blessing and life found in trusting in God
- B. Trust God, not technology - repeated often in Scripture

No king is saved by **the size of his army**; no warrior escapes by his great **strength**. ¹⁷ A horse is a vain **hope** for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. ¹⁸ **But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him**, on those whose **hope** is in his unfailing love, ¹⁹ to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ We wait in **hope** for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. Psalms 33:16–20

- 1. Not saved by army, strength, horse - our strength/technology
- 2. But God is with those who fear Him and hope in Him

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; ¹¹ the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. ¹² Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, ¹³ for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. Psalms 147:10–13

- 1. Not saved by strength of horse or man - our strength/technology
- 2. But God is with those who fear Him and hope in Him
- 3. He strengthens us and blesses us
Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the Lord. Isaiah 31:1
 - 1. Don't rely on horses, chariots, Egypt - technology
 - 2. Look to God!
 - 3. In many ways this is the central theme of Isaiah

C. This is not against technology - it is an issue of trust

1. None of these verses say don't have horses
2. Nothing in Scripture says to not have or use technology
3. The issue is where is my trust?

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. Psalms 20:7

The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. Proverbs 21:31

- a. We have technology - horses and chariots
- b. We can use them to serve us
- c. But our heart must trust in God - not the technology

III. The Temptation of Technology

A. Technology is necessary & wonderful - in its place

1. We must not ever become anti-technology
2. Human beings are called to create technology
God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**" Genesis 1:28
 - a. We were not meant to stay in the Garden - fill earth
 - b. We were not meant to stay non-technological - subdue & rule - bring out potential
 - c. Technology - we unlock & rule creation, as God called

d. God's basic instruction to mankind is to develop the resources of the natural world and use God-given abilities to bring glory to him. To put it in more practical terms, God is glorified in our creativity, whether that leads us to craft a painting that moves our hearts to praise or to design a plow that will better allow us to plant and harvest a crop. - Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith After the Digital Explosion*

e. In other words, obedience to God requires that we create technology. This tells us that there is some inherent good in the technology we create. Whenever we express our God-given creativity by coming up with something that will help us be more fruitful, that will multiply and promote human flourishing in a way that honors God, we act out of the imago Dei, the "image of God" in which we were created. Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith After the Digital Explosion*

B. Since the Fall, technology offers to make us gods

1. The Fall - we tried to be gods - remove limits
2. Technology promises to remove limits, make us like gods
3. This is a huge temptation for us - we don't want limits
4. So we embrace technology - and become its slave!

C. Technology tries to be a god rather than a servant

1. Because of the curse, we look for relief in this world
2. Technology promises and often gives that relief
3. It calls for our trust - and we are tempted to give it

The things we create can—and will—try to become idols in our hearts. Though they enable us to survive and thrive in a fallen world, the very aid they provide can deceive us with a false sense of comfort and security, hiding our need for God and his grace. Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith After the Digital Explosion*

Technology presents us with a unique spiritual challenge. Because it is meant to serve us in fulfilling our created purpose, because it makes our lives easier, longer, and more comfortable, we are prone to assign to it something of a godlike status. We easily rely on technology to give our lives meaning, and we trust technology to provide an ultimate answer to the frustration of life in a fallen world. Because of this, technology is uniquely susceptible to becoming an idol, raising itself to the place of God in our lives. Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith After the Digital Explosion*

D. This is why technology so easily can become obsessive

1. Picture of young people all staring at their phones
2. But in the end, this false god can not deliver

IV. Applying the Word - Living A Blessed Life In The iWorld

- A. Check out link for further resources in B'Ridge - read and think!
- B. Centering my life on God and creating real relationships
 1. The blessed life has God at its center
 - a. Spend time in the Word and prayer daily
 - b. Make Sabbath a priority - including Sunday worship

2. The blessed life contains real, face to face relationships
 - a. Build into the local church - Sundays, small groups, relationships
 - b. Make face to face relationship the priority - not facebook/Skype/phone friendships
 - c. Spend time just being with people - no agenda - just eat, drink, sit around a fire, do things together
3. The blessed life is centered on God and filled with real human relationships

C. Control and limit the influence of technology

1. Use technology - to enhance, not to replace
2. Practicing Sabbath with our technology
 - a. Learn to use the off switch - daily
 - b. Don't go into the iWorld until you have spend time in the Word and prayer
 - c. Practice focusing on the people around us - not our glowing screens
 - d. Focus on life happening around you - don't "see your account in the woods" - see the woods!
 - e. Create focal practices - things that you enjoy and renew you, and turn of the iWorld when doing them
3. Technology - a wonderful servant and an awful master!

D. Prayer - living in but not of the iWorld

Living A Blessed Life In the iWorld

Psalm 20:7
November 10, 2013
Prayer
Numbers 6:24-26

24 ““The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24–26

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. Psalms 20:7