

The Gospel and ChatGPT

Artificial intelligence (AI) is growing rapidly in the year 2025. One of the common tools being used today is ChatGPT, which is an artificial intelligence chatbot that was released in 2022. Within ChatGPT, you can ask questions, and an intelligent written response is provided. We live in a world of rapid information, and AI tools can answer complex questions in seconds.

Last month, the CEO of OpenAI, the research company that created ChatGPT, revealed on a podcast that if ChatGPT users are involved in a lawsuit, OpenAI would be required to produce questions and statements that were submitted to the chatbot as there is no legal confidentiality in those written exchanges. This is important because companies are now using tools like ChatGPT to draft emails for organizational announcements. Students are using AI tools like this to help do their homework. Others are going to Chat GPT for advice on mental health or relationships. There is doctor-patient confidentiality, but not so with ChatGPT. Can you believe that people are now turning to computers, not just for directions or recipes, but for **religious answers**?

In a time when AI tools, like **ChatGPT**, can carry conversations, answer Bible questions, and even explain religious topics, some might begin to wonder: *Can tools like this help spread the gospel?* Or even more seriously, *can they replace the need for preachers or Bible study?*

The gospel is not artificial, meaning it was not created by humans. Technology has tools available that we can use, but the power remains in the gospel. God revealed His will through His inspired word, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Timothy 3:16). Paul taught, *"If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 14:37). Peter wrote, *"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness"* (2 Peter 1:3). AI may have effective uses, but we can't allow it to think for us. We still have an obligation to read, study, and obey God's word. Our attitude should be like that of Peter's, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* (John 6:68). ChatGPT can be a helpful tool, but we need to use it with caution. It pulls information from human sources, many of which include false teaching and worldly values.

In a world where people are turning to search engines for answers, we should continue to uphold the truth of the gospel. Technology is changing but the truth never changes. Our responsibility remains to point people toward Jesus as *"the way, the truth, and the life."* (John 14:6). The church should still be *"the pillar and ground of the truth."* (1 Timothy 3:15)

God's will has not been entrusted to be conveyed by computers, but preachers and teachers. *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"* (Romans 10:14)

- by Josh McCord

Influencing Our Children

Influence and education start sooner than most parents imagine. It begins long before children are responsible for the things they do.

The most powerful school in all the world is the home and the influence of godly parents. The most permanent impressions are learned from mothers and fathers. Parents, it is very difficult to convince your child:

- 1) That the church is the most important thing in all the world - if you often miss services.
- 2) That the church is the greatest institution in the world - if you permit them to neglect services to go elsewhere.
- 3) That the church is to be held in higher esteem than anything - if you insist that they get their school lessons, but permit them to miss Bible study.
- 4) That they ought to respect the church - if you continually criticize the leadership, the preacher and other members.

- by Everett Hardin

"You're NOT Going To Change Me!"

In a discussion with a denominational preacher, it was noted that we have some real and serious doctrinal differences. "Would you be willing to discuss these in a friendly way?" I asked. He responded: "I'm not going to try to convert you, and you DEFINITELY aren't going to change me!" While the attitude he expressed is very common these days, we think it is wrong on several levels.

1) This attitude certainly conveys the idea: "I'm right, and couldn't possibly be wrong." No one can afford to think that way. Consider Apollos (Acts 18). He was a well educated man from a respected center of Biblical studies; he was an eloquent speaker; and he was highly committed to spreading his message (vs. 24-25). But when he arrived in Ephesus, two 'ordinary Christians' (Aquila and Priscilla) recognized his faulty understanding and reached out to him with help (vs. 26). To his great credit, he accepted their instruction, changed, and went on to be a faithful and effective preacher of the Word (1 Cor. 3:4ff). That would have never happened if he had proudly said: "You DEFINITELY aren't going to change me!" Let us all be open to the reality that we just might be wrong, and if so we WANT to be instructed "in the way of God more perfectly."

2) This preacher's response also suggests that he isn't really interested in ME! We differ. He acknowledges this. Yet he has no interest in changing my understanding. How can this be? If these differences are significant enough to provoke his 'you won't change me' reply, then they are surely important enough that he ought to want to change me. Yet, he says no. Out of love for my soul he should want to teach me (2 Tim. 2:25), but he won't.

3) His reaction to the offer to study our differences also shows that he is content to remain in a divided state. In so doing, he is directly counteracting the desire and prayer of Jesus that we be united (John 17:20,21)

His response was a common one, but it exposes some seriously wrong attitudes. Think!