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Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

Here are some of the news headlines we're watching.

Speaker 2 ([00:02](#)):

The conference was over the president one of the [inaudible 00:00:05]-

Speaker 3 ([00:04](#)):

Americans worshiping government over God-

Speaker 4 ([00:07](#)):

Extremely rare safety move by a major-

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17 years the Palestinians of Israeli negotiators-

Speaker 6 ([00:25](#)):

This [inaudible 00:00:26]-

Janet Parshall ([00:25](#)):

Hi, friends. Welcome to In The Market with Janet Parshall. Question, show of hands as you're listening all across the country, anybody use tech today? You can't even ask that question with a straight face anymore. We are so tech-reliant right now it is crazy. You can't even put anything in the microwave without having tech. I certainly can't talk to you every day without tech. Those handheld devices, mm-hmm, yep. And then all of those social media platforms. So like it or not, tech is here to stay.

Janet Parshall ([00:55](#)):

But if you go to the scripture, and scripture doesn't live in isolation, by the way. It permeates every single aspect of our life. If in Him we live and move and have our being, if whatever we do we're just doing heartily as unto the Lord then our tech decisions likewise should also be glorifying Him. And that's sometimes not so easy to do. Sometimes we start with the flawed idea that God doesn't care about our using tech. I beg to differ and I think we're in a fleshed head idea a little bit this hour. But also, how are we honoring God when we make bad tech decisions? We'll unpack that as well.

Janet Parshall ([01:27](#)):

I am so excited to have a fellow Scotsman back again. I just love this man. Is he gifted? Brilliant, a deep thinker. Andrew McDiarmid is with us, Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute. He serves as Media Relations Specialist and Assistant to Dr. Stephen Meyer, at Discovery Institute. He's got an MA in teaching from Seattle Pacific and a BA in English and creative writing which come through loud and clear from the University of Washington. But he's got a tech column that he writes at Newsmax. It's called Authentic Technology. We're going to break those two words down in a bit. And it explores today's technology landscape and encourages readers to live authentically in the digital age.

Janet Parshall ([02:04](#)):

Now I just don't think he's a good writer, a whole lot of major publications likewise think he's a good writer. His works show up in the New York Post, The Houston Chronicle, the San Francisco Chronicle, the American Spectator, the Federalist, RealClearPolitics, Technoskeptic Magazine, and the list goes on and on and on. I have for your reviewing pleasure, linked a piece to the New York Post that's entitled Big Tech is Subtly Controlling Our Lives and we Need to Fight Back. I bet that got your attention. So we're going to talk about a lot of things this hour.

Janet Parshall ([02:31](#)):

First of all, Andrew, thank you, thank you, for the gift of one hour of your time. And I have to ask a question, particularly with your MA and your bachelor's degree, what is it you found attractive about technology and more to the point, why have you spent the last five years doing a deep dive on this?

Andrew McDiarmid ([02:48](#)):

Janet, thank you very much for having me. I wasn't always into technology. It really started in the last five, six years when I really focused on it. Before, I was a teacher. I was in the classroom, I was seeing how technology was shaping the lives of my students and indeed my own and my family's life. And that's when I started to realize, gosh, I should study this more. And so I didn't go to school to learn technology but I am immersed in it, just like all of us. And I decided to dig a little deeper.

Janet Parshall ([03:23](#)):

Yeah, wow. So again, five years you've really focused in on this and you've come up with a lot of great ideas. I want to unpack that word because the name of your column at Newsmax is called Authentic Technology. That's very interesting couplings of words. And if there's authentic technology, is there inauthentic technology?

Andrew McDiarmid ([03:42](#)):

Yes. I think there is. That word authentic is a powerful word. At its heart, it means of or from the author. And we know that the author of our lives is the one that created and designed us. But not everybody grasps that. Not everybody realizes that yet. And so I chose that word very carefully because I do want us to get to the heart of who we are. And believe it or not, I chose the word authentic even before I dug deeper, Janet. And so after what I found in the last five years, authentic really is where it's at because that's where we should be heading for our authentic selves as the buzzword is these days. But really, what is that?

Janet Parshall ([04:22](#)):

Yeah. That's exactly right. What is that? All right. So when we take a look at the work that you've been doing for several years, you've decided that we ... I'm going to start first with God. Everything flows from that. So plead your case, if you would, Andrew, on how God infuses himself in the midst of our choices about technology. For some people, that's a hard sell. For others, it's a self-evident truth.

Andrew McDiarmid ([04:44](#)):

Well I tell you when you realize that we serve a God of technology then it comes into focus. I was reminded of this during a recent Mother's Day sermon. My pastor was reviewing Psalm 139 and David saying, you're familiar with all my ways. But how does God know us that well? Better than our parents, our friends, our spouse even. Well the answer lies in versus 13 through 16 of that passage. "For you

created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. My frame wasn't hidden from you when I was made in the Secret Place, when I was woven together in the depths of the Earth." So He saw us there and He made us there before anybody else knew us.

Andrew McDiarmid ([05:27](#)):

And I dug a little deeper into that and I found the word *sākak*. It's the Hebrew word for knit in verse 13. And it means to hedge or fence about, to cover or lay over, and it also means to weave which is exactly the meaning of the word technology. And we can get into that as well. But here we are, God weaving us together. And here we are now, able to weave things together, create things, build things. And why are we doing it? We're doing it for His glory. We're doing it to fulfill the good works that He has set out for us to do long before we even came on the scene.

Janet Parshall ([06:06](#)):

Yeah. Amen and amen. So I'm remiss. And let me pull back the word authentic and just linger on the word technology for a while. How do we define that word? Because you've found some very interesting things to take us to the Greek as well. Talk to me about this.

Andrew McDiarmid ([06:20](#)):

Absolutely, yeah. The first exciting discovery I made about five years ago as I was starting to study all of this was that technology is actually all about us, just not in the selfish, passive, unthinking way that we often see it taking hold of us today. The word technology is the sum of the ways in which social groups provide themselves with the material objects of their civilization. Now I thought to myself, well where do these material objects come from? The stuff we use for life?

Andrew McDiarmid ([06:48](#)):

Well the prefix techno, or techna, means art, skill, a system of making or doing. And when I dug deeper I found the root teks, T-E-K-S which listeners, if you don't take anything else, take that with you. And we can talk about that shortly.

Janet Parshall ([07:05](#)):

You are such a pro. We're going to take a break. We're going to pick it up at exactly that point. We're going to do, again, a deeper examination of technology. It's not going away and yet if every part of our life is to bring honor and glory to our Lord, how do we make those right kinds of decisions when it comes to technology? Andrew McDiarmid's been doing a lot of research on this lately and he wants to equip the saints, that's you and me. So we'll pick it back exactly at that point as we break apart the word technology and really discover that God is the great technician. We'll discover why after this.

Janet Parshall ([07:54](#)):

25 percent of unchurched adults consider themselves skeptics and a third of those don't attend church. In America, we're experiencing a decrease in Evangelism. That's why I've chosen Jesus conversations as this month's truth tool. Learn how to share the good news to a [inaudible 00:08:07] world with grace and truth. Ask for your copy of Jesus Conversations when you give a gift of any amount to In The Market. Call 877-JANET58, 877-JANET58 or go to inthemarketwithjanetparshall.org.

Janet Parshall ([08:20](#)):

It is nothing short of a privilege to spend time with Andrew McDiarmid. He's the Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute. He serves as the Media Relations Specialist there and as Assistant to Dr. Stephen Meyer. But he really, really, really has been doing some deep writing and speaking at conferences and churches on the subject of technology and as followers of Christ, our relationship with this topic. And boy, I tell you, that's a timely and important conversation. Tech's not going away any time soon. We talk on a regular basis on this program about some of the threats that technology poses. But there still is to be mandatorily a God-honoring way when we use this technology.

Janet Parshall ([08:54](#)):

So Andrew, if I may, because I didn't want to rush and I thank you for your sensitivity to the break we had to take. If you could go back to unpacking the word technology so they'll really understand what it means?

Andrew McDiarmid ([09:05](#)):

Sure. At the heart of the word technology is the root teks, T-E-K-S. And it literally means to weave or fabricate. So the root is where we get words like ax, carve, and build. And words like textile, tectonic, and text, and tiller. So the heart of the word technology is the art and skill we use to weave together, to make and build the objects we find useful for human living.

Andrew McDiarmid ([09:32](#)):

And the good news, Janet, is that this art and skill doesn't just refer to the original maker of a piece of technology. It also applies to us, the ones that are harnessing those tools. And I get really excited when I get this understanding of technology because it frees me up to make it about myself but just not in that selfish, passive, zombie-like way that we're getting into these days.

Janet Parshall ([09:53](#)):

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, so true. All right. You make the point that God is the master technician. Again, in some respects, that seems to be a self-evident truth because even the Heaven declares his glory, right? We read the Book of Genesis, we watch His handiwork. We see the change of the seasons, we understand the brilliance of His paint palette. That would be self-evident. But is it more than that?

Andrew McDiarmid ([10:14](#)):

Well we have the ability to create and weave together because God has it. And yes, you're right, it is self-evident as we read the scripture, but it just hit me as I reviewed Psalm 139. And you know it says it elsewhere in the Bible too. Psalm 119-73 says your hands have made me and fashioned me. Job 10-11 says, you clothed me with skin and flesh. You knit me together with bones and sinews. And as commentary Charles Spurgeon puts it this way; "We are covered in God cloth, marvelously wrought in His Secret Workshop. What tapestry," he asks, "can equal the human fabric?"

Andrew McDiarmid ([10:51](#)):

So I think it's just plain and simple. We are technology of God. And we have the ability to create technology that we can harness for His glory. And I think especially in this era of the digital age, we just have to really be aware. We have to think carefully. We have to be willing to purge what is necessary to do that kingdom business with the tech tools that we choose to have in our midst.

Janet Parshall ([11:21](#)):

Now let me bring this down to terraform. I understand what you're saying but I bet there are some that are saying, wait a minute, maybe they're not thinking of it in these terms. But I bet if I did a survey, we'd come up with this as a majority opinion. Which is our average position or our average perspective on technology is a passive mode, not an active mode. Somebody else came up with the platform, all I have to do is do 142 characters and hit send. So how am I harnessing? It seems to me that there's very little of a role that I play in my relationship with technology. Flush that out for me.

Andrew McDiarmid ([11:52](#)):

Sure. Well just to give one example, somebody offers you a horse. What are you going to do? You're going to jump on it. You're going to use it to pull things. You're going to use it as a tool. Well you jump on Twitter or any other social media platform or you get on a laptop that's got great specs, what are you going to do with it? Is it going to be an ornament? Is it going to be something you can whack somebody across the head with, figuratively or literally? It's a tool. You're going to harness it. You're going to start using it. When you enter those characters, 120 characters or 240, whatever they allow these days, you are crafting something using that tool. But whatever you put out there is going to honor or dishonor God. It's going to hijack you in your vision or it's going to support that vision and help you move closer to that.

Andrew McDiarmid ([12:49](#)):

So yeah, and you could go across the board and say, "How am I going to use this? How am I going to use that?" It's, in a very real sense, it's all up to you. It's not the maker of the tool, it's how you use it.

Janet Parshall ([13:00](#)):

Yeah. So pedantic question but I think it's important. Does God care how I use my tech?

Andrew McDiarmid ([13:08](#)):

God does care. As much as he cares that you would complete the good works that He has planned ahead of time for you. You could while it away. You could store the money that He's given you and just not come back to it, not make it grow. You can plant seeds that don't end up sprouting. You can do whatever you want with the time that He's given you and the resources He's given you. But I think there's the expectation that if He gives you gifts, he wants you to use them. If He gives you the ability to create, He wants you to do that but responsibly. Think of the alcohol commercial, drink responsibly. Well live responsibly. Create responsibly. Produce responsibly.

Janet Parshall ([13:55](#)):

Yeah. I like that. That's a great challenge. All right one more thing and your major points before we go even deeper in some of the things that you've written about. You've been reading about someone who discusses the phenomenon of technique as a way to understand big tech's influences on our lives. Who's this person and how did he attract your attention?

Andrew McDiarmid ([14:13](#)):

Well I'm so glad I discovered Mr. Jacques Ellul because I think he can really help us understand how technology shapes us today. And he was writing back in the 40s, the 50s, the 60s. He was a French sociologist, a theologian, so a Christian. He studied the Word intensely and wrote books about it. And he

was also a philosopher of technology. His lifetime spanned almost the entire 20th century, 1911 to 1994.

Andrew McDiarmid ([14:39](#)):

So he had a front row seat to observe how modern society was being impacted, slowly and surely, by modern technology. He wrote whole books on how it was but he also wrote books on the solution which was bringing yourself into a Christ-centered life and creating this counterbalance to technique and technology and what it was doing to humanity.

Janet Parshall ([15:04](#)):

Hmm. And he was a Christian which I find interesting. And just think for a minute, you were talking about writing in the 40s and 50s. Look at the tech then versus where we are now 50, 60 years hence. And yet he was beginning to see even at that stage that there was this profound intersection with who we are as human beings.

Janet Parshall ([15:22](#)):

So when we come back, I want to pick up where we were before about authentic technology and I want to talk about that. And by the way, if there's something in our conversation that catches your attention and you've got a question, I'd love to invite you into this conversation at 877-548-3675, 877-548-3675. Again, our guest, Andrew McDiarmid. By the way, don't forget he's got a fabulous podcast on Scotland, I have to throw that in, by the way. But he's also a very prolific and very gifted writer. Again, I have one of his pieces from the New York Post as a resource so check it out. Back with Andrew, right after this.

Janet Parshall ([16:04](#)):

Andrew McDiarmid is with us. He is Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute. He serves as Media Relations Specialist and Assistant there to Dr. Stephen Meyer. Writes prolifically on the topic of technology. In fact, he has a tech column at Newsmax called Authentic Technology. And that's exactly how we started our conversation so I'm going to go back and unpack this further. So you started to tell us exactly what authentic technology does but more than that, as you've been working on this, you've come up with a three-step approach to digital authenticity. Talk to me about that. Or you also call it Digital Wellness. Before you give me the three steps, talk to me about what it means to be digitally authentic. That's hard to say but you get my drift.

Andrew McDiarmid ([16:48](#)):

Sure. Yeah, as we mentioned earlier, to be authentic is to be of the author, genuine. Not a copy, not false, not fake. And so I think it's a great way to approach digital wellness, is the general term for it. But I prefer digital authenticity just because we need to get to the heart of what technology is and how we can live it out.

Andrew McDiarmid ([17:12](#)):

There are three steps in the process that I've been developing. The first is to renew our understanding of technology and I think we're working on that right now just unpacking what technology means, the word, becoming fully aware of how we interact with it and how it's affecting us. Then we move into resetting our relationship and that involves reconnecting with our vision, asking some hard-hitting questions about our current tech around us, all the gadgets and platforms. And then purging anything

that doesn't help us accomplish step three which is to release our potential as human beings. Everything is geared toward this third step, Janet, because it's what we were created to do as Ephesians 2-10 reminds us.

Janet Parshall ([17:53](#)):

Hmm. All right, so let me linger on that third one, releasing our potential. Again, you live in the ionosphere. You work at Discovery Institute. These are some of the brightest minds in the world not just in the United States. And so living in the ionosphere and working with great ideas is something that you do on a regular basis.

Janet Parshall ([18:10](#)):

I'm talking to Mrs. Jones in Topeka, Kansas and you're telling her that she needs to renew our conversations, reset our relationship, and release our potential. She's going, "Well I FaceTime my daughter and I sometimes will post something on Instagram but that's about as far as I go." And it's such a one-off or such an offhanded part of the day to day decisions that so many Americans make, they fail to think it comes under the canopy of honoring God. So how do we release our potential even if our association with technology is not broad, it's not like what we do here in Washington, DC or you do at the Discovery Institute where we couldn't breathe without the technology. But the average person out there who's going, yeah well I'll post where we went on our vacation on Facebook time but I'm not sure how all of this stuff applies to me. This is your chance to tell them why this is germane to them.

Andrew McDiarmid ([18:59](#)):

Sure, absolutely. It's one of the reasons why I love this topic, Janet, because technology does affect all of us. Every single one of us. We all interact with these gadgets. We all interact with our tech tools and to some extent, screens. And so whether you are that person in Topeka, Kansas who just occasionally does FaceTime and maybe a post here and there and watched television and that's the extent of it, that's fine. But let's remember that technology are the pencils we use. It's the cup we reach for in the kitchen. It's all the things we've created, the material objects of our civilization.

Andrew McDiarmid ([19:39](#)):

So if we can all just start from a place of gosh, I was created by a master technician, somebody who had me in mind before anybody else knew me. Somebody who fashioned and shaped my bones, my sinews, everything that is part of who I am, physically, mentally, spiritually. And that person has given me good works to do. So if we start from that part, then we can realize, okay, what am I going to? What am I going to use to do it? And so ... Yeah.

Andrew McDiarmid ([20:15](#)):

And then I'm speaking to the person who uses tech prolifically. Just got their phone out every five minutes and has screens all around them. It's the same thing. We have to reset our relationship, go back to the beginning. Who are we made from? What are we made from? And what is our purpose here? And then you go from there.

Janet Parshall ([20:34](#)):

Hmm. So now I want to go ... And thank you. That was a very excellent explanation. So we talk often on this program and even if a lot of people who are listening to us couldn't identify their specificity, they're

cognizant of the influence of big tech. We know that it can hold hostage information it disagrees with. We know that it can try to influence elections. We know that if you don't tow the company line on how to treat a virus, you're going to be silenced. I mean the list goes on and on and on. So now, how does technique help us to understand how big tech influences us today?

Andrew McDiarmid ([21:11](#)):

Yeah, great question, Janet. In his book, the Technological Society back in 1954, Ellul talks about this phenomenon of technique. Now let me tell you, technique by itself is nothing controversial. It's straightforward. It's just how we do things, the methods by which we get stuff done. And part of the Industrial Revolution, technique was localized. It was various. It developed slowly at the pace of humans. It didn't get ahead of us. We developed it as we honed our tools and worked our lives. But now, look at us. The Industrial Revolution started to replace human muscle and mind as a source of energy and information. And since then, technique has entered every sphere of our lives. And the question is, who controls technique in this age? And the answer, Janet, as you've pointed out is big tech. They dictate the methods by which we access information, connect with other people, entertain ourselves, get news, you name it.

Janet Parshall ([22:14](#)):

Wow. All right, I want to pick it up at that point when we come back. And then I also want to get into some of the challenges. You started out beautifully by reminding us who's we are and the kinds of choices we should be making when we engage with technology. But I also want to talk about some of the pitfalls because you're right about that as well. Let's talk about artificial intelligence and the fact that tech can really take over our lives like, whoa. And this part of the country, we have something called Kudzu. It's a vine that covers everything and it'll strangle the trees and the bushes. So like Kudzu, how do we make sure technology doesn't strangle who we are in Christ? Back after this.

Janet Parshall ([22:46](#)):

We could all safely say that society seems to be decaying before our eyes. On In The Market, we're tackling the issues head on from a biblical perspective so you'll know how to influence and occupy as scripture says. Become a partial partner today and support In The Market. As a benefit, you'll receive exclusive resources every week prepared just for you. Call 877-JANET58 or go online to inthemarketwithjanetparshall.org.

Janet Parshall ([23:29](#)):

If you are just joining us, we're having a fascinating conversation on technology, thinking bigger about this topic and our relationship with technology, particularly as children of the most High King. What a wonderful teacher we have with Andrew McDiarmid. By the way, if you missed the first half of this because of technology, you can go to our website inthemarketwithjanetparshall.org. Left-hand side, look for the words past programs, download this hour in its entirety or either of the two hours we do every day going back a full year and you won't have missed a thing and it works with your schedule that way.

Janet Parshall ([24:00](#)):

But in the meantime, let me reintroduce our friend if you are just joining us. Andrew McDiarmid is a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute and my editorial comment at this point which means he's a brainiac. They just don't let anybody in there, okay? These are some of the best thinkers in the world.

Love that organization. He also serves as a Media Relations Specialist and Assistant to Dr. Stephen Meyer there. He's got a couple of degrees. One, a master's in teaching from Seattle Pacific. Another, a bachelor's in creative writing from Washington, University of Washington. But he writes on tech which is what we're talking about this hour. He's got a column in Newsmax called Authentic Technology and we're really going deeper on those two words, together, what that means. And he likes to explore today's technology landscape and encourages readers to live authentically in the digital age. His writings are everywhere, New York Post, Houston Chronicle, San Francisco Chronicle, American Spectator, Federalist, the list goes on and on and on.

Janet Parshall ([24:52](#)):

So we just got to big tech which I think is fascinating and then we're going to go to some of the sand traps that are out there as well. So you talk about big tech dictating the ways, the methods by which we get information, how we connect with other people, how we entertain ourselves, how we get news and events which by the way, maybe it's my perch that I sit on, Andrew, but I have to tell you that's particularly problematic. When there's a search engine out there that will take you to only one side of the political spectrum when you're trying to do your research, that's controlling information. Now here's where you get into that world at the Constitution. Free people parish without a free press. When you start picking and choosing what I can read, I am a people held captive. My people parish for lack of knowledge. So talk to me about that because this isn't an accident. This is a nefarious game plan. And the sky is not falling. I don't have a spirit of fear, but I'm going to be wise as a serpent. Talk to me about this.

Andrew McDiarmid ([25:42](#)):

Sure, yeah. And we've been talking about Jacque Ellul's Phenomenon of Technique. This is the method by which big tech moves us slowly and surely toward their chosen ends using their choice of methods for their purposes. And you can see right away how this will come at odds with us as Christians who are trying to conduct kingdom business, trying to live out a life of purpose and do those good works that God has planned ahead of time. Big tech doesn't care about those good works. So either we conform to them or we're going to have them conform to our purpose and to our vision.

Andrew McDiarmid ([26:18](#)):

So that's why I thought technique was an amazing way to understand all of this because then you start to see. Oh yeah, they took away the home button on the iPhone. And that's a tiny little thing. They have every right to do that. But they did it and they make us interact with the phone in different ways. Oh yeah, Netflix, they'll auto play the next episode. I don't even have to touch it. But wait, what if I want those rolling credits to determine whether I should go to bed or not or do something more important? And then you get to the more nefarious things like the pregnant man emoji that was quietly introduced to millions of smart phones recently. It's a small thing, but it's a huge thing and it's all technique. It's all the methods by which they are moving us toward their chosen ends.

Andrew McDiarmid ([27:05](#)):

And there are plenty other examples. Every listener out there could come up with 50, I'm telling you. Your favorite store moving to app-based coupons that require a smartphone and another app. Movie theaters, I love going to the movies and I went there recently and I couldn't talk to a human. I couldn't get a ticket from a human. They directed me to a screen. And they were willing to just watch me do it in case I had any questions. But I was interacting with a screen instead of a beautiful human being. And

fitness trackers. Your walk or your jog or your swimming session has gone from informal to formal, governed and monitored by data and big tech instead of your own mind. So I think we can get the picture here. This is technique, this is what big tech uses to move us along the way.

Janet Parshall ([27:52](#)):

Yeah. So one of the verses that is most problematic to me in scripture is that the day is going to come when even the righteous will be deceived. So if you get big tech who's subtly changes your worldview, pregnant man emojis, first example. Oh, it's just commonplace, of course it must happen. Or a search engine only takes you to leftist organizations, never to centrist or right organizations which by the way, is absolutely substantiated. That isn't rumor or opinion, that's fact and a lot of people have decried this. That's why other platforms have tried and failed when you're the 800 pound gorilla, nobody can compete with you.

Janet Parshall ([28:24](#)):

So where they are subtly controlling our lives. Again, I want to underscore you and I, sons and daughters of the most High King, I'm not afraid here. But it seems to me I'm going to have to figure out again with this idea of technique how I reset what I do with technology. Talk to me about that.

Andrew McDiarmid ([28:41](#)):

Sure. And Janet, the question what is behind our screens? You do have to think about. Sure it's the tech companies and they utilize human psychology and they get tips from casinos on how to keep us hooked, how to keep us coming back for more. But deeper than that, is the father of lies. Satan who wants to deceive us, who wants to undermine our connection with God, our relationship with God. And let's not forget, the Bible describes him in Ephesians as the Prince of the Power of the Air. And all this data that's flying through the air, these digital signals, that's in his domain. And so thinking about that really brings us down to the root of it.

Andrew McDiarmid ([29:23](#)):

But it's all about freeing yourself up to release your potential. That's what I keep coming back to. And that's just what we need to do. We need to remove the clutter of some of this technology that's not helping us. Let's be honest, it's not helping us with our kingdom business. We have a limited time on Earth. We have to conduct this kingdom business, these good works, and we have to just purge what is in the way. And let me be clear, Janet, I am a technology enthusiast. I am not somebody who's saying pack up your bags, sell your house, and go to the woods and forget all this. I am not. I love technology. I have one of the more recent phones. I'm in this. I'm immersed in it. And I've come to the realization that we have to control our use of technology. We have to be the boss of our tech.

Janet Parshall ([30:17](#)):

And we don't have an option otherwise we will be pulled away by vain and hollow philosophies predicated on this world rather than on the Word of God, [inaudible 00:30:24]. So we see that this reset is required of us right now but some might say, and again I'm talking about the digital platforms right now in particular. Because when you say big tech, that's where people's mind goes. So like I mentioned a moment ago, you don't have many competitors. They are a monopoly and I so hope that Congress will deal with them as such. We've got to refine section 230 which says when that shiny new thing called the internet showed up, we said we won't sue you so that you can grow. And now we're looking at all kinds

of reasons where they have in fact violated other people's 1st Amendment rights and there should be a lawsuit or 100 more. So we don't have any competitors that can take on these giants.

Janet Parshall ([31:04](#)):

Now even Elon Musk, by the way, in his desire to purchase Twitter, backs out because he discovers how many phony accounts were on Twitter. That's going to be an interesting case to watch. So if Elon Musk, a billionaire, is having these kinds of challenges, talk to us again, in our personal life, how do we make sure that we're not being lead astray when we're subtly using this kind of technology?

Andrew McDiarmid ([31:25](#)):

Absolutely, yeah. If you dig into the terms of service that all of these tech companies will throw at you before they allow you to use their "free" service, you'll see in a lot of jargon, you'll see the plain English which is if you don't like what we're saying, don't use it.

Janet Parshall ([31:42](#)):

Exactly.

Andrew McDiarmid ([31:43](#)):

That's what they're saying.

Janet Parshall ([31:43](#)):

Right.

Andrew McDiarmid ([31:45](#)):

So we need to take them at their word. We need to ... I'm not saying go and read all the terms of service, I'm telling you that's what it says. If you don't like the way we're doing things, get lost. And I think we should get lost with some tech companies and some platforms. I think we should walk away from them and find alternatives. I think we're entering a golden age of alternatives, Janet. Educational, media-related, you name it, entertainment. We are moving into that age and I think we can look for alternatives. Or just shut it off. You don't have to Google everything. You can wait. You don't have to know right away. You can find a book, you can go to the library. Learning is a journey, you don't have to get it right away, to take one example.

Andrew McDiarmid ([32:32](#)):

But I have some tips for your listeners that's going to help them get beyond this resetting that I talk about and just release their potential. Now whenever you want, I can share some of those.

Janet Parshall ([32:45](#)):

Good, well start that. I think that's essential, thank you.

Andrew McDiarmid ([32:49](#)):

Yeah. So the final step is where you practice keeping your tech in check so you can release your full potential as a human being made in His image. Now what are some actionable steps, Janet? Well take back the first and last hours of your day. Turn those gadgets and platforms off. Use that first and last

hour to think, reflect, pray, read, do something physical or mental that doesn't involve one of these gadgets. So there's the first actionable step.

Andrew McDiarmid ([33:18](#)):

The second thing that I would challenge the listeners is purposely leave your phone in another room or if you're leaving home, then leave it at home sometimes. Try this once a week and see how it goes and then start to do it a little more often. At first, you'll feel like, "Oh my gosh." You'll be grabbing your body saying where's my phone? But eventually, you'll come to appreciate the freedom and clarity that doing that can bring. Yeah.

Andrew McDiarmid ([33:44](#)):

A third thing, Janet is, look, cut 90 percent of the apps on your phone. I took a lot at mine a while back. I had 391 apps on my phone. And of all those, I only used 45 in the last week and only 20 of them for any measurable timeframe. So that literally meant I could delete 90 percent of my apps and just get rid of that clutter.

Janet Parshall ([34:08](#)):

Wow. I know you've got one more step so when we come back, if you would address that. And then I do want you to talk about AI and how that's going to pose some interesting questions philosophically, theologically, in terms of moral ethics. I think this is going to be a very interesting area, a new frontier, if you will. So I'm going to talk about AI and I want to talk about our intersection with that kind of technology. I want to draw you to our website, friends. inthemarketwithjanetparshall.org. Click on that red box, it'll take you to the information page. There's the bio for Andrew. There's a link to the Discovery Institute, tons of stuff there. And on the right-hand side, Andrew's piece in the New York Post, Big Tech is Subtly Controlling Our Lives and We Need to Fight Back. Read it for yourself. Back after this.

Janet Parshall ([35:01](#)):

Andrew McDiarmid is a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute where he serves as Media Relations Specialist and Assistant to Dr. Stephen Meyer. 877-548-3675. Gail, I thank you for your patience in Florida. Your question please for Andrew.

Gail ([35:17](#)):

All right, this is something I've been thinking about for a while. I was thinking of the Tower of Babel and how that compares to high tech. Both of them thought they were greater than God and God wasn't too happy with that at the Tower of Babel. And I was wondering how do you think God looks at big tech?

Janet Parshall ([35:35](#)):

Hmm.

Andrew McDiarmid ([35:37](#)):

Yeah, Gail, that's a great question. The Tower of Babel is a good example. It's humans doing their own thing, trying to get to this utopian tower vision of life and I think it is fair to compare that to what we're doing. When you disregard God, when you put God aside, when you say he doesn't exist, what's left? Well it's just a bunch of humans and living things trying to make the best of it while they're here. And that's the evolutionary idea.

Andrew McDiarmid ([36:09](#)):

And so when you have that, you're aiming for utopia. A lot of these tech companies, they ultimately want to conquer death. They want to conquer that final reality that we all have to face. This is the techno utopia. This perfect world that we can live in without God, we don't need God is their view. And I think that's dangerous and that's obviously an error in thinking. And so we can guard against that by not participating in that utopian vision, by holding these tech companies loosely and by purging what we need to purge so that we can do our kingdom business.

Janet Parshall ([36:48](#)):

Gail, I thank you for being a part of the conversation. Andrew, I would be remiss if I didn't go to the last point that you talk about and speak about when it comes to our reset with technology because I think this one is very important. Just before the break, you talked about thinning out our apps and you gave your use of apps as an example. What is that last point you want to make?

Andrew McDiarmid ([37:07](#)):

Sure. Well as we reset our relationship with technology, we're serving our current gadgets and platforms and subscriptions. Does this technology positively or negatively affect my walk with God, my time, my energy, my relationships, my memory, my finances, and so forth. And then just purge. Whatever doesn't make the cut. Any gadgets, subscription, platform, or tech company, that's getting between you and what you need to do.

Andrew McDiarmid ([37:35](#)):

And once you get that done, then you can release who you are, your potential and you're free to do that. You have the freedom that Jacques Ellul talks about. When we're in this technological society, it is very easy to end in a technical slavery, just where we're moving along, reflexes only, we're not reflecting, we're not thinking critically. And once we get past that, we can release our potential.

Andrew McDiarmid ([38:02](#)):

And as I mentioned, I'm trying to give you some actionable steps, listeners. Taking back those first and last hours of your day, purposefully leaving your phone in another room or at home, cutting 90 percent of the apps on your phone, you're not using them and you don't need them. Every day, I want you to wake up and say out loud, I'm going to live the human adventure today.

Andrew McDiarmid ([38:24](#)):

I think we can spend all day saying don't do this, don't do that. But really, it boils down to what we should do, what we can have the freedom to do. We're going to not have much time to do all of these technological things if we fill our lives with the things we're supposed to be doing. And that is living with human adventure. Ellul says we need to rediscover lost truths of life, lost values. And that means growing your relationship with others, taking time to learn and discover new things, producing something that wasn't there yesterday, actually playing with your kids, getting on the ground with them. Getting inspired by someone's art and creative efforts. Going outside. Things like that. Just where we're living the human adventure as Ellul calls it.

Janet Parshall ([39:10](#)):

I love that. I would love to end on that positive note but I do want to talk about a cautionary tale. You wrote about this earlier this year in a piece in Newsmax with the headline that said, AI Will Overtake Humans If We Let It. How close are we to that?

Andrew McDiarmid ([39:23](#)):

Yeah. Well I mean this in two ways. There's a lot of talk about the singularity in the last decade. That's the point when machine intelligence will exceed human intelligence and begins to rule us and take over us and kind of a hostile takeover. And I'm here to tell you, and my friends, Erik Larson, he's written a book called the Myth of Artificial Intelligence. George Gilder, the famed economist has also written a book recently about it. He says, that's nonsense. We're not getting close to any kind of singularity. Computers cannot think the way humans do and they never will. That's my assertion with that.

Andrew McDiarmid ([39:58](#)):

But here's how I think it could takeover humanity. That's if we willingly allow it. I started thinking about this. Well remember those humans in the Disney Pixar film, WALL-E? I know it's a cartoon for kids mainly. But they were cruising through space in the comfort of their high-tech armchairs relying on AI to help them eat, drink, communicate, learn. I mean they couldn't even walk anymore. And I know we might be a ways off from that but as we enter the era of the metaverse, I would tend to think that we're not actually. And so this takeover by AI is not going to be a forceful takeover as in the singularity. It's going to be if we allow our lives to be governed by AI, where we just sit back, forget about how to do things, and just live the good life.

Janet Parshall ([40:46](#)):

Hmm. In others words, what you're saying and I think you're so right on is that this will be an acquiescence. It won't be a hostile takeover, it'll be an acquiescence. So discernment in these latter days, understanding this technology, understanding who's we are, looking at His creative hand all around us. And I like what you did, Andrew, that you went beyond just the digital platforms which is what everybody sort of gravitates to when we think about technology. But you just mean technology in general. We have a creative God, who put things together and made us as people who could put things together. None of that should come as a surprise. We are the reflection of who he is made in his image.

Janet Parshall ([41:20](#)):

Thank you so much for your thought-provoking work on this. I have a funny feeling that given the fact that you write a column about this, we're going to see more in the future. So I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the gift of your time and for talking to us this hour on such a crucial topic. So in the meantime, friends, if you want to read more about what Andrew has to say about AI, that is the resource that I put down. And the idea about technology taking over our lives, that's the piece in New York Post. The Newsmax piece was about AI. So check it out, easy to find Andrew. He writes everywhere on so many good things.

Janet Parshall ([41:52](#)):

I want to thank you so much for joining us this hour. This program is designed to get you to think critically and biblically. If that conversation didn't do that, well then I failed to do my job. So the technology is here to stay but when our relationship is right vertically, isn't it amazing how things fall in line horizontally? I particularly liked when Andrew talked about leaving your phone in the other room, leaving it at home, get ridding of those apps. Don't start the first hour and the last hour of the day being

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on this technology. I heard someone say once, they go to their email before they go to the Word. If that's you, that might be a little test that there needs to be some recalibration in your life. So do some thinking. I know I have to do that as well.

Janet Parshall ([42:29](#)):

Thank you so much for joining us. We are listener supported radio. When you give a gift of any amount, we're going to give you our truth tool. If you give every month, you become a partial partner and our website will explain to you all of what that is and how I say thank you. So check it out at inthemarketwithjanetparshall.org or you can call 877-JANET58. 877-JANET58. Thanks so much, friends. We'll see you next time.