

To Live Forever Through the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

By Nathan Warner

“Let us do evil that good may come”? Their condemnation is just.”
(Romans 3:8b, NASB)

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”
(Isaiah 5:20)

“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”
(Hebrews 9:27)

The Meaning of Life Is To Live Forever

This year, technologists at Google unveiled their latest and greatest Artificial Intelligence computer named Chatbot. ¹ Chatbot was programmed with a huge database of human thoughts, so it could “think” like a human. In a Q and A session, Chatbot was surprisingly forthcoming about human nature and the impulses driving us in this time. When they asked Chatbot what the meaning of life was, it replied, “To live forever.” Eternal life – the ageless, aching dream of humankind since the Fall. Scientists today are in hot pursuit of it and are currently closing in on the fountain of youth with rapidly advancing life-extension technologies. This is good, right? I mean, we’ll have longer lives, fewer deaths, and more time to spend doing what we want. Yes, but man’s sin nature does not change. He is still the same old psychopathic, murderous, weak, power-hungry, fallible, god-wannabe he proved to be in Paradise. And because man is trying to attain something by himself that only God can give, he is prepared to do unspeakable evil in order to attain it.

The End Justifies the Means

Chatbot was then asked what the word “immoral” meant. It replied, “That you have a child.” Living forever and children aren’t related, are they? Actually, they are if you plan to accomplish eternal life without God. You see, one of the tenants of the Technologist (or Transhumanist) movement is once we achieve true life-extension, having children becomes a serious problem. After all, if no one is dying, the planet gets overcrowded quickly, because people are still having babies. Overcrowding, they argue, means there are more people than there are resources, which means people starve, and so children themselves become “immoral” and having them must be stopped. Here we see that in pursuit of something they call “good,” the people guiding us into the 21st Century plan the unspeakable evil of doing away with children (in a related way, it was discovered recently that aborted babies were being harvested for medical research to “save lives”). Why is this? Because just like in the Garden, man is taking his future into his own hands and making his own judgments about whether it be right or wrong. This is just one of the evils that the technologists who are fueling the world’s insane drive into the End Times have embraced in their pursuit of the “good” of “living forever.” The unquenchable human thirst for

eternal life and our “free will” to discern good and evil are inseparably intertwined and find their root in the Garden of Eden, from which has grown the choking vines of our modern hubris. How did we get here?

Man’s Luciferian Dream

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High’” (Isaiah 14:13-14). These words were spoken by Lucifer and have been echoed as a personal motto by millions of people throughout history, from Adam and Eve to the King of Babylon to today’s world leaders – they all desire to make themselves like eternal, almighty God. On the road to becoming an eternal god, however, angel and man alike commit unspeakable evil and justify it by claiming it is good.

Perhaps one of the great deceptions of the 20th and 21st Centuries is that technology was a force for good. Now, technology in and of itself is neutral – it is a tool that can be used for good or evil – it all depends on who is wielding it and why. Having been lulled into thinking that people are generally good, we have forgotten that satan is the “god of this world.” While technology has been used to save millions of lives and do much good in this world, there is a deeper, darker drive behind it that has only become widely apparent in the last decade or so. Even the majority of scientists and engineers don’t know about it, because they are often quite short-sighted in their labors, working to achieve a specific and often immediate goal – accomplishing an objective today that will be replaced by a new objective tomorrow. Most scientists and engineers do not look beyond the moment to contemplate what the endgame is. In contrast, the great thinkers behind the marvels of our age often did gaze on this endgame, and for many of them, this was the drive behind their work, for they saw a man-made “paradise” of man’s own salvation waiting for them in the future.

Famed science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke expressed the dream simply: “It may be that our role on this planet is not to worship God - but to create him.”² Transhumanist Mark Pesce explains man’s Luciferian religion best: “Men die, planets die, even stars die. We know all this. Because we know it, we seek something more—a transcendence of transience, translation to incorruptible form. An escape if you will, a stop to the wheel. We seek, therefore, to bless ourselves with perfect knowledge and perfect will; **To become as gods**, take the universe in hand, **and transform it in our image—for our own delight**. As it is on Earth, so it shall be in the heavens. The inevitable result of incredible improbability, the arrow of evolution is limping us into the transhuman – an apotheosis to reason, **salvation – attained by good works**...Once the genome was transcribed, once we knew what had made us human, we had—in that moment—passed into the Transhuman. Knowing our codes, we can recreate them in our so-called synthetic rows of 1s and 0s...now we will reach into the improbable, re-sequence ourselves into a new Being, de-bugging the natural state, translating ourselves into supernatural, incorruptible, eternal. There is no God but Man.”³

I doubt you’ve ever thought this was where the technology in your cellphone, computer, or hairdryer was headed. They are building blocks in a foundation being constructed to sustain a temple for man. Why? Because satan is “the god of this world,” and as a playwright in the shadows, he is once again directing man to take the stage to make himself a god, so he can “decide” his own destiny and “shake off” the judgment that follows death, all the while making himself a better slave *“to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness”* (Romans

6:19b).

Where Did This Dream Come From?

It is true that Man was not meant to die, for God “*set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11b). Before the Fall in the Garden, humanity had not tasted death. At that time man perceived good and evil, right and wrong as intrinsic quantities like wet and dry, light and dark. They were unquestionable facts of life, and it probably could not have even occurred to Adam and Eve that God’s judgments could be challenged. But then the serpent arrived on the scene as an “empty vessel” for Satan, and he suggested that if we just disobey God and challenge His authority, we would be able to decide what was good and evil for ourselves. There was just one problem: God had said, “*of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*” (Genesis 2:16b-17). So, Satan had to lie: “*You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil*” (Genesis 3:4-5). By eating from the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, man would see that he could question God’s judgments – good and evil became things that were challengeable and changeable in the mind of man.

But the side effect of challenging God’s direct authority was that death entered the world. That was the consequence of choosing a life out from under God’s direct authority and protection. Sin is defined as disobedience to God. God provides all things the life they have, and without Him, there is only death.

After man disobeyed God, he realized he was dying, but he also realized he could see good and evil differently than God did. He could claim “murder” was good and “children” were evil, if he wanted to. He could excuse adultery and justify violence – and he could get everyone to agree to see things the way he saw things. Man loved this more than he loved God, and all hell broke out upon earth because every man did what was right in his own eyes, not God’s eyes. But there was a huge problem with man redefining his nature for himself: he had not made himself or the nature that surrounded him. God created everything, and according to His natural order certain actions cause harm and certain actions cause good. For example, not watering a dry rose bush is bad for the plant – it causes harm to the plant, just like watering the dry rose bush is good for it. This is according to the natural order God created. Just because mankind disagrees with how God measures good and evil does not mean he can actually MAKE evil become “good” – in fact, he can’t. Evil is evil regardless how carefully you dress it up. God asks, “*Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?...Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?*” (Job 40:2a, 8) Of course, man cannot, but that doesn’t stop him from trying, despite the fact that he meets his end regardless of whether he wants to or not – he succumbs to death as a consequence of his disobedience against God, and he must face judgment.

But mankind is a rebellious creature, and though he ultimately suffered death as the consequence for his sin, he still tried to deny God’s authority while he was alive in the short-term. He so badly wanted evil to be good that he tried to make it so by suppressing the knowledge of God “*in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them*” (Romans 1:18b-19), and by rewarding bad behavior and punishing good behavior. In this way nations throughout history have created

artificially-controlled moral climates by controlling knowledge and redistributing resources to make things appear a certain way. For example, today governments around the world promote ways for people to avoid the consequences of sexual sin through the “services” of abortion, contraceptives, and advanced medical care. Rather than abiding by God’s plan of marriage, now you can do what you think is good for yourself without consequences! But because God created natural things past the atomic level to be a certain way, there actually ARE natural consequences. Drug-resistant STDs are exploding in the population, and the emotional and mental health of people living this lifestyle is harmed. And people still die. Evil is still evil, regardless of how convincingly man tries to make “*good evil and evil good*” (Isaiah 5:20a).

To prove this conclusively to mankind, God gave Israel the Law through Moses and commanded them to obey it. He basically said, “Look, this is the way things are. If you don’t want to suffer the consequences of sin, just don’t do these things that I say are evil and do these things that I say are good.” Israel saw that if they tried to obey His Law, things did get better in their society (justice, peace, prosperity for all) – good is good, evil is evil. But mankind was incapable of obeying it completely because it had become their nature through the Fall to challenge God’s authority, and so they still remained under the consequences of sin and suffered death and eternal separation from Him.

God knew this would happen, so He had planned from the beginning to pay Himself for the consequences of man’s sin and offer them a way to come back under His protection and authority (His judgments about good and evil) and die no more (eternal life). God came as a man in the flesh – His Son, Jesus Christ – offering His sinless life as payment for the debt owed by all humanity. If they came under His authority and protection through obedience to Jesus Christ (justification – submitting to God’s judgments), He would change their inner nature with His Holy Spirit (sanctification – submitting to God’s work, changing us to be more like His Son), and their outer nature through the Resurrection – restoring them to eternal life. If we but submit ourselves to God’s judgments about good and evil and come under His authority in obedience, we receive the promised gift of eternal life!

Did mankind rejoice at this gift? No. They loved the “power” of sin to decide for themselves what is good and evil so much more than they loved God. Unfortunately for them, “*the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 6:23), and so because mankind is not willing to give up the “knowledge” from the sin that he performed in the Garden for the free gift in Christ, he must find another way to salvation (eternal life) – a way to avoid the consequences of his sin in life and the consequences of sin in death while remaining “free” of God’s authority and protection. Mankind has challenged God’s authority on what is right and wrong; now he must obtain the power to back that challenge up. He must find the means to make the evil he desires truly become good for him, without consequences. He also must avoid death, because “afterwards comes judgment,” so he must find a way to live forever.

Technology – Knowledge Applied Is Power

But how to do that? Well, the Serpent offered mankind knowledge to make them like God. The old saying is that “knowledge is power.” But this is not technically correct. Knowledge is information that does not act upon the world – it is like a battery – full of energy but useless without a way to apply it. Now put it into a flashlight and you can use that energy to act upon the world – it becomes power. So, if you could apply knowledge some way, it would be true

power. Well, there is a way. Applied knowledge is what we today call technology, and it is through technology that mankind hopes to transform what God has said is evil into his good. And it is by technology that he hopes to cast off God's restraint on them – His judgments for sin in their fallen bodies and in fallen nature. Man hopes to avoid judgment by taking control of his life to prevent aging and death and transform his nature (and the nature of creation) to serve his will, not God's – thus making what he desires to do (which God has called evil) truly good for him. Whatever man imagines will be "good" and whatever opposes him will be "evil." Through the application of computers, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, geo-engineering, medicine, and more, man hopes to finally accomplish the promise of the Serpent and the dream of Lucifer, under the direction of satan himself.

What Will Be the Outcome for Them?

Man's hubris will accomplish nothing, because God has said it is futile: *"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, 'As for me, I have set my King on Zion, My holy hill'"* (Psalm 2:1-6, ESV). No matter how hard they try to wrestle the life giving power away from God, they cannot do it, because the very strength they wrestle with ultimately comes from God.

Rebellious mankind is excusing the evil they commit (and plan to commit) in order to seek their own salvation, rejecting God's offer of Salvation, because they do not want to live under His judgments. Today, the deeper mankind strays away from God in order to "save" himself, the more evil he does in the name of good and the greater the consequences and judgment he stores up for himself at Christ's return, when He says *"Every knee will bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God*" (Romans 14:11b-12, NASB). The sad reality is that these wicked men will receive eternal life from God, whether they want it from Him or not, but it will be eternal separation from Him in the lake of fire, for just like Lucifer, no matter how hard they try to make themselves like God, *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit"* (Isaiah 14:15), for *"no man can by any means redeem his brother Or give to God a ransom for him—For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease trying forever—That he should live on eternally, That he should not undergo decay. For he sees that even wise men die; The stupid and the senseless alike perish And leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses are forever And their dwelling places to all generations; They have called their lands after their own names. But man in his pomp will not endure; He is like the beasts that perish. This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words. Selah. As sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; And the upright shall rule over them in the morning, And their form shall be for Sheol to consume So that they have no habitation"* (Psalm 49:7-14).

Outcome for Believers

As for Believers who have submitted themselves to God, there is eternal life as a free gift from God without cost through the redemptive sacrifice, resurrection, and reign of Jesus Christ, Who said of us, *“I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand”* (John 10:28-29). Thus, we know that *“we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:51-58).

When we see man’s Luciferian plans in motion around us, *“what then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, ‘For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:31-39). Even so, Amen.

¹ “A Neural Conversation Model” by Oriol Vinyals and Quoc V. Le (Google)—Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Machine Learning, Lille, France, 2015. JMLR: W&CP volume 37

² The Arthur C. Clarke Foundation—Quotations

³ “Transhumanism—Mankind’s Next Step Forward?” by Calvin Smith, published February 3, 2011 on Creation.com