

# Living in the Information Age

Lesson for Sunday, June 21, 2026

## REVIEW:

- ⇒ We began this series by defining technology as *a God-given, man-made tool that shapes our **habits, hearts and habitation***. We also learned that when it comes to the influence of technology in our lives that it is an issue of **stewardship**.
- ⇒ Last week we focused on the influence of digital technology in our lives and the importance of not allowing technology to influence our thinking more than the Word of God.
- ⇒ Did anyone do anything different this week as a result of our study thus far?

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ We live in a flood of information. People of every age now inhabit a world of nonstop data, news, notifications, and entertainment.
- ⇒ As we discussed in last week's lesson, this flood doesn't just **inform** us; it **forms** us. Unfiltered, the information we consume shapes our habits, attention, fears and hopes.
- ⇒ Studies suggest that a typical person today processes as much information in a single day as previous generations might have encountered in many months, and possibly more than some people over 500 years ago saw in their entire lifetime.
- ⇒ The important point is that we are swimming in so much information we barely recognize it! That is exactly what Paul was warning us about when he penned Colossians 2:8.

**BIBLE STUDY:** In this text, Paul warns believers to not to be “taken captive” by hollow (vain), deceptive (deceit) ideas rooted in human tradition instead of Christ. Notice...

1. The **warning** to observe
  - a. Paul writes: “beware lest any man spoil you.”
  - b. The word “spoil” means to capture or to enslave. But Paul is not warning of being literally captured, he is speaking to the way that we think.
  - c. Paul's words echo Proverbs 4:23. The Bible uses words such as heart and mind.
  - d. Paul warns the Christian to stay alert so that no one “takes you captive” through empty and deceptive ideas built on human tradition and the basic patterns of the world rather than on Christ.
2. The **words** to observe
  - a. Notice the words that Paul uses to describe false teaching in this verse:
    - i. Spoil – it is **enslaving**
    - ii. Vain – it is **empty**
    - iii. Deceitful – it **contradicts** the truth
    - iv. After the tradition of men – it is **earthly**
    - v. Not after Christ – it **opposes** Christ
  - b. The world's way is not God's way (Isaiah 55:8) and Christians are to be proactive in guarding their hearts and minds from worldly influences.
3. Colossians 2:8 in the Information Age
  - a. In our information age, Paul's warning takes on a new intensity because we are constantly surrounded by messages on screens, in news feeds, in entertainment that seek to shape the way we think.
  - b. The information age also amplifies those “hollow and deceptive” voices, giving them instant access delivered directly to everyone's pocket from kids, parents and grandparents. The warning of Colossians is arguably more urgent in 2026, not less.
  - c. We must learn to recognize the difference between information & **wisdom**. The information age gives everyone easy access to facts, opinions, and “hot takes,” but that abundance does not automatically produce wisdom or Christlikeness.

- d. Colossians 2:8 reminds us that what matters is not how much information we have, but whether our thinking is “after Christ.”
- e. The information environment encourages skimming, reacting, and sharing, not slow meditation, careful testing of ideas, or comparison with the truth of Christ.
- f. The question we must address is, how do we discipline our thinking, so we are not captured by the wrong information? Adults and teens alike can drift into trusting these digital authorities more than Scripture, which is exactly the kind of captivity to human tradition and elemental powers Paul warns against.

APPLICATION: Consider these concrete, everyday practices a Christian could put to work to grow in biblical discernment in the information age. Think of these as tools that help you obey Colossians 2:8 in your news feed, podcast queue, and streaming habits.

1. **Anchor** your mind in Scripture
  - a. Set a daily, unhurried time in the Word so that God’s truth is the “baseline” in your heart; like training to spot counterfeit bills, you learn to recognize falsehood by being deeply familiar with what is true.
  - b. We cannot think biblically without constant exposure to God’s Word.
  - c. A good reference to consider: Psalm 1
2. Pray for **discernment**
  - a. Make it a habit to ask God for wisdom before you open your phone, scroll social media, or respond to a big cultural story: “Lord, help me see this as you see it.”
  - b. We can take verses such as James 1:5 and Colossians 2:8 and shape them into our daily prayer life asking for protection from being “taken captive” and for the ability to test everything and hold fast to what is good.
3. Slow down and “**interrogate**” content
  - a. Before you believe, share, or let something sink in, pause and ask a few questions:
    - i. “Who is saying this, and what do they gain if I believe it?”
    - ii. “What are the assumptions about God, people, and the world. Do they line up with Scripture?”
    - iii. “What spiritual fruit does this bear in me: peace, joy, and love or fear, envy, and anger?”
  - b. Even just adding a 30-second pause and one or two of these questions before sharing something online can radically change how we engage.
  - c. Consider Ephesians 4:27 – Is your on-line content possibly opening space for the devil to gain a foothold in your life?
4. Set wise **boundaries** for your inputs
  - a. Decide in advance what types of content you will avoid (for example, sources that normalize immorality, traffic in constant outrage, or regularly distort truth), and use tools like “mute,” “hide,” or content filters as acts of spiritual wisdom, not legalism.
  - b. Set limits on the time you spend on your tech so that the information stream doesn’t quietly become your main discipler.
    - i. Example: No phone in the first 30 minutes of the day...
    - ii. No scrolling after a certain hour.
  - c. Consider Ephesians 4:29 – Is what I am being exposed to edifying to me and to others?
  - d. Or Ephesians 4:30 – Do any of my on-line habits grieve the Holy Spirit?
  - e. Or Ephesians 4:31-32 – Do I allow what I see in the media to incite me to anger or evil speaking of others?

Lead your class to identify of one of these points that they can apply this week in their digital habits.