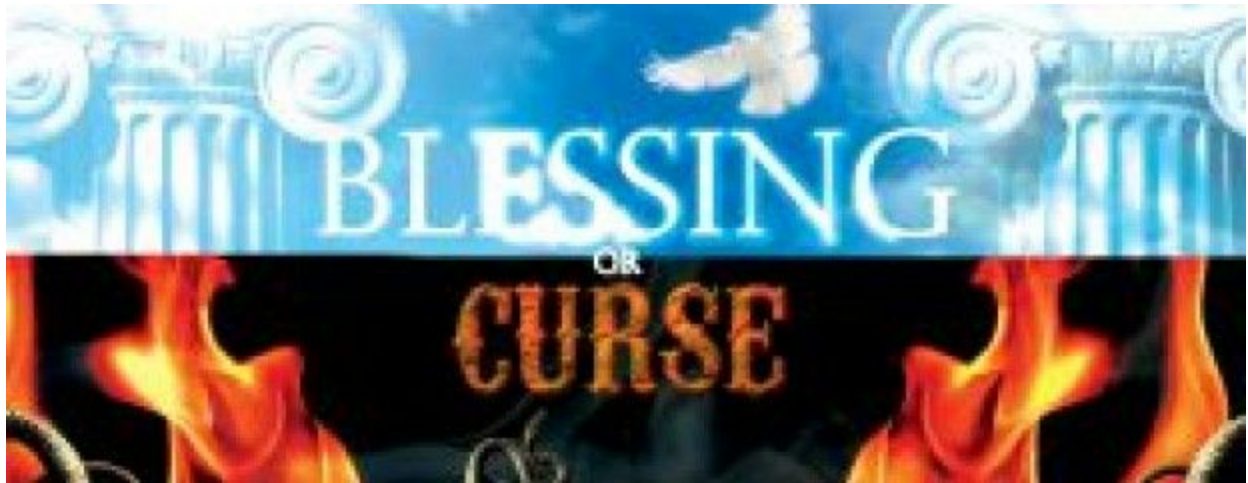# Is Technology a Blessing or a Curse?

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Technology, to me, is a blessing, but more of a curse. Some may say technology makes things more efficient, but question is, efficient for who? Using technology such as: computers, smartphones, tablets, all keep us from the reality of life. It replaces our brains, it will make self-calculations hard for us, things we are naturally able to do will become difficult and rot away making life, difficult.

Getting into technology being a curse, one example is with Eli Whitney, he built a factory in New Haven. Many people may say that this is a blessing because it opened up many job opportunities, But they are wrong. Factories had many dangerous conditions, Such as: pollution. Factories let out black smoke into the sky which was polluting the air we breathe. Machines in factories were also dangerous, one mistake can cause serious injuries. Many places were also building factories which eventually led to child labor. Children were being allowed to work in factories for long work hours, factories were the least safest place for children. They would be exposed to overcrowded factories and dangerous machines they can get seriously hurt on. Conditions were terrible, the factories were unsanitary and dirty. These factories were also allowing Women to work. This was good because they would be able to earn some cash to support them and their families more, but bad because of the things that occurred. Women before were only allowed to stay home and take care of kids and their husbands, remaining a stay at home wife that cooks, cleans etc… working exposed them to new opportunities. In factories, the factory owners would take advantage of the women working there. Women were being abused sexually and physically.

In addition to those bad outcomes of factories, there are a lot more. The building of factories led to Urbanization. People would move to cities for more opportunities and jobs since

factories needed workers. This ties into technology being a curse because the moving to cities led to the creation of tenements. Tenements were small crowded apartments with poor sanitation, safety and comfort. People living in tenements cooked on gas stoves, which produced black smoke floating around in the tenement which was not safe to inhale. Tenements had high risk for diseases due to the unsanitary conditions. They contained only one room, which was shared amongst many people (About 10 or 12), keep in mind, these people did not know each other. There were no bathrooms, instead the bathroom would be a chamber pot, when it gets full it is poured outside. Cities lacked sewage systems, also running CLEAN water. People did not wash their hands, and when they did it was usually with shared, dirty water. This led to Cholera… Cholera is an intestinal disease caused by contaminated water.

Moreover, another example of technology being a curse is the invention of the Cotton Gin (Separated Seed from Cotton Fibers). Although the Cotton Gin allowed cotton to make 1000 pounds per day, it had many bad effects. This invention, led to the invention of Plantations. Plantations are large farms. On Plantations, slavery was much harsher. Slaves were toiled in large groups and watched over by foreman. Slaves were needed to work plantations in order produce cotton efficiently. Everyone along the cotton belt (Band of states stretching from South Carolina to Texas) were "Slave-Dependent" they needed slaves to run Cotton Gins. The Cotton Gin, encouraged and increased slavery.

Furthermore, some more examples of inventions were John Deeres Steel Plow, and the Steam Boat. The Steel Plow (Cut through heavy soil) caused farmers to lose their jobs since they were being replaced by machines. This led to urbanization, and to more dangerous overcrowded, cities. The Steamboat, although many people say it was a blessing because it ran on steam

power, traveled upriver, against currents and it was faster, it was not. The Steamboat put many canals out of business. The canals, such as the Erie Canal, helped many farmers ship products quickly and inexpensively. Settlement and development in the Great Lakes Region increased. Due to the Steamboat putting canals out of business, this most likely decreased.

In conclusion, my point is, in despite of what many people say about technology being a blessing, it is in fact not a blessing, but a curse. One brief example related to todays society is the invention of the Television, many of us love to watch to tv, but we never actually stop to think what it is doing to us. Yes, we learn many things through the television but according to the article "How TV Affects Your Child," "TV and other electronic media can get in the way of exploring, playing, and interacting with parents and others, which encourages learning and healthy physical and social development." mostly all electronics, inventions, although they may have had good effects, they all led to many bad outcomes if we stopped to think about it. Next time you're using an electronic, think, what is it doing to you? Technology is a curse, demoting society to a under-developed, premature place.

Works Cited Page

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