

NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“The modern version of fasting is not doing without food but doing without a smart phone.”

Y2.2K

This time twenty years ago everyone was worried about the Y2K bug. No, it was not a human virus. It wasn't even a computer virus. It was a computer software issue in the formatting and storage of calendar data for dates beginning in the year 2000. “Problems were anticipated, and arose, because many programs represented four-digit years with only the final two digits – making the year 2000 indistinguishable from 1900. Secondly, some programmers had misunderstood the Gregorian calendar rule that determines whether years that are exactly divisible by 100 are not leap years, and assumed that the year 2000 would not be a leap year which in fact it was.”¹

“Banking institutions which relied on software programs to calculate daily interest were at risk of system failure. Transportation systems were also affected especially in the airline business whose operations depend on accurate time and date. There were rumors that planes would drop from the sky when clocks turned to midnight on Dec 31, 1999. Hospitals, power plants, and government organizations were not spared from the possible bug threat.”²

The New York Times reported that a well-known Pastor stated that Y2K was: “God's instrument to shake this nation, to humble this nation. The Y2K crisis might incite a worldwide revival that would lead to the rapture of the church.”³ The NAAWP called Y2K “The biggest problem that the modern world has ever faced. The stock markets will crash, shortages of food, heat and money will lead to lawlessness. Within three months there will be only two kinds of people left alive: those who for whatever reason had managed to store food and those who armed themselves and stole it from those who had it.”³

“In 1998, the United States government responded to the Y2K threat by passing the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act, by working with private sector counterparts in order to ensure readiness, and by creating internal continuity of operations plans in the event of problems and set limits to certain potential liabilities of companies with respect to disclosures about their Year 2000 program.”⁴ The total cost of the work done in preparation for Y2K was estimated at over US \$300 billion. Because of these effects, when January 1st 2000 arrived, there were only minor problems.

Here it is twenty years later Y2.2K. We are now even more dependent on computers, smart phones, electronic devices and the internet. According to several websites, there are currently 5.15 billion people (66.6% of the world's population) with mobile electronic devices. In the US, 78% of homes have a computer and 37% of adults use a computer while at work. Today almost 100% of US students use electronic devices in school. The average person spends over six hours a day looking at an electronic screen. Wow, what will it be like in Y2.3K and beyond?

In many ways, all this technology is becoming our god. It is all present, all knowing, all providing, all powerful, all convenient, all addicting, all entertaining, all social, and all controlling. It can even give you a soulmate. “Ask and it will answer, seek and you shall find, text and it shall be delivered unto you.” Everywhere you look, you see people glued to their smart phone. Even during a table game, I was a part of every player had to be interrupted from their phone to take a turn.

I have to confess that while writing this devotional, I became on hooked a Star Trek game on my phone. For two weeks, every moment I had free I has playing that game. Then my smart phone did a factory reset and has not worked since. Now without the phone, I am back doing the things that I should be doing.

You might think that you are not controlled by a device. Try replacing your electronic device time with prayer and Bible reading for a day or even a week. What would you do if you lost all your data or there was a Y2.2K shutdown?



Is your head in the clouds?

Charles L Stambaugh

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matt 6:33

Who are you surfing first?



Which is your God?

¹en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_2000_problem ²worldatlas.com/articles/what-was-the-y2k-scare.html

³adl.org/education/resources/reports/y2k-apocalypse ⁴en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_2000_problem

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