

# **My Beliefs on God, Innovation, Science and Technology**

## **Rick Bennett**

I have had considerable interest in technology all of my life. I like to tinker and just have a desire to understand how things work. I particularly enjoy things related to electronics and radio.

I am also a Christian. My walk with Christ started in my late 20's and continues to grow each day. So how are these things related, how do they come together in my life? Some may be offended by what say here, but I stand firm on my beliefs.

### **God**

First and foremost, God is. The Bible is true. The Bible tells us He created all things (Genesis, Ch. 1). The laws of physics, the fundamentals of science, the fact that electricity flows through wires, the make-up of our atmosphere, internal combustion, the basis of life on Earth; all these things were created by God.

And God sent his only son to die on the Cross for us. There are only two ways to go on this issue. You either believe God is who he is or you do not. I believe God created everything, all things as we know them. *God is in charge*. He is Lord.

There is considerable reading material on this issue (in addition to the Bible itself). A couple recommend sources are; *The Case for A Creator* by Lee Strobel, and *One Heartbeat Away: Your Journey Into Eternity* by Mark Cahill. There are many, many more.

### **Science**

Some say Science and God are different. Various branches of science seek to study and understand our world (our universe) and everything in it. God created the universe, the world and everything in it. So science should lead us closer to God, not farther away. All science starts with assumptions. Science that turns away from God is science that starts with the assumption that there is no God (no creator) and shapes and interprets all of its findings around this assumption. Darwin's theory of evolution is a primary example of this. A century and a half later, there is still no hard evidence to prove Darwin's theory, but mainstream modern science still embraces it, teaches it and calls it "fact".

Scientists that start with assuming a creator find lots of evidence for Him. Some scientists have looked square in the face of the evidence and found God; they have

become believers because of science. Scientists that have their eyes open see his glory and grace in all things of his creation.

The structure and order of the atom was created by Him; without Him the particles of the atom would fly apart and so it is with all things. The laws, rules, structure and order that govern the existence of all things were created and are maintained by God. The more I open my eyes, the more this fact becomes intuitive, logical and even scientific.

## **Innovation**

Many people are or were innovators and inventors. This ability is a gift given to these people; they are "wired" that way (to use a pun). This gift comes from God. Innovation and invention come from God through people. God desires that this gift be used to further His kingdom. However, many men will not use it to that end.

Most innovations and inventions have to be innovated and invented multiple times before they stick. Some are forgotten and invented again. Some are invented by one and credit is given to others. This condition was created by the original sin (Genesis, Ch. 3) and subsequent events such as the Tower of Babel (Genesis, Ch. 11); the condition that prevents men from being unified and from being able to communicate without impedance. Some of the most world changing inventions go nearly unheard of and some of the most worthless innovations hit nearly every media outlet in the world. My point in saying all of this is that major breakthroughs, world-changing technology go deeper than history often tells us. Really, the credit for all such things goes to God and God alone.

Not all innovators are found in R & D departments and university labs. I venture a guess that most are not. Historically innovation comes from many places and some very surprising. Thomas Alva Edison said "Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration..." We are below God, we do not know all that God knows. Man has to work very hard to find answers. We must research, try, fail, try, fail, research, try, fail and so on before we achieve. Inspirations occur all of the time. The only ones that come to fruition are those where the inspired are willing to do the other 99 percent. Thomas Edison himself failed over 3000 times before he invented a functional light bulb. God makes us work at our achievements. Through that effort he gives us more opportunity to glorify him. Each step of the way gives us yet another opportunity to thank Him and be in awe of him. It is not the breakthroughs that bring us closer to God, it is the process, the learning process, the small steps, the humility of failure, the process of growing and if we choose, the chance to get closer to Him each step of the way.

## Technology

Technology is all around us in the 21st century. Many people automatically think of computers when the word "technology" is spoken, but technology is much, much broader than that. Just pick up a modern farming journal or a housekeeping magazine and you will see plenty of examples of technology in all shapes and sizes.

Really when you get right down to it, technology is made up of three basic components:

Innovation. Rarely does any piece of technology come from any one innovation. Some have evolved from millions of innovations, combined over time into what we see today. Take the modern personal computer for example. Even the modern machines that harvest corn or wheat from the field are full of innovations that have occurred over at least 100 years.

Raw Materials. Everything manmade is made up of raw materials. This is often hard to see in final products, but if you look closely you can break everything down into raw materials. Using the computer example again, here are many of the raw materials found in a computer: plastic (mostly made from oil), steel (made from iron), aluminum, fiberglass (made from plastic resin and glass which are made from oil and sand), copper, nickel, silicon, and others.

Effort. To get from raw materials to the final "technology" product there is considerable amount of effort involved. There are many, many steps and stages from mining the materials to assembling the final product and everything in between. In all cases the efforts of people are involved to run the machines, oversee the processes, manage the manufacturing, package and deliver materials and products, and in some cases actually perform processes by hand.

So, God made the raw materials, God gave man the gifts to be innovators and God gave man all of his abilities to operate machines, assemble things, drive trucks, manage people, control quality, and the myriad of other things people do to manufacture products.

Without God there would be no technology. *God is in charge.* He is Lord.

I hope the Lord blesses your life, too. He really is wonderful!

Rick