

OMG! A GR8 PLAGUE ☹

...and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them... (Malachi 2:2)

A great plague is threatening our nation. It's not some ecological or cosmic catastrophe, nor some deadly contagious disease. I'm talking rather about something more difficult to detect and therefore much more destructive in its power: text messaging (and other forms of wireless communication such as email, Twitter, Facebook, chatting, etc.). Call me a dinosaur or an alarmist if you like, LOL, but when I see what these technologies are doing to our culture, I can only respond with prophetic zeal. I know the blessings and benefits these technologies bring. But as with all technological innovations, the curse accompanies the blessing. Consider the following.

- **TEXTING IS ADDICTIVE.** What began as an infrequent activity for specific purposes, has over time become an obsession. To ask a texter to give up their phone, often gets the same response as asking an alcoholic to give up their drink. *How could I possibly get through the day without it?*
- **TEXTING IS COOL.** It has become a trendy status symbol that preserves the image you want to convey to others. Best of all, it creates the illusion that you have lots of friends.
- **TEXTING IS VIRTUAL.** Relationships used to require face-to-face communication. Then came telephones and we settled for voice-to-voice connections. Now, we live in a world of virtual relationships. Texting insulates us from authentic relationships by creating the illusion of intimacy. It *feels* personal, but don't be fooled. It's virtual (definition: existing in effect though not in actual fact).
- **TEXTING IS DISRUPTIVE.** Most texting is done while doing something else: working, driving, watching TV, doing homework, talking to others, etc. In fact, if you look around the Sanctuary this morning you will likely see someone texting while they "worship God."
- **TEXTING IS OFTEN INANE CHATTER.** Masquerading as mature conversation, most texting is void of meaningful substance. Reducing communication to tweets and emoticons only highlights the relational dysfunction in our culture.
- **TEXTING IS OFTEN RUDE.** Where is Emily Post when we need her? Won't someone stand up and say, "If you text while we talk, you are showing contempt and acting like a barbarian!"
- **TEXTING WASTES TIME AND MONEY.** The only ones who really profit from texting are the phone companies. Many today are texting over a hundred times a day! Let's be honest: wasting God-given time and money is a sin.

Now that my diatribe is finished, I'd like to make a confession. I bought a new phone plan last month and guess what? I'm learning to text! ☺ I'm clumsy and slow, but so far, I like it. It's been a helpful tool. But I'm keeping my guard up lest the blessing becomes a curse.

Now, please turn off your cell phone (!) and get ready to worship God. He may just have a special message for you!

Pastor Stan