Snapchat, Selfies, and Salvation

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Paul Getting the Gospel to Go Viral
Acts 19
“And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”
Acts 19:10
The School of Tyrannus

A facility in Ephesus that was used in the heat of the day as a place for people to talk about new ideas and teachings after work or school. A place to see and hear new things when they had nothing else to do.
Social Media is the New School of Tyrannus

People are hanging out here to see and hear new things to kill time after work and school.

Let’s be honest, they are doing it at work and school too.
Some Staggering Statistics

- World population 7.6 Billion
- 3.8 Billion are on the internet
- 2.8 billion are active on social media
- One billion people are active on Facebook
- One hundred million people use Instagram every month
- 91% of retail brands use 2 or more social media accounts
Internet users have an average of 5.54 social media channels
-75% of Facebook users and 50% of Instagram users visit sites daily
-Social media use increased by 482 Million since Jan 2016
-1 million new active mobile social users are added every day. That’s 12 each second.
-Facebook messenger and WhatsApp handle 60 billion messages a day
Some Staggering Statistics

- On any given day Snapchat reaches 41% of 18-34 year olds in the US
- 50% of 18-24 year olds go on Facebook when they wake up
- Average daily time used on social media in 2016 is 118 minutes
INTERNET USE: REGIONAL OVERVIEW

INTERNET USERS (IN MILLIONS), AND INTERNET PENETRATION, BY REGION

- East Asia: 923 million, 57% penetration
- South Asia: 585 million, 33% penetration
- Africa: 362 million, 29% penetration
- West Europe: 353 million, 84% penetration
- South-East Asia: 339 million, 53% penetration
- North America: 320 million, 88% penetration
- East Europe: 284 million, 67% penetration
- South America: 281 million, 66% penetration
- Middle East: 147 million, 60% penetration
- Central America: 117 million, 53% penetration
- Central Asia: 33 million, 48% penetration
- Oceania: 28 million, 68% penetration

Source: wearesocial, Hootsuite
Profiles for Major Social Networks

Facebook 1.9 Billion
YouTube 1 Billion
Instagram 600 Million
Twitter 317 Million
Snapchat 300 Million
The Apostle Paul’s mouth would be watering if he could access this many people this easily.
Yeah, but isn’t there a lot of bad stuff on social media?
Terrorist Propaganda
Cyber Bullying
Pornography
Spiritualism
Addiction and How Social Media Shapes the Brain
Be smarter than your brain.
5 WAYS SOCIAL MEDIA IS CHANGING YOUR BRAIN RIGHT NOW
“Our bodies are physiologically rewarding ourselves for talking about ourselves online”
The very areas of our brain that have to do with intimacy in relationships are activated when we get notifications online. That’s one of the reasons that depression and loneliness is commonly experience alongside heavy usage. It doesn’t deliver like real relationships do.
There’s a reason you get notifications about what other people are doing, not related to your posts. They are trying to pull you back in. You don’t have to chase notifications.
Some Important Thoughts:
1) All addictive behavior is an attempt to numb pain
2) What thoughts am I trying to avoid?
3) Have I brought my brokenness to Jesus, or am I looking to the attention of others to fill that void?
Some Important Thoughts:
4) Is the cause I’m posting about my way of escaping my real brokenness?
5) Does running “so and so” down numb the pain and the insecurity I feel?
Some Helpful Steps:
You choose when you reply and look
Why am I on here?
Treat it like the post office
“Don’t shop when you’re hungry”
Some Helpful Steps:
Am I looking for affirmation and attention?
Down time when you wake up and go to bed
Be honest with yourself, if you need to take time away, do it
But deal with the real root issues, otherwise you’ll just jump back in
Selfie (n.):
a picture taken of a person by that person

Self(ie)-ishness
A lesson from the life of Lot
“But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.”

-Genesis 13:13
“So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, ‘Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!’”

-Genesis 19:14
“But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.”
-Genesis 19:14
Why do you think they responded to his urgent warning this way?
Lot’s concession and comfort killed his witnessing potential. And when the day of judgment came, his ability to save people and pull them out of that environment was severely hampered.
Lot is referred to as a righteous man, but his righteousness didn’t save his family once he presumptuously moved his whole life into Sodom.
The new outpost center
Outpost Center
A missionary community outside of a city that provides education, restoration, and preparation for work that is to be done in the city.
Outpost Center
They establish a center of influence inside of the city to win their trust and friendship, all with the goal of making intentional efforts to win their souls.
God has not called us to live “in” social media. But He has called us to influence people in/with social media

in it, not of it

Romans 12:2
“We should choose the society most favorable to our spiritual advancement, and avail ourselves of every help within our reach; for Satan will oppose many hinderances to make our progress toward heaven as difficult as possible.”

Romans 12:2
“We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surroundings what they would; but we should not voluntarily expose ourselves to influences that are unfavorable to the formation of Christian character.”

-Messages to Young People 419.1

Romans 12:2
"When duty calls us to this, we should be doubly watchful and prayerful, that, through the grace of Christ we may stand uncorrupted."

-Messages to Young People 419.1

Romans 12:2
Some counsel on things to avoid

In it, not of it

Romans 12:2
Nothing frightens me more than to see the spirit of variance manifested by our brethren. We are on dangerous ground when we cannot meet together like Christians, and courteously examine controverted points.
I feel like fleeing from the place lest I receive the mold of those who cannot candidly investigate the doctrines of the Bible. Those who cannot impartially examine the evidences of a position that differs from theirs, are not fit to teach in any department of God’s cause.
"As I became able to join in play with my young friends, I was forced to learn the bitter lesson that our personal appearance often makes a difference in the treatment we receive from our companions... - {LS 18.4}"
"...It was the hardest struggle of my young life to yield to my feebleness, and decide that I must leave my studies, and give up the hope of gaining an education. - {LS 19.2}"
I can never get that photo back.
It's out there forever...

Amanda Todd
1 week later I get a text: Get out of your school...
She should try a different bleach. I hope she dies this time and isn't so stupid.
I have nobody
I need someone 😞
You’re not alone, you DO have Someone
Jesus' Experience
Viewed as unattractive—Is 53:2
Rejected—Is 53:3
Alone in His grief—Is 52:3
Physically wounded—Is 53:5
Was quiet about abuse—Is 53:7
Jesus’ Experience

Ridiculed and mocked—Ps 22:6-8

Stripped and cried to God for help—Ps 22:18-21

Tempted to harm Himself—Mt 4:5-6
Jesus’ Experience
Betrayed by someone He trusted
Mt 26:48-49
Tempted to numb pain by drinking wine
Mt 27:34
Publicly exposed and shamed—Mt 37:35
If you have been bullied and abused, know that Christ went through this to be able to comfort you in ways that no-one else can.

Hebrews 2:17-18
Hebrews 4:14-16
If you have seen people bullied, do something about it. We’re more than willing to share our disgust over political and religious things. But we watch things like this happen and say nothing.
So Is Social Media A Sin?

It depends