

TECHNOLOGY, ETC

I'm sitting here at my desk at work, with my Google (ugh) Pixel (Yay) smartphone watching my every move. I am participating in a Zoom meeting, my first ever with a camera showing my old and wrinkled face. No wonder I avoid looking in mirrors!

I suppose you have heard of Zoom – it's the app that creates meetings among people in multiple locations so that they don't have to travel to a central meeting location. You can have the live video of each attendee all on the same screen, in a checker-board type arrangement, and/or the speaker at the moment can appear on the screen solo.

The upside of this is that since we are so seriously concerned about this China virus pandemic and passing it around, we can still have necessary meetings. The extra upside is that it saves all that travel time and expense going to meetings 50-100 miles distant.

The downside of this is that nothing replaces in-person meetings, with all of the nuances of non-verbal communication, looks on faces, looks exchanged between participants, etc. Much gets communicated with all of that, which a Zoom meeting captures in part, but loses the vibes and warmth (or coolness) of face-to-face contact.

You have to have a camera available for your meeting, and since many people don't have cameras attached to their desktop computers, they use smartphones and tablets, which have front-facing cameras in them, enabling the video and audio elements of the meetings.

I am presently using my Google Pixel phone as I said above, with which I have a love-hate relationship. The "hate" part comes from the creator of this phone, Google, who has decided that along with their compadres at Twitter, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon, they decide what is true and what isn't, even if their "true" is a bold-faced lie, and therefore they decide what is allowed to be said and what isn't. They all actively participated in the election process to defeat President Trump, because they decided that it doesn't matter what we voters think or want, but only what

they deem to be allowable. (No, really! Unbelievable!)

The love part is that this little Pixel phone is affordable and remarkably helpful for people like me who have hearing problems. I have long had a near impossible time understanding phone calls, and have asked and asked for a phone with captions. I thought somewhere, someone would have developed a desktop phone with captions, but alas, only single home phones can be found with captions. Nothing in a phone system like we use at the store.

Then one day, our network support guy mentioned that this Google Pixel phone has captions on phone calls! I went to Verizon and got one within the week. Not only does it caption calls, but also anything else you listen to, whether podcasts or videos someone sends you, or even Facebook stuff (double ugh!). The phone connects to my hearing aid via Bluetooth so that I hear it in my ear and read it in the captions at the same time. It's a lifesaver!

The phone also uses Live Transcribe, a relatively new free app that transcribes conversations so that I can understand by reading the words of the person I'm talking to. It also transcribes the sound from the TV if you happen to be watching a video without its own captions. This also is being developed by Google along with Galaudet University which focuses on the hearing impaired.

All good, right? Well, yes, on the surface, it looks great and is extremely helpful. And I have to take advantage of it. But do I think for a minute that Google doesn't track what I listen to or what is said in conversations? No, but I think they could easily do that, and probably do it at some level, with the potential of comprehensive monitoring of a person's involvements whenever they choose to do so.

We know that the some of the elites, who are almost entirely leftists, are labelling those of us who supported Trump or who otherwise disagree with their agenda as hatemongers, even terrorists. If we don't support transgender or homosexual lifestyles or abortion (aka baby killing or infanticide) due to our

deeply held God-given convictions, we need to be placed in reeducation camps or even done away with altogether. What is so shocking it that these people really believe their convoluted ideas and really believe we should be muted, censored, separated from general society, even imprisoned or executed.

So what do I do about my phone? And what do I do as I order so many things from Amazon and Walmart, also a participant in the campaign against us Normals? We buy things that our customers ask for and move heaven and earth to provide stuff for people.

If I were to boycott Amazon, Walmart, Google, etc., in a way, I would be cutting off my nose to spite my face. They provide goods and services that are necessary to smooth functioning in this complex life. But they play such a destructive role in the slide into amorality and chaos that we are currently witnessing!

Oh, God, what DO we do with this stuff? Should we withdraw from participation in the modern world? Should we buy property in some safer state somewhere (is there such a thing?) and set up our little cabin in the woods, to live off the grid totally so they can't find us?

Am I being paranoid? A few years ago, I would have thought so, but since Trump was elected in 2016 and we saw the unbelievable reaction of the elites who launched a 4-year campaign to get rid of him, finally succeeding by blatant fraud and theft of an election, I no longer dismiss that thinking as paranoid. I know that they are after us – they will not tolerate resistance or dissent as we so readily see by the multiple bannings on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube (Google), the removal of products produced by deplorables in big stores like Bed, Bath and Beyond, the never ending campaign to remove our access to guns & ammo, and more.

We are in trouble, folks. And yes, I know that I haven't answered the question posed here – what are we to do as we live this life out, here on earth. I don't have an answer, except to live day by day, best we can, while we cling tightly to God, to His Holy Spirit, armed with eyes open to His Truth, and ready to stand strong for Him in the face of whatever they throw at us.

TUCKER CARLSON SAYS SHOW IS BEING TARGETED FOR CANCELLATION

By Jack Phillips, Epoch Times 2/12/21

Fox News' Tucker Carlson said on the Thursday night episode of his program that his show has been targeted for cancellation.

Carlson said that "in the last several weeks, and particularly in the last 24 hours, the call to take this show off the air by groups funded—for real—by the Ford Foundation, or by George Soros, by Michael Bloomberg, by Jeff Bezos, has become deafening, going after our advertisers, going after the companies that carry our signal into your home." . . .

Writing for Fox News' website, Carlson added that it may be part of a larger campaign to silence Fox News and other media, noting that some legacy news outlets have dedicated resources calling for the channel to be taken down.

One columnist for The New York Times, he added, "has written three separate columns demanding that someone yank this news channel off the air immediately" and on Wednesday, "suggested that 'Tucker Carlson Tonight' was somehow guilty of terrorism and violence, something that we've opposed consistently for four years."

"Fox is the last big organization in the American news media that differs in even the smallest ways from the other big news organizations. At this point, everyone else in the media is standing in crisp formation, in their starched matching uniforms and their little caps, patiently awaiting orders from the billionaire class. . . .

Former New York Times investigative reporter and Intercept co-founder Glenn Greenwald described the phenomena this week in his article: "Teams of journalists at three of the most influential corporate media outlets ... devote the bulk of their 'journalism' to searching for online spaces where they believe speech and conduct rules are being violated, flagging them, and then pleading that

punitive action be taken (banning, censorship, content regulation, after-school detention)."

The attempts to silence others is "now the prevailing ethos in corporate journalism," he said, adding that such organizations have no desire to take on "real power centers" such as the "military-industrial complex, the CIA and FBI, the clandestine security state, Wall Street, [and] Silicon Valley monopolies."



"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

(John 14,15,16 excerpts)

Linda Gimmel

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