

From Our Pastor

May 26, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

A Portland couple made national news this week, revealing what many people suspected. Big Brother is watching, or at least listening, inside our homes. This should serve as a strong warning to those wanting to live in "smart homes." (Just an observation: People used to be smart, now devices are)

As reported on local news station KIRO, a young Portland couple outfitted their home with a full complement of Alexa devices. They were able to use their smart phone to control lights, heat, appliances, and the security system. To their horror they also found out that their private conversations in their home were being recorded. They received a phone call from one of the husband's employees (who lives in Seattle) that changed their view on the technology.

Danielle shared her story with local news station KIRO. "My husband and I would randomly joke and say, I'd bet these devices are listening to what we're saying.' Then we received an alarming phone call. 'The person on the other line said, 'unplug your Alexa devices right now,' she said. 'You're being hacked.'

"We unplugged all of them and he proceeded to tell us that he had received audio files of recordings from inside our house,' she said. 'At first, my husband was, like, 'no you didn't!' And she said 'you sat there talking about hardwood floors.' And we said 'oh no, you really did hear us.' "The employee, 176 miles away, received the recording out of the blue."

Danielle went on to say that they contacted Amazon about the problem but received apologies instead of explanations.

We might be able to avoid having our conversations recorded if we shun "smart" devices in our homes--but don't we all have a smart TV? And constant observation from above is now being installed. A system of high resolution satellites is being built to provide anyone-- yes anyone--with internet service the ability to view any part of the earth in real time.

As reported in satellitetoday.com: "EarthNow has announced it intends to deploy a large constellation of advanced imaging satellites that will deliver real-time, continuous video of almost anywhere on Earth. The latest company to spin-out from Intellectual Ventures, EarthNow recently closed a first round of financing with investments from Airbus, the SoftBank Group, Bill Gates, and Greg Wyler. The initial funding focuses primarily on maturing the overall system design to deliver real-time Earth observation services."

Proposed justification for the system includes watching migrating whales, earlier detection of tropical storms and forest fires, and aiding law enforcement. Is that all?

Whom can we trust to watch everything we do and listen in on every conversation?
Certainly not governments around the world.

There is coming a one-world government. It is foretold in Revelation 13 and labeled "the beast." This civil power is going to have control over much or all of the earth and enforce rules and regulations, which will include who can buy and sell. Constant surveillance and monitoring will be necessary tools for the enforcement of "no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (Rev. 13:17)

Is that system of listening, monitoring, and seeing all we do taking place before our eyes?

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