



THINK
THEISM

Welcome!

Ratio Christi, meaning “reason for Christ” in Latin, serves to defend the Christian faith in honest dialogue with both our skeptical & believing friends.

Weekly Meetings: Thursday @ 8:30 pm

RC-TAMU.org



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Ratio Christi
Texas A&M



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Thomistic Institute

The Thomistic Institute exists to promote Catholic truth in our contemporary world by strengthening the intellectual formation of Christians at Texas A&M University, in the Church, and in the wider public square. The thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Universal Doctor of the Church, is our touchstone.

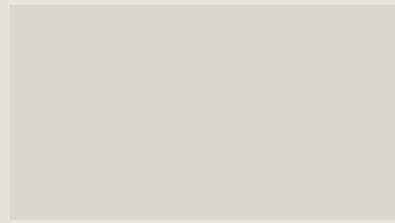
Reading Group Details in the Slack

thomisticinstitute.org/texas-am



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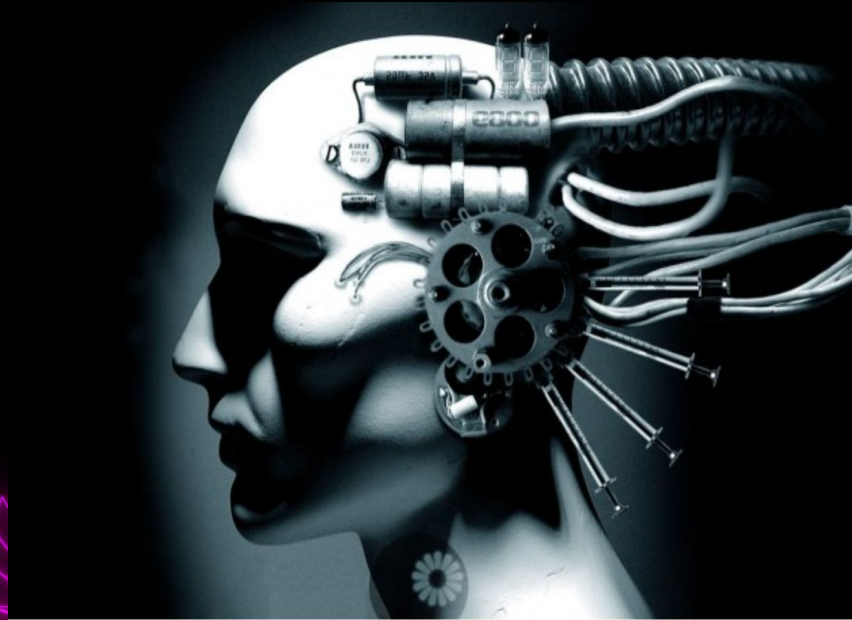


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Transhumanism v. the Gospel



Alvin's Objection

The Gospel promises *salvation and eternal life*. Transhumanism promises to achieve these same goals through science and technology. No god required.

Why don't we compare the Gospel and Transhumanism and then evaluate which one achieves the goals?

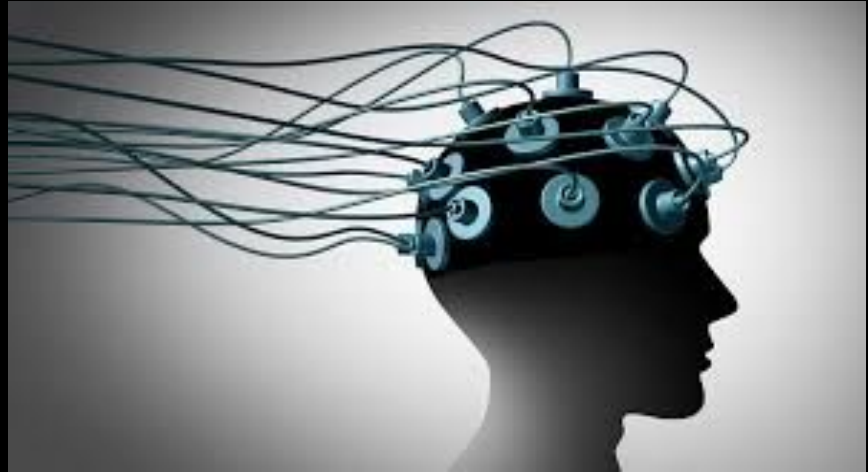
Carol the Christian

Alvin the Atheist



Road Map

1. What is the meaning of:
Transhumanism?
Salvation?
Eternal Life?
2. Comparison of
Transhumanism with the
Gospel

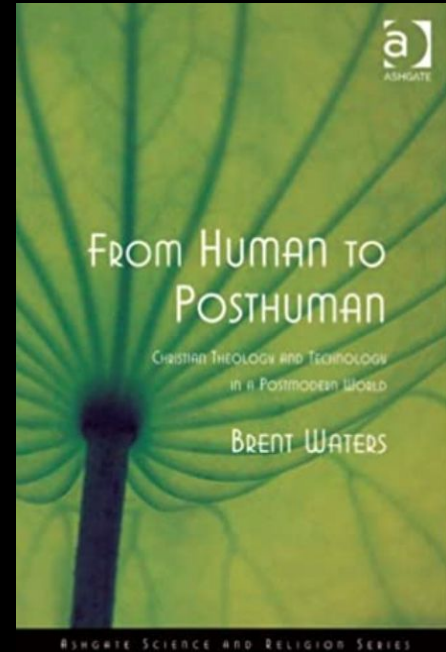
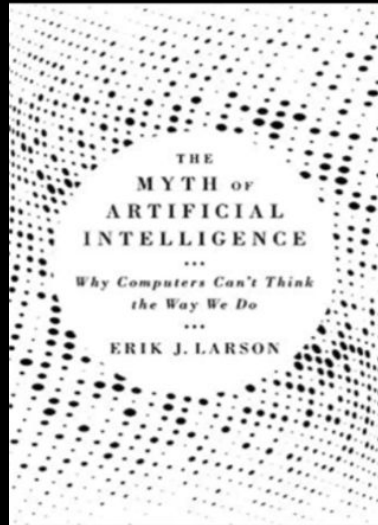
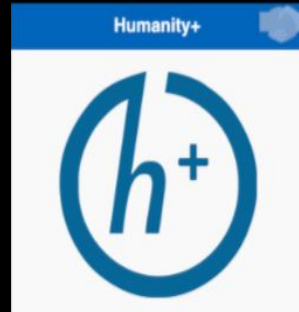
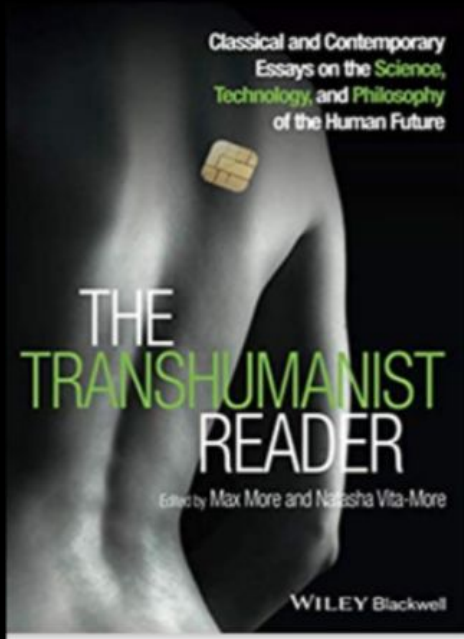


My Aims for Tonight

- Give an accurate presentation of Transhumanist ideas.
- Make the case that the gospel achieves the truest form of “Transhumanism.”



RESOURCES



What is Transhumanism?

- Transhumanists believe science & technology will solve humanity's problems.
- Humanity's problems originate from our evolutionary heritage, specifically the limits of our cognition, biology, and psychology.
- By merging technology with human persons, we will overcome these limits to become a new species of posthumans, achieving artificial immortality.
- Transhumanists envision a posthuman triple "S" techno-utopia of Superintelligence, Superlongevity, and Superhappiness.



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In their words . . .



No more gods, no more faith, no more timid holding back. Let us blast out of our old forms, our ignorance, our weakness, and our mortality. The future belongs to posthumanity.

— *Max More* —

The Singularity will allow us to transcend the limitations of our biological bodies and brains. We will gain power over our fates. Our mortality will be in our own hands.

Ray Kurzweil



Presuppositions of Transhumanism

- Materialist philosophy of mind and human person
- Evolving Human Nature
- Techno-gnostic View of Embodiment
- Achievement of AGI and the Singularity
- Achievement of Super-happiness Project

* All of these assumptions can be critiqued to argue that their claims will not be realized.



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What is Transhumanism's Salvation?

To transcend our limitations in cognition, biology, and psychology by merging ourselves with technology:

The Double Blur



Building machines to be persons, who will then surpass human intelligence.

Transforming human persons into machines through artificial technological enhancements.

Salvation in Stages of Enhancements

Biotechnology

Nanotechnology

Global Brain

Mind Uploading

Posthumans



What is Transhumanism's Eternal Life?

Helpful or Harmful: a Tolkienian Perspective

- Tolkien's message
- Rings of Power
- Elves and Men
- Numenoreans
- Nazgul



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Transhumanism

Gospel

Problem

Due to our evolutionary heritage, we are limited in our cognition, biology, and emotions; a technical problem.

Due to our rejection of God, we experience spiritual and physical death and separation from God.

Solution

Transcend our physical limitations by merging ourselves with technology. No solution for sin,

By God's grace, Christ atoned for our sin. By receiving His offer, our spirit and body can be redeemed.

Salvation

Techno-gnostic escape from our body.

Reconciliation with God; Ultimately, a resurrected body to experience the new heaven and earth for eternity.

Death

By uploading our brain patterns to a computer, we can experience digital superlongevity in this world until the heat death of the universe.

True immortality beyond this broken world; transcending our finite limits, sin, and death.

Takeaways - A Case for the Gospel

1. Transhumanism and the Gospel are answering the same big questions.
2. There already exists a Superintelligence (God).
3. There has already been a merger of human nature with a superintelligence (Incarnation).
4. Embodiment is part of what it means to be human. The gospel promises a future that ultimately includes embodiment (Resurrection).
5. The Gospel offers the truest form of Transhumanism.
6. Take the Gospel seriously by investigating the historical, philosophical, and scientific evidence for its claims.



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