

It Might Be Today

Erosion of Privacy

We like every week to bring what we call a Prophecy Update. We show how news and trends in the world are corroborating centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

This week I want to talk about advances in technology that are eroding our right to privacy. It is interesting from a prophecy-point-of-view because two thousand years ago the apostle John predicted that in the last days the antichrist would seize control of a system that would prevent anyone who doesn't swear allegiance to him from participating in society. It presupposes a large-scale erosion of privacy in favor of government monitoring.

Time Magazine reported on August 26 that the government has the right to track your movements with GPS.¹

Excerpts:

Government agents can sneak onto your property in the middle of the night, put a GPS device on the bottom of your car and keep track of everywhere you go. This doesn't violate your Fourth Amendment rights, because you do not have any reasonable expectation of privacy in your own driveway - and no reasonable expectation that the government isn't tracking your movements.

That is the bizarre - and scary - rule that now applies in California and eight other Western states. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which covers this vast jurisdiction, recently decided the government can monitor you in this way virtually anytime it wants - with no need for a search warrant.

It is a dangerous decision - one that, as the dissenting judges warned, could turn America into the sort of totalitarian state imagined by George Orwell.

¹ <http://news.yahoo.com/s/time/08599201315000>

The Associated Press released an article on August 18 titled, *California Students Get Tracking Devices*.²

Excerpts:

California officials are outfitting preschoolers in Contra Costa County with tracking devices they say will save staff time and money.

The system was introduced Tuesday. When at the school, students will wear a jersey that has a small radio frequency tag. The tag will send signals to sensors that help track children's whereabouts, attendance and even whether they've eaten or not.

School officials say it will free up teachers and administrators who previously had to note on paper files when a child was absent or had eaten.

It cost \$50,000 and was paid by a federal grant.

The city of Cleveland plans to use RFID technology to keep track of whether or not its citizens are complying with their recycling program.³

Excerpts:

The city will roll out next year a high-tech collection system with new trash and recycling carts embedded with radio frequency identification chips and bar codes.

The chips will allow city workers to monitor how often residents roll carts to the curb for collection. If a chip show a recyclable cart hasn't been brought to the curb in weeks, a trash supervisor will sort through the trash for recyclables.

Trash carts containing more than 10 percent recyclable material could lead to a \$100 fine, according to Waste Collection Commissioner Ronnie Owens.

City Council on Wednesday approved spending \$2.5 million on high-tech carts for 25,000 households across the city, expanding a pilot program that began in 2007 with 15,000 households.

The expansion will continue at 25,000 households a year until nearly all of the city's 150,000 residences are included. Existing carts might be retrofitted with the microchips.

² <http://mytrumpet.wordpress.com/2010/08/28/chipped-california-students-get-tracking-devices-san-jose-mercury-news/>

³ http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/08/city_of_cleveland_to_use_high-.html

Some cities in England have used the high-tech trash carts for several years to weigh how much garbage people throw out. People are charged extra for exceeding allotted limits.

On August 22 ABCNews.com reported that there was now software that can predict criminal behavior.⁴

Excerpts:

Developed by Richard Berk, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, the software is already used in Baltimore and Philadelphia to predict which individuals on probation or parole are most likely to murder and to be murdered.

In his latest version, the one being implemented in D.C., Berk goes even further, identifying the individuals most likely to commit crimes other than murder.

If the software proves successful, it could influence sentencing recommendations and bail amounts.

These things are not “the mark of the beast.” Technology is not the “mark.” But these are fantastic in terms of moving us towards a society involving personal identifiers and Big-brother like surveillance. It’s just what you’d expect from reading the Bible if these were the last days.

I remind you that although we follow the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, we are not waiting for any prophecy to be fulfilled. Jesus promised to return to resurrect and rapture the church as an imminent event. By that we mean the certainty that He may come at any moment and the fact that no prophesied event stands between the believer and that hour.

Nothing needs to be fulfilled before the Lord can return for us. We are only waiting for Him - and His coming is always imminent.

Are you rapture-ready? If not, get ready, stay ready, and keep looking up.
Ready or not, Jesus is coming!

⁴ <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/software-predicts-criminal-behavior/story?id=11448231>